



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT:
Dennis Williams, Public Information Officer,
858-573-1241

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
FACT SHEET

**CITY RECYCLING ORDINANCE EXPANDS TO
ADDITIONAL APARTMENTS, CONDOS, COMMERCIAL,
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES IN NEW YEAR**

FREE EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE TO SETUP AND IMPROVE RECYCLING PROGRAMS

The City's Recycling Ordinance, approved by the City Council last year, will expand beginning January 1, 2009. On that date, apartments and condominium complexes of 50 residential units or more, and businesses and commercial/public facilities of 10,000 square feet or larger need to comply with the City's recycling ordinance by recycling at least all plastic, glass bottles, jars, cans, paper, and cardboard.

The 2007 Recycling Ordinance aims to reduce recyclables entering the Miramar Landfill and to extend its life, meet California recycling mandates, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For more information on the Ordinance visit www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/.



(City's New Recycling Logo)

"I urge owners and property managers of multiplex residential units and businesses without recycling to contact their waste haulers to begin that service."

-Chris Gonaver, Director of the Environmental Services Department

ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Single-family residences serviced by the City must place recyclables in their blue bins and participate in greenery collection, if provided in their area. Those without blue recycling bins should request one if they are without a bin. Residences serviced by a private hauler must contact their hauler to obtain curbside recycling services.

- Owners and property managers of apartments and condominiums and businesses and commercial/public facilities must provide adequate on-site recycling services to their tenants and employees.
- 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 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 to provide recycling containers throughout the venue. Typical events include runs, walks, triathlons, festivals and parades.

- The City recently purchased 100 “Clearstream” recycling 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 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 and/or property owners 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.
- Administrative Citations and reinspection fees may be assessed when the responsible person has failed to comply with the Ordinance after receiving a written Notice of Violation and Administrative Warning.
- Cases may be referred to the City Attorney’s Office after constant refusal to comply with recycling ordinance requirements.
- 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.sandiego.gov/environmental-services, 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 management to meet the city's long-term disposal needs.

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