

*Eco-Tip for 7-30-17*

## **Annual Recycling and Landfill Reports**

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Tuesday is the deadline for every city and county in California to send an annual report to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), describing and measuring local efforts to meet several state mandates related to recycling and waste disposal.

These mandates include separate recycling requirements for a variety of sources, including large events, multi-family buildings, businesses and more. The newest area of reporting includes 24 questions counties must answer regarding implementation of programs related to Assembly Bill 1826 (2014), which now requires businesses generating over 4 cubic yards of compostable material per week to arrange for separate collection of those materials, if possible. If you want to find out how your city or county is implementing and promoting plans to reach 75% diversion of waste from landfills by 2020, ask your local recycling coordinator to email you a copy of your city's report.

One aspect of the County of Ventura's report may include information the average reader would not expect. In response to the State's mandate for the County of Ventura to ensure at least 15 years of disposal capacity, this year the County Integrated Waste Management Division is reporting a combined total of over 52 years of disposal capacity at the two landfills in Ventura County.

This capacity should make it clear the reason for all of the recycling described in the rest of the report is not related to an urgent need to preserve landfill space. Rather than saving landfills, the main purpose of recycling is to save resources. Recycling conserves energy and raw materials for future generations and also cuts pollution in manufacturing processes. For example, the National Institutes for Health (NIH) website reports "Recycling steel saves 60% of production energy, recycled newsprint 40%, recycled plastics 70%, and recycled glass 40%."

Another major benefit of recycling is economic development. Also according to the NIH, "Incinerating 10,000 tons of waste creates 1 job, while landfilling the same amount creates 6 jobs. Recycling the same 10,000 tons creates 36 jobs."

*More information:*

<https://nems.nih.gov/environmental-programs/Pages/Benefits-of-Recycling.aspx>

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/lgcentral/AnnualReport/>