



# TRASH FLASH

FALL 2021



RECYCLING NEWS FOR OJAI BUSINESSES & MULTI-FAMILY COMPLEXES



## Local Business Owners Will Soon Be Required to Recycle Organic Waste

If you own a business or manage an apartment complex in California, in the coming months you will have to begin recycling your organic waste, which could include everything from food and green waste to paper and wood.

Starting on Jan. 1, 2022, the long-range mandates of California's sweeping 2016 Senate Bill 1383 will take effect, requiring businesses in the state to recycle the organic waste they produce, much of which has been going in the trash. The law applies to all businesses, though some may be waived from the requirements if they generate at least 2 cubic yards of solid waste and more than 20 gallons of organic waste per week OR less than 2 cubic yards of solid waste and more than 10 gallons of organic waste.

At E.J. Harrison & Sons, we have been preparing for organic waste recycling for the past ten plus years, working with Ventura County agencies and our longtime business partner Agromin to get a local commercial organics recycling facility permitted, up and running by the Jan. 1 deadline.

"This is a big one," Donald Sealund, Harrison's Contracts/Compliance Field Supervisor, said of the new legislation, "but it's absolutely necessary, to protect our environment and fight climate change, and it's going to take everyone's cooperation."

To that end, we are in the process of reaching out to all our commercial customers to get them set up in a recycling program, if needed; meanwhile, Agromin plans

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## A Note to Our Customers

For over a year, we stood by saddened as business after business in our partner communities struggled through a pandemic that affected every single one of them.

Now, with life in California finally beginning its return to normal, we would like to take a moment to thank our commercial customers, for your cooperation during this long and trying time, and to offer hope and good thoughts as you forge your way back.

Harrison has been fortunate to have remained in full service throughout the pandemic, albeit with lots of precautions and adjustments to keep our workers and the community safe. We have been extremely grateful to provide a constant, small dose of "normal" in everyone's routines, with trash and recycling services never compromised.

As we begin to prepare for a far more joyous holiday season this year than last, we wish you, your businesses and your families peace, health and prosperity.

We appreciate you.

## Visit Us Online

We are pleased to introduce our new and improved website at [ejharrison.com](http://ejharrison.com).

Fully restructured from our previous site and thoroughly updated, the new site launched this summer with a number of new features, including improved secure bill pay; comprehensive information on trash, recycling and other services and guidelines; interactive communication; and regularly updated news.

We hope you'll visit and cruise around on the new site, and let us know what you think.

# About Agromin and Mountain View

Harrison's community partner for nearly 30 years, Oxnard-based Agromin has long been on the leading edge of organics recycling technology, as a pioneer in the development of premium soil products, composts and mulches from recycled organic materials.

To accommodate California Senate Bill 1383, particularly regarding the emerging and vital science of food waste recycling, Agromin has spent years working with Ventura County and with Harrison to launch Agromin's Mountain View commercial organics recycling facility in Oxnard. It is on track to be open by the Jan. 1 deadline.

Importantly, the new equipment will be able to repurpose virtually all recovered food waste. When it's up and running, the Mountain View facility will feature three transformational outputs for food waste: "This equipment allows us to convert the food waste into renewable natural gas, into animal feed and into an organic fertilizer," said Agromin CEO Bill Camarillo.

The system begins with pre-processing equipment that purges the trash from the food waste. "As you can imagine, people are going to throw their garbage in with the food," Camarillo said. "The machine will decontaminate it to prepare to send to these three different end-market uses. It's remarkable technology and it is one of the largest state-of-the-art food waste decontamination systems in the state of California."

The new equipment will allow food waste to be transformed into an organic fertilizer for plants to use less water, fertilizers and pesticides, and it will help



plants consume natural nutrients. "It's doing what Mother Nature intended, by creating organic plant nutrients," Camarillo said. "It's the real solution to combating climate change."

Understandably, the Harrisons are proud of their partnership with Agromin and the work the company is doing to lessen the effects of climate change. The feeling is mutual. "The Harrisons have been stewards of the environment for decades," Camarillo said. "When we partnered with them almost 30 years ago, they knew it was the right thing to do, to protect the environment and hence support Agromin in its endeavors. It's been a very symbiotic relationship."

