



# Colma's "How to Green Your Business" Guide

Great ideas to help your business save money, reduce waste and conserve resources.



## 1 Consider ECO100 for 100% Renewable Energy Option

Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) is San Mateo County's new electricity provider offering electricity with better renewable energy sources such as wind or solar. By choosing the ECO100 option for 100% renewable content for your business you choose the easiest way a business can start using 100% renewable energy without installing solar power.

[www.peninsulacleanenergy.com](http://www.peninsulacleanenergy.com)

## 2 Get a Free Energy Assessment to reduce your energy bills

Lower your business's electricity bills with a free energy assessment and rebates for lighting upgrades and other energy improvements.

[www.smcenergywatch.com/](http://www.smcenergywatch.com/)

## 3 Use Public Transportation, Bikes or EVs/Offer transportation alternatives

Offer bike racks, carpools and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, flexible schedules and telecommuting at your business.

For more ideas visit [www.commute.org](http://www.commute.org)

## 4 Save Water and Money with Conservation

Take advantage of water rebates available to Colma businesses. Visit

[www.colma.ca.gov/water-conservation-business](http://www.colma.ca.gov/water-conservation-business)

## 5 Recycle More! Recycling is Free. Add New Organics Recycling Program

Businesses can typically recycle 70% of the waste they generate. Expand your recycling program with a free recycling assessment from Republic Services. Contact recycling staff at 650-756-1130 or

[InfoColma@republicservices.com](mailto:InfoColma@republicservices.com) for your free assessment

### BUY GREEN /RECYCLED CONTENT PRODUCTS

Purchase paper made from recycled content products. Make sure materials you buy are recyclable or compostable. Visit

<http://www.smcsustainability.org/waste-reduction/reduce-reuse-recycle/>

## 6 Become a Green Business and Get Recognized!

San Mateo County Green Business program certifies and markets businesses that incorporate green practices. <http://www.greenbusinessca.org/>

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Colma's businesses have saved over 1,000,000 Kwh in energy. Contact [kgallagher@colma.ca.gov](mailto:kgallagher@colma.ca.gov) to see how your business can be more sustainable

# State Laws Regarding Recycling

## **AB 341: Mandatory Commercial Recycling**

AB 341 requires businesses, public entities and residential dwellings with 5+ units that generate four (4) or more cubic yards of garbage per week to recycle. Businesses are required to have a recycling program at your business and separate recyclable materials from waste. *Contact Colma's franchised hauler Republic Services to start or increase your recycling program. 650-756-1130*

## **AB 1826 Mandatory Commercial Organics (Compost) Recycling**

AB 1826 requires businesses and residential dwellings with 5+ units that generate organic waste (compost) to have an organics recycling collection service (includes schools, hospitals, stores, restaurants, for-profit or nonprofit organizations) Gardening or landscaping services offered to businesses are also subject to AB 1826. *Contact Colma's franchised hauler Republic Services at 650-756-1130 to start or increase your recycling program.*

### ***What can I put in my organics recycling bin?***

- Food scraps
- Green waste & yard trimmings
- Non-hazardous, non-treated wood waste
- Food-soiled paper like napkins/paper towels and cardboard like pizza boxes

### ***Why are Compost Recycling Programs Required?***

About 30 million tons of waste are landfill every year in California and 30% of this waste is organic/compostable material. When organics decompose in landfills it creates methane, a very potent greenhouse gas. By composting this material instead of landfilling it, less methane is produced. Also, compost builds soil health, helps soils retain water and reduces weed growth.

## **Construction & Demolition Recycling/CalGreen Requirements**

Construction projects that generate Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris are required to recycle 65% of the materials generated. C&D includes lumber, cardboard, metals, masonry (brick, concrete, etc.), carpet, plastic, pipe (plastic, metal, and clay), drywall, rocks, dirt, and plant materials. *Contact Colma's franchised hauler Republic Services for your C&D project. 650-756-1130 or email [KWong@republicservices.com](mailto:KWong@republicservices.com)*

**These mandatory requirements help California reach its goal of 75% recycling/waste diversion by 2020.**

**Contact Colma's Sustainability Manager to find out how your business can be more sustainable: [kgallagher@colma.ca.gov](mailto:kgallagher@colma.ca.gov) or call 650-757-8888**