

Recycling – it's fun, it's easy, it saves money ... and it's the law!

School recycling programs offer local, regional and global environmental benefits. These range from decreasing the amount of waste sent to landfills and saving energy to conserving natural resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. Did you know for most schools it is also a state requirement to recycle?

Mandatory Commercial Recycling (2012):

Businesses and public entities, including schools and school districts, that generate 4 cubic yards or more of waste per week are required to recycle.

Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling (2016):

Starting in April 2016, businesses and public entities, including schools and school districts, are required to divert their organic solid waste according to the following tiered timeline:

- **4/1/2016:** Entities that generate 8 cubic yards of organic waste per week must arrange for organic waste recycling services.
- **1/1/2017:** Entities that generate 4 cubic yards of organic waste per week must arrange for organic waste recycling services.
- **1/1/2019:** Entities that generate 4 cubic yards of solid waste per week must arrange for organic waste recycling services.

Schools and districts can take one or any combination of the following steps to recycle their organics:

- Separate organics from other waste on-site and subscribe to service through a waste hauler that includes the collection and recycling of organic waste.*
- Subscribe to an organics recycling service that may include mixed-waste processing.
- Recycle organics on site, or self-haul organics off-site for recycling, and/or donate organic material.

More information about these requirements and related assistance is available at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/ReduceWaste/Schools/>. Look up CalRecycle and local jurisdiction staff by city/county that can assist in addressing school waste reduction questions at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/Reports/Contacts.aspx>.

*If the school's waste material is collected in one container and sorted for recycling, ensure that the organic portion is being recycled rather than disposed.

