

Kern County Public Works



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For Immediate Release

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Kern County Public Works Is On A Mission To Increase Recycling At Apartment Complexes.

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (September 26, 2018) - The Kern County Public Works Department (KCPWD) is teaming up with Kern Service Conservation Corps, part of the Farmworker Institute of Education & Leadership Development (FIELD) to increase recycling awareness in apartment/condominium complexes and mobile homes throughout unincorporated Kern County. The young men and women of the Kern Service Conservation Corps are going door to door to hand out free recycling bags and public information to help enhance recycling.

State regulations have transformed recycling from a voluntary to mandatory practice for many businesses. Businesses, including multi-family complexes that generate at least 4 cubic yards of trash per week, must recycle. This initiated the placement of blue recycling bins next to trash dumpsters at many multi-family complexes. Unfortunately, many of these bins are being filled with trash and other non-recyclable materials such as; furniture pieces, garden hoses, and even chain link fences. Putting trash in recycling bins and carts adds costs to the separation process, and due to increased demands on the cleanliness of separated materials, recyclers are seeing lower commodity prices.

Often residents believe they are doing the right thing because they know most items can be recycled, but in fact, these items can slow down the recycling process, or stops it all together. The processes used to recycle blue bin/cart materials are designed for cardboard, paper, beverage containers and other household containers. Wood furniture, chain link fences and other like materials can be recycled at local transfer stations and landfills but they require a different process than blue bin recyclable items/materials.

With State laws and contamination issues coming to the forefront, KCPWD realizes the need for increased and continuous education. Since the blue recycling bins were rolled out last spring to multi-family unit complexes, KCPWD felt it would be a great to work with FIELD to start a door-to-door campaign to highlight how to improve use the recycling bins. It is critical that everyone make an effort to change the way they recycle to sustain current programs.

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