



For Immediate Release

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### New State Mandate Requires Businesses to Recycle Organic Waste

SAN CARLOS, CA – February 29, 2016 – Businesses in the RethinkWaste service area will soon be required to comply with California’s new organic waste recycling law, Assembly Bill (AB) 1826. Starting in April of 2016, businesses and multi-family complexes that generate eight cubic yards or more of organic waste will be required to separate and arrange for organics (compost) collection services. The minimum threshold of organic waste generated by businesses decreases over time (see chart below) with full implementation realized in 2019.

The law requires commercial or public entities, hospitals, stores, restaurants, industrial businesses, for-profit or non-profit organizations and multi-family complexes with 5 or more units to start recycling organic waste (compost) by the following dates:

Date	Threshold to Arrange for Organic Waste Recycling Services
April 1, 2016	Generate 8 cubic yards of organic waste per week
January 1, 2017	Generate 4 cubic yards of organic waste per week
January 1, 2019	Generate 4 cubic yards of commercial solid waste per week

Businesses can meet AB 1826 requirements by separating organic waste on-site and:

- Subscribing to the BizSMART organics (compost) collection service provided by Recology or a similar service; or,
- Recycling organic waste onsite, or self-haul organic waste for recycling; or,
- Selling or donating the generated organics (food waste).

Last year 118,000 tons of waste from businesses in the RethinkWaste service area was sent to our local landfill with approximately one-third of this waste composed of food scraps and other organics. When these organic materials decompose in the landfill they generate methane gas, a greenhouse gas that is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide and a key contributor to global climate change.

“The new law provides an exciting opportunity to reduce waste going to the landfill and our impact on the climate,” said Cliff Feldman, RethinkWaste Recycling Programs Manager, “and we look forward to working closely with businesses to comply with the State’s mandate.”

Businesses and multi-family complexes in the RethinkWaste service area will receive billing statement inserts and mailed notifications explaining the requirements of the program. For more information and compliance instructions, please visit:

[www.rethinkwaste.org/businesses/AB1826](http://www.rethinkwaste.org/businesses/AB1826).

## RethinkWaste

RethinkWaste is a joint powers authority of twelve public Agencies (Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, San Mateo, the County of San Mateo and the West Bay Sanitary District) in San Mateo County, California and is a leader in the delivery of innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. RethinkWaste owns and manages the award-winning Shoreway Environmental Center which receives all the recyclables, organic materials, and materials (i.e. solid waste) collected in its service area. RethinkWaste’s environmental education and tour program has also received state and national awards and hosts over five-thousand visitors per year. RethinkWaste also provides strategic oversight, support and management of service providers that collect, process, recycle and dispose of materials for its Member Agencies. RethinkWaste (i.e., South Bayside Waste Management Authority) was formed in 1982. For more information on RethinkWaste, please visit our website at [www.RethinkWaste.org](http://www.RethinkWaste.org) or follow us at [www.Facebook.com/rethinkwaste](http://www.Facebook.com/rethinkwaste) or [www.Twitter.com/rethinkwaste](http://www.Twitter.com/rethinkwaste).

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