

JULY 2023

# BIN THINKING

COMMERCIAL

## CURRENT RECYCLING LAWS

### for California Businesses

From curbing short-lived climate pollutants through organics recycling requirements to reducing single-use plastics in the restaurant industry – California is leading the way in recycling legislation. Here are some important recycling laws that apply to California businesses:

#### AB 1276 **Single-Use Plastics Reduction (June 1, 2022):**

In addition to California's ban on single-use plastic straws, AB 1276 addresses the distribution of single-use food accessories and standard condiments such as utensils, cups, packets, straws, and stirrers. As of June 1, 2022, California law requires certain businesses to provide single-use food accessories to consumers only upon request, as well as limits third-party delivery of single-use accessories unless specifically requested by the consumer.



#### SB 1383 **Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Bill (January 1, 2022):**

Considered California's most ambitious recycling law in decades, SB 1383 requires all businesses in California to recycle their organic waste beginning January 1, 2022. Additional requirements for edible food recovery apply to larger, commercial food generators. SB 1383 also includes requirements for business owners to provide annual education and training to employees on proper sorting of waste.



#### AB 827 **Customer Access to Recycling (July 1, 2020):**

Intended to educate and involve customers in achieving the State's recycling goals, AB 827 requires businesses to provide easily accessible recycling and/or organics collection bins in customer areas to collect materials generated from products purchased on the premises starting July 1, 2020. All commercial food service establishments that provide food for purchase and immediate consumption on-site are required to comply with AB 827, with exceptions made for full-service restaurants.



For more information about these laws, visit [www.vacavillerecycling.com](http://www.vacavillerecycling.com)

### TOOLS AND RESOURCES - WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

**BIN LABELS,  
SORTING  
POSTERS, &  
RECYCLING  
GUIDES**

Bin labels, sorting posters, and recycling guides are available to commercial customers at no cost. All materials available in **English, Spanish, and now Tagalog**. To request your posters and sorting labels, contact the City of Vacaville Solid Waste and Recycling Office at (707) 469-6507 or email [recycling@cityofvacaville.com](mailto:recycling@cityofvacaville.com).



# HOW TO RUN A GREEN BUSINESS

Today's business owners are becoming increasingly aware of their impact on the planet and the importance of implementing sustainable business practices that can help ease the burden on our resources. Whether you're new to sustainability or are already committed to running an eco-friendly business but would like to take it step further, here are some tips on ways to shrink your footprint and grow your green business strategy:



**FOCUS ON PACKAGING.** About 50% of the average American's daily waste consists of packaging materials. Take a look at your current packaging and determine if there are ways you can use less material, switch to packaging made with as much recycled and post-consumer content as possible, and be sure your customers know how to dispose of their packaging in a responsible way.

**TRANSITION TO ECO-FRIENDLY SUPPLIES AND SUPPLIERS.** One of the easiest changes you can make is to look at your businesses supplies and where you purchase them. Everything from office paper to breakroom supplies can have an impact on your goals. First, partner with suppliers that employ eco-friendly practices. Not only will you be supporting other green businesses, but it will ensure you have the greatest selection of sustainable products to choose from. Other steps you might take include implementing double-sided printing as a default, replacing disposable goods with reusable items, and looking for ways to make your disposable and/or single use items more eco-friendly. Look for recycled content in what you buy and purchase items that are easy to recycle.

**HELP YOUR TEAM GO GREEN.** Getting your team on board with your greening goals is critical to the success of your sustainability program. Adoption of waste reduction practices, providing the tools to encourage proper recycling, training on sorting of recyclables, and responsible use of resources are important first steps to ensure your goals are being met at all times.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.** Businesses generate a lot of waste. Take a look at your waste stream to determine if source reduction is feasible or look for areas of opportunity to increase recycling. Diverting recyclables from the trash can help reduce your impact on the environment, and even help you save money on your service bill by reducing the size or frequency of your trash collection. If you're not sure where to start, Recology Vacaville Solano's Waste Zero Team can help. **Call (707) 448-2945 to schedule a FREE Business Waste Assessment today!**



## ORGANIC WASTE IN THE OFFICE

Food waste isn't limited to restaurants, cafeterias, and other food institutions. The truth is most businesses generate a surprising amount of organic waste. Taking a deeper look into the types of materials your office discards can help uncover opportunities to recycle more and waste less. The less waste your business produces can help save money on your business's service bill and help reduce your business's environmental footprint.