



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## ***ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT*** **FACT SHEET**

### **APARTMENTS, CONDOS, BUSINESSES AND SPECIAL EVENTS NOW REQUIRED TO OFFER RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### ***NEXT PHASE OF NEW RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS BEGINS FEBRUARY 18***

Starting February 18, 2008, certain apartment and condominium complexes, businesses and special events in San Diego will be required to provide recycling programs to their tenants, employees and participants. The City Recycling Ordinance, which was passed in November 2007, aims to reduce the amount of waste entering local landfills in order to lengthen the life of the Miramar Landfill, meet California recycling mandates and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The new recycling ordinance will be phased in over two years. Recycling requirements for customers of the City's curbside recycling program became effective on January 1 of this year. Those customers are now required to separate recyclables from trash and put each in the proper receptacle.

- Starting February 18, 2008, apartment and condominium complexes with more than 100 units will be required to provide recycling to their tenants.
- Also starting February 18, 2008, commercial facilities over 20,000 square feet will be required to provide recycling to their tenants and employees.
- On January 1, 2009, apartment and condo complexes over 50 units and commercial facilities over 10,000 square feet will have to comply with the ordinance.
- On January 1, 2010, all apartment and condo complexes and all commercial facilities will have to comply.
- Owners and managers of these facilities will be required to offer recycling of at least plastic and glass bottles and jars, paper, newspaper, metal containers, and cardboard.
- Facilities must have designated areas for recycling containers, and containers must have appropriate signage.
- Owners and property managers must also provide education about the recycling program to tenants/employees.

- Special events requiring a permit from the City of San Diego will also be required to provide recycling starting February 18, 2008.
- Residents and employees of these facilities are responsible for separating recyclables from trash and depositing each in the appropriate provided containers.

### **BENEFITS OF RECYCLING**

There are a number of benefits to starting a recycling program.

- Recycling can save money. Recycling service generally costs less than trash service, so implementing a recycling program can reduce trash bills.
- Recycling helps extend the life of the Miramar Landfill. Approximately 66 percent of the material buried at Miramar Landfill is recyclable. When fully implemented the City Recycling Ordinance is expected to keep 100,000 tons of material per year out of landfills.
- Recycling helps the City meet State mandates. State law requires local governments to reduce waste disposed in landfills by 50%. In 2005, the last year that data is available, the City of San Diego achieved 52% waste diversion.
- Recycling saves natural resources. Making products from recycled materials uses less energy and water, and pollutes less than making products from virgin materials.
- Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Landfills and deforestation account for 25 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions every year. Recycling helps reduce these emissions.

“Replacing three trash dumpsters with recycling dumpsters at a typical large apartment complex can save an estimated \$1,500 per year,” said Chris Gonaver, Acting Environmental Services Department (ESD) Director. “Once residents and employees get in the habit of recycling, it not only saves money, it’s easy.”

### **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.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/)) has downloadable fliers, tenant letters and newsletter articles to use 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.
- ESD also has Recycling Specialists on staff that can provide technical assistance and advice on how to set up a successful program.
- Property managers can also consult with their waste haulers to set up recycling programs.

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