



## **Marin Sanitary Service's Commercial Recycling and Organics Services**

The State of California is getting serious about keeping resources out of the landfill and has set a goal to recycle 75% of all materials generated. As a result, it is mandatory for businesses that generate a certain amount of waste and apartment complexes with 5 or more units to recycle and compost. Confused about where to begin? Marin Sanitary Service (MSS) has a full suite of recycling and organics services to help Marin's businesses, multifamily apartment units and schools divert more resources than ever before and to become compliant under California law.

The MSS Commercial Recycling Outreach Team can assess your business' individual needs, work with staff to improve participation, and customize a collection plan to help you divert resources from the landfill. Additionally, for a small fee, the expert staff at MSS can perform a detailed waste analysis and recycling improvement plan that meets Green Business Certification standards.

MSS realizes that to reach this goal, organic materials such as food scraps and yard trimmings need to be removed from the waste stream. Therefore, MSS has made composting services available to all apartment buildings and businesses. In addition to this, they offer the Food to Energy program, which collects food scraps from all kinds of business such as grocery stores, restaurants, hotels, and retirement communities. To date, 200 customers have enrolled in this specific program; 134 in San Rafael alone.

The Food to Energy (F2E) program is the result of a first-in-the-nation public/private partnership between MSS and Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA). F2E starts with MSS collecting the food scraps from your business and ends at CMSA's on-site Anaerobic Digester. The digester acts like your stomach; food scraps go in, microorganisms digest the material and renewable energy in the form of methane gas comes out. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas which is captured and converted to energy that fuels an on-site generator that powers CMSA, reducing the need for energy from fossil fuels like natural gas. In 2017, the Food to Energy program reduced an estimated 2,171 metric tons of CO2 equivalent which compares to removing 5,625 cars from the road.

MSS understands that increasing diversion is not only good for resource conservation - it can also help a business' bottom line. Call (415) 456-2601 today and ask to speak with a Commercial Recycling Outreach Coordinator to start diverting more resources from the landfill.