

MANDATORY COMMERCIAL ORGANICS COLLECTION

AB 1826 - INFORMATION SHEET

This **Information Sheet** was prepared by the California Compost Coalition to provide implementation strategies for AB 1826 (Chesbro, 2014) which require a business that generates a specified amount of organic waste per week to arrange for recycling services for that organic waste starting on April 1, 2016. AB 1826 mandates threshold amounts in relation to the amount of organic waste generated per week from businesses from 2016 to 2018 while the current commercial solid waste collection system under AB 341 (Chesbro, 2011) is based upon the amount of solid waste that is generated per week. However, starting in 2019, AB 1826 thresholds reverts to the AB 341 mandatory commercial recycling of four cubic yards per week of solid waste. After 2020, the threshold could be reduced to just two cubic yards per week of solid waste should statewide disposal of solid waste not be reduced by 50% of the level of disposal in 2014. With the dynamic AB 1826 threshold rates and dates, programs with their messaging, monitoring, and reporting will need to be well planned.

AB 1826 was chaptered into law on September 29, 2014 with the following threshold rates and dates:

- (1) On and after April 1, 2016, a business that generates eight cubic yards or more of organic waste per week shall arrange for recycling services specifically for organic waste in the manner specified in subdivision (b).*
- (2) On and after January 1, 2017, a business that generates four cubic yards or more of organic waste per week shall arrange for recycling services specifically for organic waste in the manner specified in subdivision (b).*
- (3) On and after January 1, 2019, a business that generates four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste, as defined in Section 42649.1, per week, shall arrange for recycling services specifically for organic waste in the manner specified in subdivision (b).*
- (4) On or after January 1, 2020, if the department determines that statewide disposal of organic waste has not been reduced to 50 percent of the level of disposal during 2014, a business that generates two cubic yards or more per week of commercial solid waste shall arrange for the organic waste recycling services specified in paragraph (3), unless the department determines that this requirement will not result in significant additional reductions of organics disposal.*

This **Information Sheet** is to relate the enacted service thresholds for mandatory commercial organics collection with the typical businesses that generate organic waste in the fast food, sit-down restaurant, and retail food store establishments. Food waste generation rates were extrapolated from a 2005 CalRecycle-commissioned study: *Targeted Statewide Waste Characterization Study: Waste Disposal and Diversion Findings for Selected Industry Groups*.

Using waste audits and disposal sampling at business sites of selected industry groups within California, this study provided detailed information on the types and amounts of waste disposed and diverted by these groups in 2005; it includes 22 tables and 15 graphs. To view the executive summary or the tables and figures separately, follow the internet link below.

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications/Detail.aspx?PublicationID=1184>

Referencing Table 1, Table 2 and Table 3 below, the 8 cubic yards (CYD) per week of organics generation starting on April 1, 2016, the typical Safeway would be included, generating about 200 tons per year (TPY) of organic waste. The 8 CYD per week threshold would apply to large quantity generators, which typically already have an existing organic recycling program in place, as many retail grocers do. Generators under 200 TPY would be exempt until 2017. At 4 CYD per week, the typical, large sit-down restaurant of more than 60 employees, such as Denny's, would be included, generating as much as 100 tons per year of organic wastes. Generators under 100 TPY would be exempt until 2019. Starting in 2019, AB 1826 thresholds reverts to the AB 341 mandatory commercial recycling of four cubic yards per week of solid waste that accommodates generators of over 60 TPY of solid waste, or 40 TPY of organics. After 2020, the threshold could be reduced to just two cubic yards per week of solid waste, or about 30 TPY of solid waste or 20 TPY of organics, should statewide disposal of solid waste not be reduced by 50% of the level of disposal in 2014.

