

# **A Regional Strategy to Meet California Solid Waste Diversion Mandates**

California has enacted legislation that places specific requirements on the management of solid waste. The enacted legislation includes:

## **AB 341 (2011)**

- Statewide goal of 75% diversion of solid waste from landfills by 2020
- Mandatory Commercial Recycling for any commercial customer with 4 yards or more of garbage service per week or 5 or more multifamily units

## **AB 1826 (2014)**

- Mandatory Commercial Organics diversion for any commercial customer with 4 yards or more of garbage service per week or 5 or more multifamily units (effective 1/1/19)

## **SB 1383 (2016)**

- 50% Organics diversion by 2020 & 75% Organics diversion by 2025 based on 2014 disposal tonnage
- 20% of currently disposed edible food recovered for human consumption by 2025

## **California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) (Part 11 of Title 24, California Code of Regulations)**

- Locally permitted projects shall divert a minimum 65% of the construction materials generated during the project.

To comply with the above legislation, the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority has developed the following guidelines.

## **Guideline #1 - Service Levels for Residential and Commercial Customers**

**Residential** – All residents shall be provided with recycling and organics service unless an exemption is provided by the local jurisdiction.

**Commercial and Multi-family** – All businesses or multi-family complexes shall be provided with recycling and organics service unless an exemption is provided by the local jurisdiction. In addition, those businesses that do not generate organics will not be provided with organics service.

## **Guideline #2 - Equipment Standards**

### ***Cart and Bin Color Requirements***

Carts and bins used by all haulers shall be: blue for recycling, green for organics and grey, tan or black for garbage.

Haulers will remove and replace any cart that is currently in service that is not the correct color for the application. In addition, the color of the lid must match the base color.

Existing bins can continue to be used regardless of the color. However, any new bin and any bin that is being repainted must meet the color requirement for the intended use.

Any damaged cart or bin will be removed by the Hauler and replaced with an undamaged cart or bin.

### ***Cart and Bin Sign Requirements***

Garbage, recycling and organics carts and bins will be clearly labeled with what material is acceptable. For equipment already in-service, the IWMA will provide stickers and Haulers will apply. For new equipment, the carts and bins shall have appropriate signage prior to being placed into service.

## **Guideline #3 - Outreach to Existing Residential and Commercial Customers**

The IWMA and/or Haulers will use the following outreach tools to educate customers about garbage, recycling and organics service. This outreach will include reminders for commercial customers about the AB 341 and AB 1826 mandates. In addition, some of the education material will also include information about the proper disposal of hazardous waste and unwanted medicine and sharps.

- A. Haulers will periodically include recycling and organic information in customer bills (US Mail)
- B. Haulers will periodically email recycling and organic information to existing customers
- C. IWMA will provide information for Jurisdiction newsletters
- D. IWMA will provide outreach to business associations
- E. IWMA will visit businesses and multi-family complexes to educate customers and implement and/or improve recycling programs.
- F. IWMA will continue to incorporate recycling, organics, garbage, and retail take-back information in outreach school presentations and speaking events.
- G. IWMA to prepare a series of public outreach videos for public access channel viewing
- H. Websites – IWMA, Jurisdictions and Hauler(s) shall do the following:
  - 1. Clearly display and/or link to the IWMA's website items that are accepted into recycling, organics, garbage carts/bins.
  - 2. Clearly display and/or link to the IWMA's website items are banned from recycling, organics, and garbage carts/bins.
  - 3. Display and/or link to the IWMA's website for Retail Take-Back Programs (Unwanted Medication, Sharps/Needles, Batteries, Fluorescent Lighting, Paint, and Mercury Thermostats)
  - 4. Display and/or link to the IWMA's website for Household and Business Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Information

#### **Guideline #4 – Holding Waste Generators Accountable for Contamination**

##### **Commercial Service -**

- A. Driver will photo document contamination in carts and bins and notify dispatch.
- B. If minor contamination, driver will pick-up bin and Hauler will notify the customer as to the contamination problem. If significant contamination, driver will not pick-up the bin and Hauler will notify the customer why their bin was rejected. The bin will be left for the garbage truck to pick-up and the customer will be charged for an extra garbage pick-up. In addition, if applicable the customer could be subject to a fine. If requested by a jurisdiction, the Hauler shall provide notice to the jurisdiction when a recycling bin is collected as garbage.
- C. If the contamination is an on-going problem with the customer, the Hauler will provide the IWMA with the photos, the current level of service and the account holder contact information.
- D. The IWMA will conduct an on-site visit to address the contamination problem with the customer. A representative of the Hauler will be invited to attend the meeting.

- E. Following the visit, the IWMA will provide the Hauler with a small report with a description of meeting with customer including: 1. What IWMA resolved with customer; 2. What actions will be taken and how those actions will be implemented with customer/hauler should they ignore the importance of keeping the recyclables and organics contaminate free; 3. A contact name and number of whom the meeting was held with, to include the IWMA member, and the customer name/position on commercial accounts.

### **Residential Service -**

- A. Driver will photo document contamination in carts and bins and notify dispatch.
- B. If minor contamination, driver will pick-up the cart and Hauler will notify the customer about the contamination.
- C. If significant contamination, driver will not pick-up the cart and Hauler will notify the customer why their cart was rejected. The rejected cart will be left for the garbage truck to pick-up and the customer will be charged for an extra garbage pick-up. If requested by a jurisdiction, the Hauler shall provide notice to the jurisdiction when a recycling cart is collected as garbage.

### **Guideline #5 – Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion**

- A. IWMA will work with member jurisdictions to update their construction and demolition policies as needed.
- B. IWMA will work with the local landfills to better track the management of C&D material.
- C. IWMA will work to minimize the landfilling of contaminated soil.

### **Guideline #6 – Self Haul Waste**

- A. IWMA will work with the local landfills to provide improved recycling opportunities for those who self haul their waste.