Mandatory Organics Legislation

The California State Legislature approved Assembly Bill 1826 (AB 1826) which sets forth statewide mandatory commercial organic waste recycling. The bill includes initial requirements that businesses generating more than eight cubic yards of organics per week and multifamily residential properties with five dwelling units or more that generate eight cubic yards of green waste per week, must arrange for organic recycling services. Organic waste means food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-solid paper waste mixed in with food waste. The State requirements specify that applicable business waste generators:

- Separate organic waste from other waste and participate in a waste recycling service that includes collection and recycling of organic waste.
- Recycle its organic waste on site, or self-haul its organic waste off-site for recycling; or
- Subscribe to an organic waste recycling service that may include mixed waste processing that specifically recycles organic waste.

The law phases in the requirements on businesses and multifamily residential dwellings over time, based on the following dates by 2019. Additionally, the State law contains a trigger that will increase the scope of affected businesses, if waste reduction targets are not met.

April 1, 2016: Businesses that generate 8 cubic yards of organic waste per week shall arrange for organic waste recycling services.

January 1, 2017: Businesses that generate 4 cubic yards of organic waste per week shall arrange for organic waste recycling services.

January 1, 2019: Businesses that generate 4 cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week shall arrange for organic waste recycling services.

January 1, 2020: On or after January 1, 2020, the organic recycling requirements on businesses will expand to cover businesses that generate 2 cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week.

Additional organics recycling information will be provided as the program becomes available.