



A GOOD IDEA IS NOW THE LAW.

FOLLOW THE LAW TO AVOID POSSIBLE CITATION AND FINE.



ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY EXPANDS COMMERCIAL AND MULTI-FAMILY RECYCLING ORDINANCE

Recycling for San Leandro businesses and multi-family properties has been required since 2012. Effective July 1, 2016, multi-family properties with 5 or more units as well as businesses that generate food waste, such as restaurants and grocery stores, must also sort ORGANICS from their trash. Organics are food scraps, compostable paper, and plant debris; which are compostable. These materials, when sent to a composting facility, will become compost – a valuable resource used by landscapers and farmers.

The Mandatory Recycling Ordinance requires “discarded food” and “compostable paper” to be kept separate from garbage and placed in a container for organics collection. Organic materials that now must be kept separate from the garbage include:

- ◆ Food prep trimmings
- ◆ Spoiled or contaminated food
- ◆ Paper contaminated with food or oils (e.g. pizza boxes and bakery boxes)
- ◆ Paper that is soiled or wet
- ◆ Paper plates, towels and napkins

The Alameda County Waste Management ordinance was adopted as a critical strategy to help Alameda County reach its long-term waste reduction goals — specifically to ensure that less than 10 percent of discards sent to landfills in 2020 are easily recyclable and compostable materials. According to the 2008 Alameda County Waste Characterization Study, San Leandro landfilled approximately 24 million pounds of bottles, cans and paper products. Recovering these valuable materials, rather than landfilling them will greatly benefit our local economy as well as our environment.

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority (aka StopWaste) is a public agency formed in 1976 by a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement among the County of Alameda, each of the fourteen cities within the county, and two sanitary districts that provide refuse and recycling collection services. The Agency manages a long-range program for development of solid waste facilities and offers a wide variety of other programs in the areas of source reduction and recycling, market development, technical assistance and public education. For additional information about the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance, including details about who is affected and what materials must be recycled, please visit www.RecyclingRulesAC.org.