



County of San Bernardino
Department of Public Works
Solid Waste Management Division

**MANDATORY
COMMERCIAL
RECYCLING**



**Mandatory
Commercial
Recycling:
How will this
affect
businesses in
San Bernardino
County?**



**Assembly
Bill 341**

The purpose of Assembly Bill (AB) 341 is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting commercial solid waste from landfills by recycling the materials. It also will expand opportunities for additional recycling services and manufacturing in California.



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MANDATORY COMMERCIAL RECYCLING

Background

To help increase commercial recycling, a mandatory commercial recycling measure was included in the California Air Resources Board (ARB) Scoping Plan adopted in December 2008, as required by the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Increasing the recovery of recyclable materials will directly reduce GHG emissions. This mandatory commercial recycling measure was designed to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. To achieve this, an additional 2 to 3 million tons of material will need to be recycled from the commercial sector by 2020 and beyond.

As the state's lead for the mandatory commercial recycling measure, CalRecycle originally worked with ARB to develop a Mandatory Commercial Regulation that was to be adopted by the ARB under its AB 32 authority. However, as a result of Assembly Bill (AB) 341 ([Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011 \[Chesbro, AB 341\]](#)) being signed on October 6, 2011, CalRecycle was given authority to directly adopt its own mandatory commercial recycling regulations.

While there are some distinctions between the draft regulations in the prior rulemaking effort and the commercial recycling program outlined in AB 341, the fundamental framework and principals are parallel. The primary difference is the change in the multifamily threshold. Therefore, CalRecycle staff has adjusted the proposed regulation for a new rulemaking, and commenced its own rulemaking to implement the statute.

Source: CalRecycle

What Businesses Need to Know

- Any business (including public entities) that generates 4 cubic yards (CY) or more of commercial solid waste per week or multi-family residential dwellings of 5 units or more will have to have a recycling program in place.
- Local governments will have to outreach and to businesses about commercial recycling and monitor programs that businesses are using- San Bernardino County is not the enforcing agency for this mandate.
- The proposed regulation does not specify how much or material types that need to be recycled. As long as a recycling program is in place, the business is in compliance.
- Recycling programs can consist of: Separate recyclable materials from their solid waste stream and either self haul, subscribe to service provided by the franchise hauler in your area, and/or donate materials that can be recycled, so that the separated material is diverted from disposal to recycling, reuse or composting activities.
- For businesses in a strip mall, if they collectively generate 4 cubic yards or more, all the businesses must have a recycling program or collection service.
- For businesses who temporarily generate 4 cubic yards or more of waste each will, for the time period that you generate that amount, you must have a recycling program or collection service.
- To show compliance with recycling, the County

will be contacting businesses with recycling asking for general information on their recycling programs.

- For more information on services in your area or how to sign up for recycling services, please visit www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste or call 909-386-8701 and ask to speak with a Recycling Specialist.



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