

Dear Mayor & City Council,

In light of recent conversations about an updated plastic bag ordinance that would affect food service & retail establishments, the Office of Economic Development would like to share a recent communications piece that was put together with input from staff citywide. The e-version of these materials, found online [here](#), summarize current state & local environmental regulations impacting Berkeley food businesses—and the resources available to help food businesses with compliance (and environmental leadership!).

Additionally, OED will be printing a tri-fold brochure with this information to distribute to local restaurants and food vendors (*see attached*); **if your office would like to have a stack of these brochures in your office (or to help distribute to local businesses), please let OED (Eleanor Hollander, [EHollander@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:EHollander@cityofberkeley.info)) know how many you would like to have by next Wednesday, Sept. 1**

We hope these summary materials will be helpful to the food businesses in your districts - and to your own work on environmental policies that impact the local business community!

Thank you.

Dee Williams-Ridley  
City Manager

# BE AN ENVIRONMENTAL HERO!

Want to be even greener? Your business can do even more to support the health of our environment!

Get certified as a California Green Business.

Benefits include:

- Cost savings in energy, water, and garbage bills
- Employee wellness and productivity
- A marketing edge over the competition
- Contributing to the battle against climate change
- Recognition as an environmental leader

Learn more at [greenbusinessca.org](https://greenbusinessca.org).

Find rebates, financing and technical assistance to cut energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions:  
[bayren.org/business](https://bayren.org/business)

The City of Berkeley is committed to addressing the climate emergency and reducing waste. This guide is intended as an overview and offers a variety of resources for food and beverage businesses. To learn about all requirements and available resources, visit: [bit.ly/BerkEnvRules](https://bit.ly/BerkEnvRules)

Emphasis on the importance of employee health and hygiene practices should be maintained at all times. Please refer to the City of Berkeley website, [cityofberkeley.info](https://cityofberkeley.info), for the latest information on community health and safety resources and/or restrictions.

## Contact Us

The City of Berkeley Office of Economic Development (OED) can assist Berkeley businesses to comply with these earth-friendly regulations. For support please email or call:

✉ [oedmailbox@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:oedmailbox@cityofberkeley.info)  
☎ 510-981-7530

City of Berkeley | 2180 Milvia Street | Berkeley, CA 94704



ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS  
& RESOURCES FOR  
BERKELEY FOOD BUSINESSES

# COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

State of California, Alameda County and City of Berkeley environmental laws and regulations impact Berkeley food & beverage businesses. **Learn how!**





Photo courtesy of ReThink Disposable



## RECYCLING & COMPOSTING

Businesses are required to recycle and compost in the City of Berkeley. Provide clearly-labeled and color-coded recycling (blue) and compost (green) bins next to any landfill (gray/black) bins available for customers.

- **Recycling is dual-stream:** fiber is separate from container recycling. Recyclables include clean, dry fiber (cardboard, paper) and containers (glass bottles and jars, metal cans, and plastic bottles).
- Compostables include food scraps, plant debris, compostable paper, and BPI-certified foodware.



## FOODWARE & CARRYOUT BAG REQUIREMENTS

**Dine-in:** All foodware utilized for on-premises dining must be reusable.

**Take-out:** All disposable foodware must be BPI-Certified compostable. No single-use plastic or Styrofoam allowed. Accessories (e.g. utensils, straws, napkins, etc.) may only be provided upon request or at self-serve stations. Businesses must charge customers \$0.25 for each disposable cup.

Restaurants may provide recycled-content paper bags for free. Single-use plastic carryout bags are not permitted. Reusable plastic bags may be distributed with a charge of at least 10 cents if they comply with the Alameda County Reusable Bag Ordinance.

## FOOD DONATIONS

State law protects food businesses and grocery stores from civil and criminal liability when donating food in good faith. See SB1383 for state requirements that larger businesses donate surplus edible food.

To learn about all requirements and available resources, visit: [bit.ly/BerkEnvRules](https://bit.ly/BerkEnvRules)



## ENERGY

The City of Berkeley is committed to becoming a Fossil Fuel Free city. Due to its superior safety, indoor air quality, and climate impacts, the City encourages the use of renewable electricity, rather than natural gas, for space and water heating, and cooking. Berkeley businesses are automatically enrolled with Alameda County's local electricity supplier, East Bay Community Energy, which offers greener electricity at comparable or lower rates than PG&E.

## WASTE DISPOSAL & STORMWATER

All restaurants and food facilities must be evaluated to ensure that fats, oils and grease (FOG) are properly removed from the wastewater stream prior to disposal into the sewer system. This may be achieved by use of a grease interceptor (or other City-approved grease-removal device). Large quantities of FOG should be recycled through a licensed grease recycler.

City of Berkeley businesses must follow general stormwater Best Management Practices for food businesses and the handling of pollutants of concern to the storm drains.

