

San Carlos Green
Members' Feedback on Proposed Mandatory Commercial Recycling Program

1. All five charter members of San Carlos Green supported, in general, the Mandatory Commercial Recycling Program.
2. All respondents stated that the large companies should be required to participate first. One respondent believed that the top 50 largest companies should be required to participate first. Costs will be higher for small companies, therefore, the start of the program should focus on the larger companies which could help container costs in the early stages of the program..
3. The respondents were in agreement that the smaller companies should be required to participate later in the program, but only after the program is well-established, and the large companies are fully participating. One respondent believed the smaller companies should be given the option to participate early in the program. Residential multi-family dwellings should also be included late in the program and should have available recycling facilities. Training in recycling should be available to residents of multi-family dwellings.
4. All respondents believed that the timeline to implement was too lenient, and the program should start sooner. . The consensus seemed to be that two years was adequate time.
5. Most believed that the enforcement requirements were adequate; however, some thought they could be stronger. Below are three comments that are worthy of consideration:
 - a. All event managers should require food vendors to use compostable material.
 - b. The text/presentation should emphasize that currently 75% of commercial garbage goes to the landfill. This statement is much stronger than the current statement that 25% of commercial garbage is diverted.
 - c. The enforcement requirements should be stronger. The possibility of the City having to pay State fines for not meeting the diversion rates should require stronger penalties for non-compliance companies.

Submitted by San Carlos Green, Feb.5, 2010