

Fairfield

Recycling, Organics
and Waste Services



Sustainability in Action

4 Easy Programs That Will Help Your Business Become More Environmentally Sustainable

There are several benefits of having an environmentally sustainable business.

Environmentally sustainable businesses can attract new customers and partners, and also save money. The first step is to look at the environmentally sustainable practices your business currently has. How efficient are these existing programs? Are there areas for improvement? The next step is to set up goals to become more environmentally sustainable. Finally, you can determine what programs you want to improve or implement. Here are four easy programs that will help your business to become more sustainable and comply with state laws.

1. Reduce Single-Use Items

Single-use items are products designed for or intended to be used once and discarded, such as straws, plastic utensils, disposable coffee cups, etc. These plastic items are harmful to the environment because plastics do not break down; they just break up. Over time, sun and heat slowly turn plastics into smaller and smaller pieces until they eventually become what are known as microplastics.

State law Assembly Bill (AB) 1276 requires all retail food facilities and food delivery platforms to provide single-use food ware items (including those made from bioplastics, compostable plastic, bamboo and paper) upon request only. This helps reduce the amount of waste generated by single-use items and encourages consumers to choose reusable items.



2. Reduce Paper Consumption

Find out if your company can reduce the amount of paper it uses. Does your business have a policy on printing only when it is needed? What about double-sided printing? Reducing paper consumption saves natural resources and can also help your business save money, too!

3. Recycling Programs

Recycling is an easy program to implement. Recycling saves energy, conserves natural resources and prevents pollution. Communicate to your employees the importance of recycling, and educate them about what materials can be recycled.

Republic Services Sustainability Advisors can help you improve your recycling program. Sustainability Advisors can conduct a waste audit, help you find out what materials can be recycled through Republic Services' collection program, and can also help train your employees and maintenance staff.



4. Organics Programs

When organic materials like food waste and yard waste are landfilled, they break down and generate methane gas, a climate pollutant. Methane is a type of greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. According to CalRecycle, Californians have already experienced the effects of climate change: hotter summers, devastating fire seasons and extreme changes in weather patterns. CalRecycle reported that landfills are the third-largest source of methane in California.

State law, Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), mandates all Californians to participate in the City's recycling and organics collection program. SB 1383 requires that residents separate all organic waste and recyclables from the trash, so this material can be diverted from the landfill. Businesses are required to have organics service available to employees, tenants, customers, and/or contractors.



What is SB 1383?



In September 2016, the governor signed into law SB 1383, establishing methane emissions reduction targets in a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP) in various sectors of California's economy.

SB 1383 established these targets:

75%

Reduction of organic waste disposal in landfills by 2025

20%

Rescue of currently wasted surplus food by 2025

SB 1383 Business Requirements

Organics recycling service

All businesses are required to subscribe to and participate in organics curbside collection service or self-haul organic waste to a specified composting facility.

Containers

Business must provide collection containers for organic waste and recyclables in all areas where trash containers are provided to employees, customers, contractors and tenants, except in restrooms. Containers must have a label or color to clarify their disposal stream.

Education

Businesses must provide education to employees, contractors, tenants and customers regarding how to properly sort organic material into the correct containers to reduce contamination. Business must provide information about proper sorting of organic and recyclable materials to new tenants within 14 days of occupation of the premises.

Monitoring

Businesses must periodically inspect organic waste containers for contamination, inform employees if containers are contaminated, and instruct employees on how to properly sort material into the correct containers.

Edible food recovery

Commercial food generators are required to donate edible food to feed people, reducing the organic waste that goes to the landfill. Edible food recovery programs feed hungry people, create new green jobs, and strengthen relationships between food donors and food recovery organizations.

Edible food waste generator requirements

- ▶ Maintain a written agreement with all food recovery organizations and/or services that pick up or receive edible food.
- ▶ Maintain monthly records of type, frequency and pounds of food recovered.
- ▶ Shall not intentionally dispose of or compost edible food that can be donated.

Start donating food today!

Contact a local food recovery organization. Visit SB1383@solanocounty.com.