

# Commercial Recycling Program FAQs

1. **Q.** What is the Commercial and Multi-Family Recycling Program?

**A.** With the State of California's passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 341, businesses and public entities that generate four cubic yards or more of waste per week and multi-family units of five or more are required to recycle. The purpose of this new law is to reduce green house gas emissions by diverting commercial solid waste from landfills and expand opportunities for recycling in California.
2. **Q.** What are the program requirements?

**A.** Take one of any combination of actions listed below:

  - Self-haul to a recycling center.
  - Subscribe to a recycling service with the hauler authorized by the City to collect, haul, carry, or transport recyclable material in your area of the City.
    - Republic Services - (800) 299-4898
    - Athens Services (888) 336-6100
  - Sell your recyclable material with a market value to a recycling service. The sale of recyclable materials must be documented by a bill of sale, receipt or either documentation satisfactory to the City Director of Public Works.
3. **Q.** My Business/Apartment Building already recycles. What do I need to do?

**A.** Send copies of the scale tickets from your recycler to the City to confirm compliance with the recycling program and to help the City meet its requirement to divert waste from the landfill. Scale tickets can be emailed to [ibravo@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:ibravo@cityofwhittier.org) or mailed to Isaac Bravo at the City of Whittier Public Works Department: 13230 Penn Street Whittier, CA 90602. Isaac Bravo can also be reached at (562) 567-9500.
4. **Q.** I don't have space to recycle. What do I do?

**A.** You may fill out an Exemption Request Form. They can be found on the City website: [www.cityofwhittier.org](http://www.cityofwhittier.org). Click on the Public Works webpage, then Recycling.

5. **Q.** What happens if I don't recycle?

**A.** The City of Whittier is required, by law, to make a "good faith" effort to ensure that all of the local businesses that generate four cubic yards or more of waste per week and multi-family units of five or more recycle. CalRecycle will evaluate the City's implementation of its outreach, education, and monitoring programs. If the City is found to not have made a good-faith effort in implementing its program, CalRecycle can place the City on a compliance order.

The City is required to inform businesses or public entities of the State requirement to recycle and how to recycle in the City. The City's Commercial Recycling Program currently does not have an enforcement component.

6. **Q.** How do I subscribe to recycling service?

**A.** You can call the solid waste collection and recycling service provider in your area of the City to subscribe.

- Republic Services - (800) 299-4898
- Athens Services - (888) 336-6100

7. **Q.** How do I know if I'm required to recycle?

**A.** According to AB 341 the following are required to recycle:

- Businesses and public entities that generate four cubic yards or more of waste per week.
- Multi-family units of five or more are required to recycle.

8. **Q.** Can I be exempt from this program? If so, how?

**A.** The City may exempt business for reasons such as zoning requirements, lack of sufficient space in multi-family complexes to provide additional bins, lack of markets, non-generation of recyclable materials, or current implementation by a business of actions that result in a recycling of a significant portion of its commercial waste. Exemption Request Forms can be found on the City website: [www.cityofwhittier.org](http://www.cityofwhittier.org). Click on the Public Works page, then "Recycling".

9. Q. Where can I get more information on this program?

A.

- CalRecycle's Website: [www.CalRecycle.gov](http://www.CalRecycle.gov)
- CalRecycle's Mandatory Commercial Recycling team email address: [LAMD@calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:LAMD@calrecycle.ca.gov)
- City Website: [www.cityofwhittier.org](http://www.cityofwhittier.org) – Public Works page

10. Q. Why does the City of Whittier have this program?

A. Assembly Bill (AB) 341 requires Cities to implement a Commercial Recycling Program.

11. Q. What materials need to be recycled?

A. The law does not specify what materials your business should recycle, but starting with typical household and office recyclables is a good place to begin. This might include office paper, mail, newspapers, magazines and catalogs, cardboard, glass and plastic bottles and containers, plastic bags and film, and cans.

12. Q. What materials can NOT be recycled in a commingled curbside recycling bin?

A.

- Broken Glass
- Contaminated or wet paper
- Plastic hangers
- Plastic toys
- Garden hoses
- Rubber tires
- Hazardous waste – paint, batteries, antifreeze, pesticides
- E-waste - cell phones, TVs, computer monitors

For information on proper disposal or recycling of these materials, call the solid waste collection and recycling service provider in your area of the City.

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- Athens Services - (888) 336-6100