



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE

**Final Phase of City of San Diego Recycling Ordinance
Requires Multi-family Units and Businesses to Recycle**

San Diego Residents and Businesses Recycling 50 Percent More

Beginning January 1, 2010 recycling is mandatory at apartments, condominiums and townhouse complexes, along with businesses in the City of San Diego that generate more than six cubic yards of waste a week, equivalent to at least two standard dumpsters emptied once per week.

The City Recycling Ordinance began January 1, 2008 and was phased in over two years. It requires citywide recycling of at least all glass and plastic; bottles and jars; cans, paper, and cardboard.

All must now recycle. The final phase ties together facilities previously covered in the Ordinance, including larger multifamily residences and businesses, in addition to single-family residences and special events.

The Ordinance aims to reduce recyclables from entering the City's Miramar Landfill to extend its life. The law also meets California recycling mandates, conserves resources and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. For more information on the Ordinance, visit www.recyclingworks.com, or call customer service at 858-694-7000.

“The Ordinance’s implementation has been very successful because of the City’s emphasis on educational outreach rather than fines,” said Chris Gonaver, director of the City’s Environmental Services Department. “So far no fines have been levied because of our close working relationship with businesses, property managers, and residents.”

Recycling staff from the department provide free technical assistance and educational resources, conduct site inspections, and assist businesses, multi-family residences and special event organizers to achieve compliance with the Ordinance.



A dramatic measure of the Ordinance's effectiveness comes from the City's franchised waste haulers and certified recyclers, who are required to provide annual reports to track compliance. Comparing FY08 to FY09 figures, the volume of recyclables collected by the haulers increased by approximately 50 percent as customers swapped trash dumpsters for recycling dumpsters.

Recycling staff pointed out that complexes could save money on trash collection because the cost to recycle is lower than trash disposal fees.

The Ordinance, combined with the Construction and Demolition (C&D) surcharge and the C&D Debris Deposit Ordinance—along with the economic downturn—has resulted in a 25 percent reduction of trash at the Miramar Landfill from FY07 to FY09. The C&D surcharge, which increased C&D disposal fees at the Miramar Landfill, began April 1, 2008, while the C&D Ordinance became effective July 1, 2008.

ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Single-family residences serviced by the City must separate recyclables from trash and place recyclables in their blue bins, or take to a recycling center. Residences must also participate in greenery collection, if provided in their area. Those without blue recycling bins or who need additional blue bins should call 858-694-7000 to submit a request. Residences serviced by a private hauler must contact their hauler to obtain curbside recycling services.
- Owners and property managers of apartments, condominiums, businesses, and commercial/public facilities must provide on-site recycling services to their tenants and employees adequate for at least 50 percent waste diversion.
- Apartments and condominiums are required to provide recyclable materials collection at least twice a month.
- Businesses and commercial/public facilities are required to provide collection of recyclables as frequently as necessary.
- Facilities must have designated areas for recycling containers, and containers must have appropriate signage.
- Owners and property managers must also provide ongoing education to occupants on the types of materials accepted in the recycling program and location of the recycling containers.
- It is the responsibility of all tenants and employees to participate in the program by separating recyclables from trash and placing recyclables in the designed containers.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Since February 2008, the Ordinance has required the person responsible for organizing a community special event requiring a City permit to provide recycling containers throughout the venue. Typical events include runs, walks, triathlons, festivals and parades.

- The City recently purchased “Clearstream” recycling and trash containers to be used at special events within San Diego City limits. The containers are ideal for special events as they are clearly labeled and collapsible. The containers can be obtained for a nominal rental fee through San Diego Urban Corps at 3127 Jefferson Street, San Diego, 92110. Phone: 619-235-6884 x3311. Priority is given to those events which require a special event permit by the City and are held in Balboa Park. Other event organizers within City limits are welcome to use the containers on a first come, first served basis.

RECYCLING ENFORCEMENT

Violators who do not comply with the statute’s requirements are subject to inspections and Notices of Violations, Administrative Warnings & Administrative Citations (fines range from \$100 to \$1,000), and reinspection fees, which cost \$88.

- Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officers are conducting inspections in targeted areas and on complaints and reports provided to the City.
- Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officers and Sanitation Drivers are placing Notice of Violation tags on refuse containers that contain a large amount of recyclable materials.
- Responsible persons such as property managers, property owners, or individuals who fail to comply with the Ordinance after receiving notification and advisement of recycling requirements and the offer of technical assistance from City Staff, are subject to fines and citations.
- To report possible violations such as recyclables in a trash container, call 858-694-7000 or e-mail trash@sandiego.gov.

HELP IS AVAILABLE

The City can help with educational resources and technical assistance to help ensure businesses, apartment and condo complexes and special events implement successful recycling programs.

- The Environmental Service Department’s web page, www.recyclingworks.com, provides downloadable fliers, sample tenant letters and sample newsletter articles to be used in setting up a recycling program. The web page also has many other resources including lists of service providers and links to other helpful organizations.
- City Recycling Specialists can provide free technical assistance and advice on how to set up a successful program. Call 858-694-7000.

The City of San Diego’s Environmental Services Department is charged with refuse collection, disposal, recycling and environmentally sound landfill management to meet the City’s long-term disposal needs.