Apartments: Reduce Trash Rates by Composting Food

Single-family residential customers who have reduced the size of their waste stream by recycling and composting have been able to lower their trash bills by switching to fewer or smaller trash cans over time. However, since MVRS charges apartments a minimum of one 32-gallon can per unit, apartments have been unable to enjoy the benefit of reducing trash service through recycling and composting—*until now.*

Our cities approved a new rate structure this summer that now allows apartment owners to reduce their level of trash service below the one-can-per-unit minimum if they provide their tenants with the means to Actively Participate in the available food waste composting service offered by MVRS.

HOW TO QUALIFY AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT

Qualifying for "Active Participation" in food waste composting is easy. Management simply needs to:

1 Call our office and request delivery of our kitchen countertop food waste pails. These pails are FREE, and we will provide one for each unit in your apartment complex.

2 Distribute the pails to each of your tenants. The pails come with instructions for their proper use (see the back of this newsletter for a sample).

3 Verify with our office the name and contact email of a person MVRS can notify if compost carts become contaminated with non-compostable materials.

Your tenants will be instructed to empty their kitchen pails into the large, two-wheeled compost carts that your apartment may already have for yard waste. If you do not already have compost carts—or need more—MVRS also provides these at no extra charge (up to one per unit).

Your apartment is already paying for compost (and recycling) services, which are included in your trash rate. You can only *save money* by encouraging your tenants to participate more in these two services.

HOW TO AVOID CONTAMINATION

As with any new program, people have to learn to compost properly to avoid contaminating the compost carts with materials that belong in trash cans or recycle carts. If, on occasion, the apartment compost carts become contaminated too much for our driver to pick up (the compost facility can sort out only minimal contamination), he will leave the carts and our office will report this to the contact person on the account. If the contaminating materials cannot be removed, MVRS will dump the cart as trash at our regular special pickup rates.

The best way to avoid contamination is to clearly separate compost carts from recycle carts in your trash enclosures.

We will help by putting stickers on compost carts that clearly distinguishes them from recycle carts. Putting up informational signs in the enclosures or near the carts is also a good idea.

For details about food waste recycling, visit our website at www.millvalleyrefuse.com.

ORDER YOUR FREE KITCHEN COUNTERTOP PAILS

To order your **FREE** kitchen counter-top pails, or to ask questions about this new opportunity to reduce your rates, call:

James Iavarone
Mill Valley Refuse Service
(415) 457-9760, ext. 12

MILL VALLEY REFUSE SERVICE

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NEW
APARTMENT COMPOSTING AND
RATE-REDUCTION OPPORTUNITIES**

WHAT GOES INTO YOUR PAIL?

Step 1: Collect food scraps and food-soiled paper in your kitchen pail.

- All food products including meats and bones
- Eggshells
- Apple cores and fruit peels
- Coffee filters and tea bags
- Food-soiled paper including paper plates, paper towels, and paper napkins

Step 2: Place the food waste from your kitchen pail and any yard waste into your apartment's green composting carts. No diapers or pet waste allowed!

For more information about what can go into your green cart, please visit MillValleyRefuse.com.

MILL VALLEY REFUSE SERVICE

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PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES TOGETHER
ZeroWasteMarin.org

FOOD SCRAPS

SOILED PAPER

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Food Scrap Recycling