



City of
OAKLAND
California

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“Oakland Recycles” Launches Major New Trash, Compost and Recycling Services

Oakland, CA – Oakland Recycles will launch important new trash, compost and recycling services on July 1 as Oakland takes a huge step toward its Zero Waste goal to keep all recyclable and compostable material out of landfills.

The new services and features include new natural gas-powered service trucks that run cleaner and quieter; new ways for all residents to easily dispose of mattresses, furniture and other bulky items; and for the first time ever, guaranteed compost service for condo and apartment residents.

“I’m proud of Oakland for once more demonstrating world-class leadership to protect our environment,” Mayor Libby Schaaf said. “What is most important about this next step is that we’re taking it together: these efforts to protect our environment can only be successful with the remarkable commitment and participation of Oakland’s residents and businesses.”

Effective July 1, Waste Management of Alameda County, Inc. (WMAC) will be the exclusive provider of trash and compost service for Oakland residents and businesses. California Waste Solutions (CWS) will be the exclusive provider of recycling service for residents. Recycling for businesses remains an open market in which Oakland business owners can shop for the recycling service provider they prefer.

The new services also include important partnerships with Civicorps and the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). Civicorps is an Oakland non-profit that has worked since 1983 to provide meaningful environmental work experiences and educational opportunities for local youth. Civicorps and WMAC are working together to provide Oakland youths with job training opportunities in operations and administrative services that can lead to good-paying union jobs in Alameda County. In addition, EBMUD, a regional utility headquartered in Oakland, is working with the City and WMAC to process the compostable material collected from local businesses right here in Oakland.

“Oaklanders care about the environment. The new Zero Waste services call on Oaklanders and businesses to abide by standards that will improve our air quality, our neighborhoods and our environmental footprint,” City Council President Lynette Gibson McElhaney said. “I know my constituents are especially excited for increased services to address the illegal dumping epidemic.”

Highlights of new services include:

- Compost service to recycle food scraps and yard trimmings now covering all residences, including apartment buildings and condos over five units.

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- Four free bulky drop-off events for residents to take place each year, on the first Saturday of every February, May, August and November.
- New bulky pickup service for condo and apartment buildings.
- Wider variety of cart-size options for residents to right-size containers for all materials, including 20-gallon carts for trash, compost and recycling.
- Brand new collection trucks powered by natural gas to improve air quality and reduce noise.

In addition to the new services under Oakland’s leadership, WMAC will build and operate Alameda County’s first large-scale compost facility, to compost material not just from Oakland, but from around the region.

Full service information including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), rate tables, dates of informational meetings and other ways to communicate with service providers is available at www.OaklandRecycles.com.

Background: Current trash, compost and recycling franchise agreements with the City of Oakland will expire on June 30, 2015. In 2012, the City of Oakland issued a request for proposals to set ambitious goals for improving the City’s Zero Waste services, inviting service providers to bid competitively in an open process. At the end of a long bidding and negotiating process, in September 2014, the City Council voted to split the service agreements between CWS and WMAC.

Service rates have seen some incremental CPI-based increases since 1995, but these increases have not kept pace with the increases to the costs of providing services. The current contracts, originally set to expire at the end of 2010, were extended by the City twice, preserving the existing, lower rates for a total of four-and-a-half years. Services and rates under the new contracts will begin July 1, 2015.

Customer Type	Sample Monthly Rate	Percentage Change
Single-family, 32-gallon cart	\$36.82	23.6% increase
20-unit apartment building	\$616.90	30.1% increase
Commercial customer, 1 cubic-yard trash bin	\$194.10	38.7% increase

Across Alameda County, other cities have also seen similar recent rate increases as new service contracts have been implemented:

City	Year	Increase
Albany	2011	45%
Berkeley	2009	25%
Berkeley	2014	25% (cumulative 50%)
Castro Valley	2009	45%
Dublin	2011	27%
Emeryville	2011	45%
Hayward	2007	32%
Livermore	2011	38%

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With these new contracts, Oakland will divert significantly more material from landfill disposal through increased recycling and composting, enhancing Oakland's leadership in sustainability. For more staff reports and links to related project documents, please visit www.ZeroWasteOakland.com.

For more information about the new services in Oakland, please visit www.oaklandrecycles.com. And thank you to everyone taking the pledge to recycle right! Together we can make a difference.

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