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## Local Business Owners

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for a Jan. 1 opening of a landmark organics recycling facility in Oxnard (see story above).

A massive labor of love, the Mountain View facility represents a positive paradigm shift in sustainability, said Agromin CEO Bill Camarillo.

"It is the law to recycle, but more importantly, organic waste is a valuable resource that people throw away - not financially valuable but environmentally invaluable," Camarillo said. "By removing organic materials from landfills, we will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere, which are creating global warming. That is at the heart of everything."

### You Should Know ...

A team at Harrison has been working diligently over the past several months, and will continue for the next several months, to identify and contact all of the thousands of businesses and multifamily complexes in our partner communities.

"I'm hoping to have everybody identified by October," Sealund said. "In October, we'll make contact in person and/or by mail with every business operator and apartment manager, and we'll talk to them about the

organics we find in their waste streams and what they will need to do to comply with the law."

Sealund explained that Harrison has been conducting a "quiet audit" of all its commercial customers. Simply put, he said, "We know what's in everyone's trash."

"The plan is for everybody to get a letter explaining the mandate and asking them to contact us so we can get them started in an organics recycling program, if it's needed," Sealund said.

"This has been a huge effort for us, but ultimately, for our customers, it's pretty simple," he said. "If it's recyclable, it should be recycled."

As noted, the new law applies to most businesses. If your business generates minimal amounts of organic material, or if it lacks adequate space for an organic material container, you may qualify for an organic material recycling waiver. (Note: These waivers are not permitted for businesses that sell or produce food.)

To help Harrison in its gargantuan task of reaching out personally to every business, Sealund is urging business operators to contact him directly to arrange for recycling services.

Email Sealund at [donalds@ejharrison.com](mailto:donalds@ejharrison.com) or call him at 805-647-1414, ext. 4318.

# State Recycling Laws

Senate Bill 1383 is the latest in a series of state laws in effect to ensure that all businesses in California are doing their parts to combat climate change by recycling organic waste.

Here's a rundown and brief summaries of the three most consequential state commercial recycling bills:

## Assembly Bill 341

**Assembly Bill 341 (mandatory commercial recycling):** Aimed at the drastic reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, this landmark 2012 bill mandates recycling for

virtually all businesses; the progressive bill now affects all businesses that generate more than 4 cubic yards of solid waste per week and all multifamily dwellings of five or more units. As an ongoing law, it exists to be sure we continue to make progress. "Please just keep recycling," said Mike Harrison, Engineering Manager for Harrison. "It all starts with you."

## Assembly Bill 1826

**Assembly Bill 1826 (mandatory commercial organics recycling):** This 2014 legislation took recycling to the next level, bringing organics into the equation.

The law mandates that commercial establishments and multifamily residential complexes arrange for an organics recycling program.

## Senate Bill 1383

**Senate Bill 1383 (mandatory commercial and residential organics recycling):** Building on AB 1826, SB 1383 requires businesses and residents in California to divert

from the landfill organic materials including food waste, yard waste and soiled paper products. This is The Big One, and as noted, starting Jan. 1, 2022, regulations will take effect and state enforcement will begin.

Signed into law in 2016, this ambitious bill assigns actual reduction percentages to the disposal of organic waste materials: By 2025, statewide organic waste must be cut by 75% of 2014 levels, and no less than 20% of the state's edible waste must be used for further human consumption.

To the California recycling industry, the strict mandates of SB 1383 represent both a daunting challenge and a unique opportunity to show the world how truly effective sustainability efforts can be. Successful implementation of the law could serve as a model for governments across the country and around the globe.

## Ojai Offers Monthly HHW Disposal Service

The city of Ojai, in conjunction with the Ventura County Pollution Prevention Center, regularly offers the community free household hazardous waste disposal events.

HHW Collection Days take place on the fourth Saturday of every month except November and December. Appointments are required, by calling 805-658-4323.

