

Reducing the amount of trash your business creates is the best way to reduce monthly waste disposal costs and improve your company's bottom line. All waste reduction activities — be they waste prevention, reuse, or recycling practices — will help you achieve your goal of reducing the amount you pay for waste disposal and sending less trash to landfills.

Take advantage of the tips listed below to help you reduce your waste.

REDUCE/REUSE

- Convert from disposable containers to reusable containers to ship goods to your customers. A specialty food manufacturer in Rancho Dominguez switched from cardboard boxes to reusable plastic boxes and significantly reduced its cost for delivery containers.
- Donate reusable manufacturing equipment, office equipment, or scrap materials to local charities. One manufacturer in the Los Angeles area donates scrap balsa wood from its production line to the Los Angeles Unified School District for art classes. List available items for donation on the County's materials exchange web site, LACoMAX, at www.lacomax.com or call (800) 741-9236.
 - Reuse pallets to send finished jobs to customers or ask suppliers to take them back. For excess pallets, store them on site for collection by a pallet reuse company.
 - Work with retailers and distributors to identify ways of reducing packaging.
- In employee restrooms, replace paper towel dispensers with hot air hand dryers.
- Send computer printer and photocopier toner cartridges back to the vendor for remanufacturing.

- If your facility has a lawn, reduce grass trimmings by leaving clippings directly on the lawn instead of bagging them for disposal. Not only will this reduce waste, it will also lead to a healthier lawn by returning nitrogen to the soil.

RECYCLE

- Determine the materials with the largest volumes of waste and target them for recycling. Large facilities may have significant quantities of cardboard, paper, rubber, textiles, glass, wood, metal, or landscape trimmings. The greater volume of materials you generate, the more likely you are to be paid for the materials. Contact the **SmartBusiness Recycling** Program at (800) 741-9236 for a list of recyclers in Los Angeles County.
- If you have recyclable materials in small quantities, consider paying for recycling collection as long as the cost is less than what you pay for waste disposal. Your company will "make money" by reducing its waste disposal costs.
- If recycling collection services are not available from your waste hauler or recyclers, work with employees or local individuals to collect and transport recyclable materials from the business.

TIP
SHEET