Mandatory Commercial & Multi-Family Recycling in
San Carlos

Required Recycling Ordinance

What It Means for YOU

Presentation by:
Cliff Feldman, SBWMA

with

Steven Sherman, Cascadia Consulting

January 7, 2010
Overview

- Why mandatory/required recycling?
- Who is affected?
- What are the requirements?
- How will they be enforced?
- When will the requirements take effect?
- What are your questions and concerns?
- What are the next steps?
Why A Local Mandatory Commercial Recycling Program?

- Increases recycling diversion, participation, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions
  - Voluntary programs and economic incentives are limited
- Provides greater return on investment in recycling infrastructure
  - Higher efficiency and capital utilization
  - Cost savings for businesses
  - Keeps solid waste rates stabilized
- Will be mandated by the State of California
  - AB32 Scoping Plan – Mandatory Commercial Recycling slated for implementation in 2010
  - Opportunity to design a local program that fits San Carlos
Other Communities with Mandatory Recycling Policies and Programs

- Sacramento Regional Waste Management Authority
- San Diego
- Fresno
- San Francisco
- San Luis Obispo
- Seattle
- Portland
- Honolulu
- Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District
- Gainesville (FL)
- Philadelphia
- Passaic County (NJ)
- City of New York
San Carlos Commercial Sector
Background Statistics

- 1,100 commercial solid waste accounts
- 879 with recycling service
- 62 with organic materials recycling service

- Recycling rate = 24%
  (Residential = 58%)
- Approximately 2/3 of solid waste collected
- Nearly 40% of disposed commercial solid waste is recyclable or compostable
- Organic materials (food scraps) recycling service available since 2004 (comm); March for res.
Who Is Affected?

- All commercial and multi-family customers with 2+ cubic yards of solid waste collection service; also includes City buildings
- Special events
- Exemptions for:
  - Small accounts – those with less than 2 cubic yards per week of solid waste service
  - Cases where recycling is not feasible (for example due to space constraints)
What Are the Requirements?

- Receive recycling collection service from the franchised collection company or independent recycling collector
- Separation and collection of organics from medium to large food service establishments
- Property owners/managers and special event organizers are required to:
  - subscribe to recycling service
  - provide adequate containers and signage
  - provide education and training
How Will the Requirements Be Enforced?

● 3 step process:
  - 1st event - Courtesy Notice
  - 2nd event - Warning
  - 3rd event - Violation
● Graduated fines:
  - $100 initial violation; maximum penalty $500
● City will enforce ordinance and issue fines; franchised collection services provider will assist with monitoring compliance and reporting
When Will the Requirements Be Phased In?

7/1/2010: 6-month grace period before ordinance becomes effective
1/1/2011: Recyclables for larger accounts (4+ cubic yards)
1/1/2012: Recyclable materials for medium-sized accounts (2+ cubic yards)
1/1/2013: Organic materials for larger food service accounts (4+ cubic yards)
1/1/2014: Organic materials for medium-sized food service accounts (2+ cubic yards)
Rationale for Phased-In Approach

- Largest solid waste generators generally offer highest recycling diversion and GHG reduction opportunities.
- Allows for targeted education and outreach.
- Helps generators to gain experience with effective recycling, before adding organics.
- San Francisco: No phase-in period.
- Other jurisdictions: Phase-in approach.
Exemptions

Proposed Approach

- Exclusion: Customers with less than 2 cubic yards/week of solid waste service.
- Exemption: Customers where recycling is not feasible.
  - Can petition for exemption
  - Will be charged a fee to cover City’s costs

Rationale

- Limited impact on solid waste stream; high cost to enforce compliance
- Approximately 400 businesses (34%) would be excluded
- These small commercial accounts generate 4% of franchised commercial solid waste collected in San Carlos
Requirements for Building Owners and Property Managers

Proposed Approach

- Building owners and property managers will be required to:
  - Provide adequate recycling collection service
  - Ensure that adequate containers and signage are provided
  - Provide information and training to users

Rationale

- Ensures that generators have the services, infrastructure, and knowledge needed to comply
Requirement for Independent Recycling Collectors

Proposed Approach

- City business registration
- Compile and maintain information on service levels and materials collected from customers
- Provide reports on recycling services provided to businesses upon request by City

Rationale

- Ensures legitimate recycling and minimum regulation of service providers
- Enables city to track progress and better enforce ordinance
- Provides level playing field for all affected businesses
Questions and Comments?

Cliff Feldman
Recycling Programs Manager
SBWMA
650.802.3502
cfeldman@rethinkwaste.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!