



Green Your Business - Practice the 5 R's

Stop throwing profits out with the trash. Become a "zero waste" business by practicing waste prevention, reusing products, recycling solid waste and organics, and making environmentally conscious purchases. This not only helps your business to meet local, state, and federal environmental mandates, but also helps to cut costs, increase profits, and help the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. So, *what are the 5 R's?*

1 Reduce - Before thinking about how or where to recycle something, businesses should look for ways to minimize the amount to waste they produce. Reducing dependency on harmful, wasteful, and non-recyclable products results in less waste materials ending up in landfills and other associated negative environmental impacts. **We recommend ONLY using the minimum amount required.** For example, printing on double-sided paper at the office or reducing single-use plastics, unnecessary plastic packaging, food waste, and Styrofoam cups.



2 Reuse - *In an effort to reduce waste, reuse items throughout the workplace instead of buying new ones.* To get started, focus on a single area of your business at a time, like the break room. Replace all of the single-use eating utensils, Styrofoam cups, water bottles, and paper plates with compostable or reusable alternatives. Once you master one area, prioritize reuse for other products in your facility like cardboard boxes, printer cartridges, food containers, and rechargeable batteries.

3 Recycle - After your business is reducing the amount of trash it produces and is reusing wherever possible, recycling is the best method for waste disposal. **It is also a California state mandate that all Commercial businesses and Multi-family complexes affected by it implement a recycling program (AB 341), as well as businesses meeting certain criteria must recycle their organic waste (AB 1826).** We suggest getting started by collecting cardboard, mixed paper products, commingled materials (plastics, aluminum, glass) and organics. VVSOC will help provide a customized recycling program for your business and do the dirty work for you. **For more information on commercial recycling and state mandates, please visit <https://www.valleyvistaservices.com/recycling/>.**



4 Rot - *In other words, compost!* Now that you are taking full advantage of our solid waste recycling and organic waste recycling programs, take your green meter up a notch by composting any other food scraps, coffee grounds, teas bags, or yard waste. Assign a staff member or team of employees to be the "green team" that manages it, and then use the compost for healthy plants around the office, landscaping, or your own community garden.

5 ReBuy - *Buy recycled.* When you purchase products for your business that are made from postconsumer recycled-content products (RCP), such as recycled paper or plastic water bottles, you are *closing the loop* and helping to create market demand for recycled materials.

The **Recycled-Content Product Manufacturers (RCPM)** directory showcases innovative recycled-content products made by California manufacturers who use recycled waste as a feedstock to make new products. Some manufacturers can even personalize their products for your business.

To search a list of recycled-content product manufacturers, go to

<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BuyRecycled/Manufacturers/Directory/>.



Valley Vista Services of Orange County is here to help. Contact our Recycling Coordinator today at (626) 855-5539 to set up a FREE consultation and get started in reaching your zero-waste goals.

Too Toxic to Trash

VVSOC is not permitted to collect and dispose of any Commercial Hazardous Waste or Commercial SHARPS Containers. Disposing of these items in your trash is illegal and may cause serious harm to human health and the environment. *Please review the following to ensure these items are trashed responsibly:*

Household Hazardous Waste

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) are any leftover products that can catch fire, react, explode under certain circumstances, or that are corrosive or toxic. Used motor oil, paint, cleaners, antifreeze, pool chemicals, pesticides and batteries are all considered to be hazardous waste and should NEVER be thrown away in the trash, poured into drains, or poured down storm drains.



Please go to <http://www.oclandfills.com/hazardous/bus> for information on how to properly dispose of commercial household hazardous waste.

SHARPS

"Sharps" is a medical term for devices with sharp points or edges that can puncture or cut skin. Some examples include items such as needles, syringes, lancets, and auto-injectors like epinephrine and insulin pens. Disposing of needles and sharps the wrong way can cause needle sticks and injury that may result in the transmission of diseases. **If you are a Multi-Family Residence and would like a free SHARPS Mail-Back Kit, please call VVSOC at (714) 380-5450, and for all other Commercial SHARPS disposal call OC Waste & Recycling at (714) 834-6752.**



Electronic/Universal Waste Recycling Program

VVSOC offers On-Call Commercial E-Waste and Universal Waste Collection & Recycling for Businesses and Multi-Family Residences.

Items handled by this program include:

- **Computers (desktops, laptops and tablets)**
- **Keyboards, mice, routers**
- **CD/DVD players**
- **Televisions (CRT/LCD)**
- **Fluorescent Light Tubes (CFL's)**
- **Monitors**
- **Fax Machines**
- **Phones and cell phones**
- **Stereos**
- **Consumer batteries**
- **Scanners and Printers**



Electronic and universal waste pickup requests must be placed at least 24 hours in advance to ensure pickup on your next regularly scheduled collection day. Please do not leave any items out on the curb without calling to schedule a pick-up and receiving confirmation. **To schedule E-waste or U-waste pickups, call our Customer Service Department at (714) 380-5450.**

Holiday Schedule

Collection Service will not run on these holidays:

- New Year's Day**
- Memorial Day**
- Independence Day**
- Labor Day**
- Thanksgiving Day**
- Christmas Day**

If your regular collection day falls on or after one of these holidays, pick up will be delayed one day. If it falls on a weekend, collection will be made up on the prior Friday or following Monday.

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