



**DATE:** June 14, 2018

**TO:** Planning Committee/Recycling Board

**FROM:** Tom Padia, Deputy Director

**BY:** Meghan Starkey, Senior Management Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Municipal Panel: Adequate Space for Recycling/Enclosures

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## **SUMMARY**

Once per quarter, StopWaste staff assembles a panel of representatives from the member agencies to speak on a topic of interest to the Recycling Board. The topic for the June Municipal Panel is Adequate Space for Recycling. Representatives from Berkeley, Dublin, Fremont and San Leandro will participate in this panel.

## **DISCUSSION**

Having adequate space for recycling and compost containers (both indoors and out) is a challenge for multifamily and commercial properties, especially when multiple tenants share service and/or enclosures. While the mandatory recycling ordinance stipulates that tenants have access to services (recycling and composting, depending on ordinance phase), onsite physical constraints, municipal code requirements, adequate planning during development and type of collection services can all constrain the ability of regulated parties to comply. If space for recycling is an afterthought, then it's a problem for the rest of the life of that space.

During this panel, participants will share their experience and insights in working with property owners, tenants, service providers and other city staff members to ensure adequate space for recycling and composting. The panelists will share the current issues and solutions from their perspectives as front line staff, whose job it is to help ensure adequate space for recycling and composting.

Often, member agency recycling staff members are a formal part of the development process, responsible for checking plans or working with service providers. At this point, it is critical to ensure that an adequate amount of space is dedicated for recycling/composting, that it is located in a convenient place for tenants, accessible by service providers and compliant with state and local regulations on this topic. Frequently, including adequate space for recycling can compete with other priorities for the site (such as parking or ground floor retail) or simply be overlooked as less important. Mixed use buildings or those with chutes are common occurrences that require special

consideration. Remodels of existing properties may provide another opportunity to ensure adequate space, one with its own set of challenges (including cost). Once plans are approved or a project is built, it can be very difficult to get compliance after the fact.

Two years ago, the Agency developed general space guidelines for designers (<http://www.recyclingrulesac.org/docs/SpaceGuidelinesforRecycOrg.pdf>). These guidelines are intended to supplement, not replace, working with local staff members and planning departments.

When working with existing properties, member agency staff members encounter a host of issues, which vary greatly in large part depending on the nature of the built environment and local regulations. When cities have trash and recycling enclosures requirements (such as in parking lots of strip malls) storm water regulations provide an additional layer of complexity. Often, additional and new types of bins need to go into an enclosure that wasn't designed to hold them all. The issues of responsibility between property and business owners (especially who would be responsible for paying for any upgrades), shared service and the unique demands of food businesses come into play. In both the commercial and multifamily sector, member agency staff and service providers need to work closely with each other to provide operational solutions to these challenges.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.