City of Santa Cruz Business Owners – Stay Informed!

New laws may affect your business!

The City of Santa Cruz wants to inform you of new City and state laws that may affect your business. Below is a brief overview of these laws to help you evaluate whether they apply to your business. City staff are available to answer questions or help you smoothly attain compliance. We're here to help!

Mandatory Commercial Recycling

Effective now. State law now requires that all businesses generating four cubic yards or more per week of solid waste, and multifamily residential complexes of five units or more must recycle. The City of Santa Cruz provides recycling collection services at no additional charge within city limits, and will assist businesses in meeting this new law.

Paul Soderstrom, Resource Recovery Supervisor 831-420-5543
www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/recycling/FAQ.htm for more information.

Environmentally Acceptable Packaging & Products

Effective Now. This City law **prohibits the use** of polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) "take-out" containers by any business offering food or drink, and requires the use of recyclable, biodegradable or compostable containers. New revisions to the ordinance **prohibit the sale** of plastic foam products including plastic foam plates, cups, bowls, coolers, containers, packing peanuts, and other items.

The ordinance took effect August 23, 2012. For information on requirements, exceptions and penalties: **www.cityofsantacruz.com/ResourceRecovery**

Chris Moran, Waste Reduction Manager, 831-420-5424
cmoran@cityofsantacruz.com

Single-Use Bags

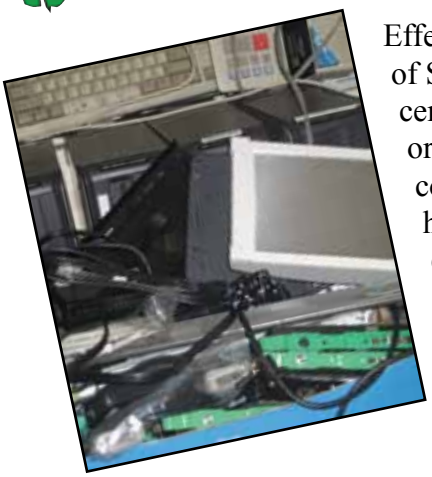
This new City law bans retail businesses from providing customers with single-use plastic carry-out bags and requires businesses to charge 10-cents for each paper carry-out bag. It also requires paper bags to contain 40% post-consumer content. The retailer keeps the 10-cent charge to offset the program implementation costs. Restaurants are not covered by the ordinance. The new law allows single-use bags used to contain loose items prior to checkout such as produce or bulk items, or to protect items placed in a carryout bag such as meat or wet items. It encourages businesses to offer, and customers to use, reusable bags.

The ordinance took effect on August 23, 2012, but the ban on plastic carry-out bags and charge for paper bags is not operative until April 10, 2013. See more information on the ordinance requirements, exceptions and penalties at:
www.cityofsantacruz.com/ResourceRecovery

Bob Nelson, Superintendent of Resource Recovery 831-420-5548
bnelson@cityofsantacruz.com

Bring your own bag!

Electronic Waste Collection



Effective January 24, 2012. All electronic waste (e-waste) collected within the City of Santa Cruz must be delivered to a certified recycler approved by a third-party certification body (e-stewards or R2 Solutions). Affects all businesses, individuals or organizations that accept or collect e-waste for recycling, including in-house e-waste collection such as used computer equipment and phones. All e-waste collectors holding events inside City limits must notify the City ten days in advance. All e-waste processors or recyclers operating within the City must be certified.

Mary Arman, Operations Manager, 831-420-5162
marman@cityofsantacruz.com
www.cityofsantacruz.com/Resource Recovery

Recycle Right! Program

The City of Santa Cruz has a new program designed to improve the quality of business and residential recycling. City staff are now inspecting cardboard and mixed recycling containers to identify and document contamination sometimes found in recycling containers or carts (ie. trash, food, diapers, syringes, etc.).

Your business will be informed of any issues and City staff are available to help educate employees about how to "Recycle Right!" Businesses continuing to contaminate their recycling will be charged refuse disposal fees for that container or may have their recycling container removed. Our priority is for your business to be successful and for you to "Recycle Right!" Recycling guides are available for your business.

"Recycle Right!" **Program 831-420-5546**

Employees of L'Atelier
Recycle Right!

~ Additional Business Services ~

Construction and Demolition (C&D) Materials Recycling Program

The City assists businesses and contractors who generate construction and demolition materials (such as wood, metals, concrete, cardboard, etc.) with planning, delivery and collection of containers and boxes for separating these materials from garbage.

Separated materials have lower disposal rates than trash.

Lupe Sanchez, Resource Recovery Supervisor, 831-212-6581
gsanchez@cityofsantacruz.com

Green Business Certification Program

The City certifies and promotes businesses which meet criteria in the areas of water conservation, waste reduction, pollution prevention, energy conservation and climate change mitigation. Certified Green Businesses save money and attract customers!

Agnes Topp, Green Business Coordinator, 831-420-5423
atopp@cityofsantacruz.com
www.montereybaygreenbusiness.org

Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program