

Mandatory Commercial Recycling & Composting Laws (AB 341 & AB 1826)

According to Cal Recycles' 2014 [Statewide Waste Characterization data](#), the commercial sector generates nearly three fourths of the solid waste in California.

Almost two-thirds of all waste generated at businesses was sent to landfills, while the remaining one-third was handled by curbside recycling, curbside organics, or other diversion. The disposal stream contained large amounts of material that could be diverted: Almost half of the disposed stream was found to be composed of compostable material, and another quarter was recyclable material. (Per CalRecycle's 2017 [State of Recycling report \(PDF\)](#)).

AB 341 – Mandatory Commercial Recycling (MCR)

This regulation was adopted into law in 2012. AB 341 requires business (including public entities) that generate four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week and multifamily residential dwelling of five units or more arrange for recycling services. Businesses can take one or any combination of the following in order to reuse, recycle, compost or otherwise divert solid waste from disposal: Self-haul, Subscribe to a hauler(s), Arrange for the pickup of recyclable materials or Subscribe to a recycling service that may include mixed waste processing that yields diversion results comparable to source separation. AB 341 also established a new statewide goal of 75 percent recycling through source reduction, recycling, and composting by 2020. You may find more information on AB 341 on [CalRecycle's website](#).

AB 1826 – Mandatory Commercial Organics (MORe)

This regulation was adopted into law in 2014. AB 1826 requires businesses to separate organic waste materials for composting on and after April 1, 2016, depending on the amount of waste they generate per week. Organic waste includes food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, clean wood waste and food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste. The law phases in the requirements for businesses, including multifamily residential dwellings that consist of five or more units (multifamily dwellings are not required to have a food waste diversion program), over time based on the amount and type of waste the business produces on a weekly basis, with full implementation realized in 2019. Additionally, the law contains a 2020 trigger that will increase the scope of affected businesses if waste reduction targets are not met. You may find more information on AB 1826 on [CalRecycle's website](#).

AB 1826 Implementation Schedule

Business Deadline	Volume Requirements for Participation
April 1, 2016	8 cubic yards or more of organic waste per week
January 1, 2017	4 cubic yards or more of organic waste per week
January 1, 2019	4 cubic yards or more of solid waste (trash) per week
January 1, 2020	2 cubic yards or more of solid waste (trash) per week