TABLE 1 – COLLECTION THRESHOLDS RATES AND DATES WITH EXEMPTIONS

| Case Studies | Weekly Collection Exemption | Annual Generation Exemption for organic wastes |
|---|---|--|
| AB 1826 – April 2016 to Dec. 2018 based on organics collected per week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 CYD in April 2016 • 4 CYD in 2017 and 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 tons/week exemption • 2 tons/week exemption | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 tons/ year exemption • 100 tons/ year exemption |
| AB 1826 – 2019 and after 2020 based on MSW collected per week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 CYD in 2019 • 2 CYD after 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.2 tons/week exemption • 0.6 ton/week exemption | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 tons/year exemption • 20 tons/year exemption |
| Connecticut - 2011 Vermont - 2012 Massachusetts – 2014 New York City - 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 ton/week exemption | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52 tons/year exemption |

States in the northeast portion of America (Connecticut-2011, Vermont-2012, and Massachusetts-2013,) as well as New York City in 2013, are banning organic waste from landfills. Exemptions are generally allowed for businesses that generate less than 1 ton of organic waste per week, or 52

TPY. Table 1 compares the current northeastern state laws exempting 52 TPY compared to the AB 1826 threshold of exempting generators of up to 100 TPY until 2019.

TABLE 2 - SERVICE VOLUMES CONVERTED TO TONS PER YEAR OF ORGANIC WASTE

| Threshold | 8 CYD/week | 4 CYD/week | 2 CYD/week | 1 CYD/week |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Weight | At 1,000 pounds per CYD of food waste picked up 52 times per year | | | |
| AB 1826 Thresholds | AB 1826 Thresholds based on organics generated | | AB 1826 switches to MSW generated – see Table 3 | |
| Tons Per Year (TPY) | 200 TPY | 100 TPY | 50 TPY | 25 TPY |
| Typical Generator | Grocery Stores (greater than 125 employees) | Large Sit down Restaurants (greater than 60 employees) | Medium Sit down Restaurants (greater than 30 employees) | Fast Food Restaurants (greater than 22 employees) |

2006 Waste Disposal and Diversion Findings for Selected Industry Groups

CalRecycle's referenced waste generation study entailed quantifying and characterizing the material that is disposed, as well as the material that is recycled or otherwise diverted. A total of 371 commercial sites belonging to 14 industry groups participated in the study. Sites were recruited in the heavily urbanized areas of Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco. Table 3 below summarizes the study results for the identified business types, in relation to AB 1826 thresholds.

TABLE 3 – FOOD WASTE GENERATION

| | Grocery Stores | Full Services Restaurants | Fast Food |
|--|--|---|--|
| Pounds per Employee disposed | 4,754 pounds/year | 4,403 pounds/year | 4,262 pounds/year |
| Food percentage | 65.0% | 66.5% | 52.5% |
| Pounds of food for employee per year | 3,090 pounds/year | 2,928 pounds/year | 2,238 pounds/year |
| Average employee per store | 125 at Safeway | 80 at Denny's | 35 at McDonalds |
| Tons per year | 200 tons per year of food waste per Safeway | 120 tons per year of food waste per Denny's | 40 tons per year of food waste per McDonald's |
| AB 1826 start date | 2016 | 2017 | 2019 |
| AB 1826 Collection starts | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 CYD/week in 2016 or 200 TPY 4 CYD/week in 2017 or 100 TPY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large Grocery Stores of over 125 employees in 2016 Grocery Stores of between 60 and 125 employees in 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few Large Restaurants over 135 employees in 2016 Large Restaurants over 60 employees in 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Fast Food in 2016 No Fast Food in 2017 |

Starting in 2019, AB 1826 thresholds reverts to the AB 341 mandatory commercial recycling of four cubic yards per week of solid waste that accommodates generates of over 60 TPY or 40 TPY of food waste. After 2020, the threshold could be reduced to just two cubic yards per week of solid waste, or about 20 TPY, should statewide disposal of solid waste not be reduced by 50% of the level of disposal in 2014.

TABLE 4 – MSW SERVICE VOLUMES CONVERTED TO TONS PER YEAR

| Threshold | 4 CYD/week | 2 CYD/week |
|--|---|--|
| AB 1826 Threshold | Starting 2019 | Possible after 2020 |
| Weight | At 600 pounds per CYD picked up 52 times per year | |
| Tons Per Year (TPY) of MSW | 60 TPY of MSW | 30 TPY of MSW |
| Tons Per Year (TPY) of Food Waste | 40 TPY of food waste | 20 TPY of food waste |
| Typical Generator | Generators with more than 26 employees Starting in 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most grocery stores • Most chain sit down restaurants • Most chain fast food | Generators with more than 15 employees Possible starting after 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most sit down restaurants • Most fast food • Excludes small single-store generators of less than 15 employees |