HHW items include batteries (automotive and household), compressed gas/propane tanks (under five gallons), cosmetics (nail polishes, removers, etc.), fire extinguishers, light bulbs, non-narcotic drugs, paints, pesticides and fertilizers, pool supplies, used oil filters, and used or contaminated motor oil and gasoline.

Local residents and small-business owners are encouraged to take advantage of this free service and avoid the fire risks and other dangers associated with stockpiling hazardous waste.



## Let's Make it a Clean Sweep!

Help keep Ojai beautiful! City officials ask residents and business people to please clear the curbs for two days of the month, for street-sweeping services.

**On the first and third Tuesdays of the month, do not park on the street between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. in residential areas and before 7 a.m. in commercial areas.**

The city's street-sweeping services are required as a best management practice to reduce the amount of trash and other pollutants entering the storm drain system, rivers and ocean. The presence of parked cars on sweeping routes reduces the ability of the sweepers to do an effective job.

All city streets are swept on these two days of each month – the day after your Monday trash pickup.

Please do your part to keep your streets clean, by moving your trash containers and cars off the street on these days.

For more information or if you have questions, call Ojai's Public Works Department at 805-646-5581, ext. 200.

# HARRISON COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

## Recycling Guidelines

Keep your recyclables clean and loose!  
Clean = NO contamination; Loose = DO NOT put in plastic bags



### YES

Containers empty/not rinsed.



Cardboard  
Food, Shoe  
Boxes, etc.



Paper/Junk  
Mail



Newspapers  
or Magazines



Plastics 1-7



Glass  
Containers



Aluminum  
or Metal



Flattened  
Cardboard



Cartons



### NO



NO Shredded  
Paper



NO Medical  
Needles or Sharps



NO Plastic  
Bags



NO Diapers



NO Hoses



NO Styrofoam  
or Straws



NO Food-  
soiled Paper

## Trash Guidelines - What goes in the Trash?

Hopefully, very little. After you have recycled, composted, filled the yard waste cart or bin, donated old clothing and goods, and done all of those good things and more — most of the rest can go in the trash.



### YES



Old Clothing  
or Rags



Wrappers



Pet Waste



Styrofoam



Diapers



Old Shoes



Plastic Bags



Hoses



### NO



NO Electronics  
or Appliances



NO Hazardous  
Waste



NO Batteries



NO Medical  
Needles or Sharps



NO Fluorescent  
Tubes or Light  
Bulbs



NO Tires



NO Paint



NO Motor Oil  
or Cooking Oil

For information on how to dispose of items not accepted in the trash, please call: Ojai 805-658-4323.

Connect with us! @ejharrisoninc



### CITY OF OJAI

CITY MANAGER: JAMES VEGA

MAYOR: BETSY STIX

MAYOR PRO TEM: WILLIAM WEIRICK

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

RYAN BLATZ, SUZA

FRANCINA & RANDY HANEY

## Yard Waste Guidelines

Keep green waste a natural resource and out of the landfill.



### YES



Plants



Scrap Lumber –  
NO Treated Wood  
Waste (TWW)



Flowers



Yard Trimmings



Small  
Branches



Grass



Shrubs



Leaves



### NO



NO Plastic



NO Diapers



NO Dirt or Rocks



NO Twist Ties,  
Produce Stickers  
or Rubber Bands



NO Flower Pots



NO Treated Wood  
Waste (TWW)



NO Hoses



NO Pet Waste  
or Manure



NO Film  
Plastic  
or Shrink  
Wrap



NO Styrofoam



NO Glass  
or Metal



NO Trash



Call 1-800-CLEANUP for more certified used oil recycling locations. Funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

## ORGANICS RECYCLING

- Most commercial customers will soon be required to recycle all food and other organic waste.
- Food recycling is coming soon for residential customers.



Stay tuned for details. **Questions?** Contact Donald Sealund at [donalds@ejharrison.com](mailto:donalds@ejharrison.com) or 805-647-1414, ext. 4318.

## EXTRA TRASH? Rent a roll-off or 3-yard

bin. For information and rates, call 805-647-1414 or 1-800-41 TRASH

[www.ejharrison.com](http://www.ejharrison.com)



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