

Spring 2017

Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit (CEPU)

In This Issue

If you believe you have been the victim of an online scam, or any other scam, the Office of the San Diego City Attorney wants to help you

For general questions and service assistance email
trash@sandiego.gov or
sdrecyclingworks@sandiego.gov
for recycling tips and information.

Contact Us

Office of the San Diego City Attorney, Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 700
San Diego, CA 92101-4103
619-533-5500
www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney
cityattorney@sandiego.gov

BUSINESS GUIDE TO RECYCLING IN SAN DIEGO

Running a business can be a LOT of work. There are decisions to make, bills to collect, and taxes to pay. With so much to do, meeting state and local commercial recycling requirements can seem like a headache. But business recycling is actually pretty easy! In 7 steps business owners can fulfill their commercial recycling duties AND help keep San Diego clean, green and healthy.

Before we get started on how a business should go about recycling, there are a couple things to keep in mind. First, commercial recycling is **required by law** for all San Diego businesses, large and small alike. If an inspection reveals that a business is not recycling then the business may be educated, assisted, and as a last resort if there is no cooperation, the business will be fined. Let's avoid that!

Here are 7 easy steps to get your business in the habit of recycling. Click on the links below for more details.

STEP 1: ESTABLISH A RECYCLING PROTOCOL

The first step to commercial recycling is to figure out some basics. **What can be recycled?** How much of what you currently throw away can you recycle instead?

STEP 2: SELECT YOUR WASTE HAULER

You may choose either a **local recycler** or a **franchise hauler**. Another option is to self-haul, or collect and transport your business's recycling to a recycling center. If you already have trash pick-up, you may contact your provider and schedule recycling pick up as well.

STEP 3: DEVELOP A RECYCLING PLAN

Next you need to figure out how your business is going to recycle. Who is going to transport the recycling from inside the building to the outside containers? How many containers, inside and out, does your business need? A best practice is to designate someone to be responsible for your business's recycling program.

File a Complaint with Us

Call our hotline

- (619) 533-5600
- 9:00am to 5:00pm
- Monday through Friday

Fill out the complaint form

- www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney/divisions/communityjustice/cepu
- Mail the form, or
- E-mail the form

Agency Reference Sheet

Consult the reference sheet for list of agencies that investigate consumer complaints

Written by Jimmy Greenblatt

The information provided in this newsletter is intended to convey general information and is not intended to be relied upon as legal advice

The San Diego City Attorney's office cannot provide legal advice to private parties.

STEP 4: GET RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Haulers/recyclers will usually provide recycling containers for outside the building, but businesses are responsible for providing their own indoor containers. There are no strict rules for what kind of containers you have to use, as long as they are clearly marked as recycling. Here is a [guide](#) to choosing the right container.

STEP 5: EDUCATE YOUR EMPLOYEES ABOUT RECYCLING

Everyone in your business should be educated about [what is recyclable](#) and what her or his recycling duties are. Your company should develop and circulate an environmental policy that gives employees clear instruction as to your company's environmental commitment and recycling rules.

STEP 6: INCREASE RECYCLING, PAY LESS

The more materials that you recycle, [the less you will pay](#). This applies to you and the businesses around you, so if it's possible you should collaborate with neighboring businesses to combine recyclables for collection, reducing all of your bills. Likewise, if you can replace some of your trash dumpsters with recycling ones, you'll pay less.

STEP 7: FEEL GOOD!

Congratulations, you are now a lean, green recycling machine! By following these 7 steps you not only meet your obligations under San Diego and California law, but you can also save money and help create a healthy environment for your community and future

Please visit the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) for additional information.

The Role of CEPU in San Diego



The Unit prosecutes violations of law that arise from consumer transactions or actions that damage the environment.

