

## Help Reduce Waste

Waste from businesses and food service establishments is mostly organic and can be recycled. Keep this waste out of landfills by recycling and giving it a new life as compost.

### Acceptable Organic Waste Examples

#### Food Scraps:

- Fruit & vegetables
- Breads & grains
- Fish, poultry, meat & bones
- Cheese & dairy
- Coffee grounds



#### Green Waste:

- Grass clippings
- Landscape & pruning waste
- Cut flowers and herbs



### Unacceptable Organic Waste Examples

- Styrofoam
- Plastic products
- Glass products
- Metals
- Liquids
- Cooking grease trappings/tallow
- Non-biodegradable materials
- Paper plates and cups
- Egg cartons
- Pizza boxes
- Paper Packaging



As a business leader, your assistance and participation is critical to achieving the waste diversion goals set for our community. Beyond helping attain goals mandated by state law, there are tangible benefits in adopting waste reduction/recycling programs such as: saving money; claim tax benefits; enhance your public image; and provide community support! Contact the Public Works Department to learn how your business can benefit from organic waste recycling.



### City of Lakewood

For more information or assistance, please call the  
City of Lakewood's  
Public Works Department  
(562) 866-9771 extension 2500

## City of Lakewood

## Guide To

# Organic Waste Recycling



## What Businesses Need to Know!

## State Law Requires Commercial Businesses to Recycle Organics

Californians over-all throw away more than 5 million tons of food scraps each year. A restaurant, on average, disposes more than 50 tons of organic waste each year.



Effective April 1, 2016, new State legislation (AB 1826) mandated that businesses recycle organic waste (a list is provided in this brochure).

### Organic Implementation Timeline

- April 1, 2016:  
Businesses generating eight (8) cubic-yards or more of organics waste weekly must arrange for organics waste recycling services.
- January 1, 2017:  
Businesses generating four (4) cubic-yards or more of organics waste weekly must arrange for organics waste recycling services.
- January 1, 2019:  
Businesses generating four (4) cubic-yards

or more of solid waste weekly must arrange for organics waste recycling services.

Under AB 1826, businesses shall take one or any combination of the following actions, provided that the action is in compliance with the city's requirements:

- Source-separate organic waste and subscribe to EDCO's organic waste recycling service.
- Recycle organic waste onsite, or self-haul organic waste to a certified organic hauler.\*
- Sell or donate the generated organic waste.\*

\*Verification and License by City is required

## Business Recycling FAQs

**Q:** *Does my business have to recycle organic waste?*

**A:** If your business generates four (4) or more cubic yards of organics per week, then yes, you must recycle according to AB 1826.

**Q:** *How do I know how much organic waste my business generates?*

**A:** The total amount depends on the size of your garbage dumpster and frequency of pickup. To find out this information contact EDCO Disposal at (562) 531-3054.

**Q:** *My business is located in a shopping center. Who is responsible for organic recycling, me or the shopping center?*

**A:** Recycling activities are the responsibility of whomever generates the organic waste at your business.

**Q:** *Can our business donate excess edible extras to charities?*

**A:** Yes, there are various organizations that will take un-served edible food such as a Food Finders or other local food banks and charities.

**Q:** *Who should I contact if I need more information or have questions?*

**A:** The City Public Works Department is ready to help you and your business get started recycling, or even improve an existing program. Please call (562) 866-9771 ext. 2500 for assistance.

## Where Do I Start?

1. Examine your trash for organic recyclables (food scraps and green waste)
2. Call EDCO Disposal at (562) 531-3054 on how to begin or expand organic recycling
3. By diverting organics from the landfill, your business is helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create beneficial soil amendments, produce renewable energy and close the recycling loop!

