

Commercial Organics Recycling is coming! Below are some FAQs about this new service.

Q: Why is Republic Services starting this new service?

A: A new state law, AB 1826, requires businesses to begin recycling their organic waste on and after April 1, 2016, depending on the amount of waste they generate per week. Go to <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics/> for more information.

Q: What is the definition of “Organics?”

A: Organics are food scraps including fruit and vegetable scraps, leftover meat, fish, bones, grains, beans, breads and food soiled paper like napkins, paper plates and paper cups.

Q: Can I start a Commercial Organics program April 1, 2016 even if it’s not mandatory for my business?

A: Yes! Getting on board early will keep your Commercial Organics out of the landfill and help reduce greenhouse gases and protect against climate change.

Q: Will I have to pay more?

A: The cost is covered under a 6.54% trash rate increase approved by the Martinez City Council in November 2015. Even with the increase, Martinez rates are still lower than most local jurisdictions with organics programs. Plus, once you start putting your Organics in a separate cart, you may find that you have less trash. If so, you can call us to evaluate swapping out your trash container for a smaller one, which would save money.

Q: Where do the Commercial Organics go?

A: Republic Services will take the Commercial Organics for processing at its Richmond Sanitary Services’ Facility where it is turned into compost.

Q: Can I donate leftover food? Isn’t that better than making it into compost?

A: Yes! To learn more about food donation options, search these local organizations on the web: “White Pony Express” and the “Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.”

Q: Can I mix Organics and plant debris together if I already have commercial plant debris collection?

A: Yes, place them in the same container so it can all be sent off for composting.

Q: What are my service options and how do I get started?

A: Start by contacting a Republic Services Recycling Coordinator at 925-685-4711. We will visit your business and help determine the number of carts and the frequency of service you need.

Q: Can Republic Services help me train my employees?

A: Yes, your Republic Recycling Coordinator will train your staff and help set up your business to successfully separate Organics.