

A Greener El Cerrito

COMMERCIAL EDITION

News from the City of El Cerrito Operations + Environmental Services Division

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Happy Holidays

from the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center! Our upcoming holiday hours: The Recycling Center will be closed on Nov. 28, 29, and Dec. 24, 25, 31 (beginning at noon), and January 1. Curbside collection will not occur on December 25 and January 1. It will instead occur one day later than usual for the remainder of that week.



Recycling Center Winter Hours

November 1 through February 1

Monday - Friday:
8:00am to 4:45pm

Saturday - Sunday:
9:00am to 4:45pm

El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center

7501 Schmidt Lane
El Cerrito, CA 94530
green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Potential Expansion to El Cerrito's Existing Food Ware Ordinance

Given the poor recyclability of single-use plastics and the escalating problem of plastics pollution around the globe, the City is investigating expanding the City's existing Food Ware Ordinance to also prohibit plastic straws and require disposable food ware to be compostable. Public meetings to discuss the draft ordinance are planned to be held



in the coming months. Periodic updates on the draft Ordinance will also be provided at the regular meetings of the City's Environmental Quality Committee (EQC). The City has also engaged a consultant to develop outreach materials to inform and get feedback from the restaurants and businesses that would be impacted.

For more information about the proposed expanded Food Ware Ordinance, or to submit comments, contact Will Provost at 510-525-7622 or wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. Learn more and stay tuned for updates by visiting el-cerrito.org/foodware. To view the latest agenda for the EQC meetings, visit el-cerrito.org/EQC.

Organic Waste Collection: A Guide for Businesses

Composting food scraps, food-soiled paper products, and landscaping debris is essential to removing waste from the landfill, reducing greenhouse gases, and creating a nutrient-rich amendment to keep agricultural soils and other landscapes healthy. Compost can also reduce erosion and improve water quality.

As mandated by State Assembly Bill (AB) 1826, businesses and apartment complexes generating over 4 cubic yards of solid waste a week are required to institute an organic waste collection program to be turned into compost. In addition, effective January 2022, all businesses and apartment complexes will be required to provide organic waste collection, per State Senate Bill (SB) 1383 (see reverse side

for more information on this legislation).

Food waste can be disposed of loosely in containers within restaurants to make it easier to empty into outdoor carts for green waste pick-up. However, it is important that you never use plastic bags for organics disposal. Instead, stock ASTM D6400 BPI certified compostable bags. Always look for "ASTM D6400 BPI certified compostable" to ensure the bags will compost 100% without leaving behind harmful contaminants and plastic residue. ASTM certified compostable bags can be purchased online in bulk or often from your normal supplier. If you have questions or wish to schedule an organics collection training, please contact staff at lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.



Legislation Update: SB 1383 and AB 1826

California Senate Bill (SB) 1383, Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, was signed into law in 2016 in an effort to address the greenhouse gas emissions, such as methane, generated from organic waste. SB 1383 includes requirements for generators, haulers, food recovery services, food recovery organizations, and facility operators. For local jurisdictions, it includes a number of new requirements, including:



- The implementation of an inspection and compliance program for recycling and organics
- Compliance with prescribed color requirements for green waste, recycling, and garbage containers
- Compliance with high rates of organics diversion from the waste stream
- Contamination monitoring and waste studies
- Coordination with commercial edible food generators and edible food recovery programs
- The adoption of enforceable ordinances
- Education and outreach
- Record keeping, data collection, and reporting

These requirements will impact how the City's garbage, green waste, and recycling programs operate. City Staff have entered into a contract with a solid waste consulting firm to develop a framework and timeline for the City to ensure compliance with all provisions of the law. This framework is expected to be completed in December 2019, with implementation planned for 2022.

City staff are also conducting site visits and providing technical assistance to businesses and multi-family dwellings that produce at least four cubic yards of solid waste, to ensure they follow legislation AB 1826, that requires them to recycle organics and landscape waste.

In partnership with RecycleMore and East Bay Sanitary, staff have provided concentrated outreach to El Cerrito businesses, not only to ensure applicable businesses follow all pertinent legislation but also to ensure that trash enclosures are rendered fully functional and accessible for all three material streams: recycling, composting, and garbage. For more information on AB 1826, SB 1383, or to receive training, please contact the City's Waste Prevention Specialist, Lauretean Brazil, at lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 510-559-7686.

El Cerrito Recycling Updates

Due to unprecedented changes in the recycling markets, many recyclable materials now command little or no value. In fact, recycling processors throughout the United States are shifting to a model of charging municipalities to accept materials.

These new costs have begun to impact the City of El Cerrito's recycling programs, and beginning July 1, 2019, the City Council concluded that it was necessary to increase the Integrated Waste Management fee charged for processing curbside recyclables. In addition, on June 18, the Council authorized a switch to Napa Recycling and Solid Waste Services to process recyclables from the City's curbside program. The curbside program will continue to accept most durable plastics and single use plastic containers. It will also now accept paper-based milk cartons and aseptic cartons. However, the program will not accept certain types of problematic plastics, including plastic bags and plastic items smaller than two inches by two inches because these are difficult to process. For more information, contact the City's Operations + Environmental Services Division at 510-215-4350.

Preparing for Rainy Season

With the first rains having arrived, the City requests public cooperation and assistance to assure that the storm drain system functions properly during periods of heavy rain. Here's how you can help:

1. If you have a storm drain grate in the street in front of or next to your business, check it frequently. Make sure no trash or leaves block the grate.
2. If you have a creek on your property, make sure that debris and vegetation do not block the flow of water. Property owners are responsible for maintaining creeks on their property.
3. Make sure your property's drainage system is functioning properly and that surface run off and roof downspouts are not directed into your neighbors' yards, causing erosion or flooding on their properties.

If you observe a catch basin that is not draining or needs to be cleaned, or have any questions, please contact the City at 510-215-4369.