

# Cupertino's Garbage and Recycling Collection and Disposal Ordinance

## Updates to existing ordinances

At the May 5, 2015 City Council meeting, Public Works staff proposed an amendment to the previous Garbage and Recycling Collection and Disposal Ordinance (Chapter 6.24) and to the Recycling Areas Ordinance (Chapter 9.16). The primary purpose of the amendments is to require high generators of organic waste to recycle organic waste. Highlighted below are the three amendment areas.

### ORGANICS COLLECTION

State AB 1826 mandates will affect most California cities beginning in April 2016 and will be fully implemented by January 2020. Due to the large proportion of food businesses and the already established commercial organics collection program in Cupertino, the City will accelerate the AB1826 timeline without too much inconvenience to Cupertino businesses. City and Recology staff will continue to visit, train, and provide free materials to businesses to aid their transition to organics collection.

In 2014, Cupertino businesses recycled approximately 6,600 tons of organic material out of their waste streams, which was composted and offered to Cupertino residents for their use. By 2017, an estimated 3,870 additional tons annually can feasibly be collected – and significantly increase the City's total diversion rate. Businesses must use clear bags to separate waste.

### TRASH ENCLOSURES

Beyond requiring the recycling of food waste, the ordinance changes clarify current trash enclosure requirements. Trash enclosures with a roof promote a clean property, prevent debris from becoming litter, and keep rainwater from causing leaks and polluting storm water. They must accommodate the three streams, recycling, organics, and landfill garbage. There may be exemptions for businesses or properties that have difficulty with this because of lack of space, potential hazards to existing buildings, or other reasons, and they may work with City staff on finding an alternate solution that meets the environmental protection goals of the trash enclosure guidelines.

### OUTDOOR PUBLIC WASTE TRIOS

Property owners are required to install and maintain outdoor waste trio receptacles for public use. This is to support the City's Cleaner Cupertino goals, to meet state litter reduction mandates, to capture recyclable and compostable resources in the City's commercial areas, and to educate the public on how to conserve valuable resources.



### Effective Dates for Mandatory Organics Collection

September 1, 2015	Businesses/properties generating <b>≥ 8 cubic yards of organic waste</b> per week
January 20, 2016	Businesses/properties generating <b>≥ 3 cubic yards of organic waste</b> per week <b>or</b> generating a solid waste stream that is comprised <b>of 25% or more organic food waste</b> material
July 1, 2018	Businesses/properties generating <b>≥ 4 cubic yards of solid waste</b> per week <b>AND multi-family dwellings</b>



For questions and concerns, contact the City of Cupertino's Environmental Division at (408) 777-3354 or [environmental@cupertino.org](mailto:environmental@cupertino.org).