



SB 1383 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is Senate Bill (SB) 1383?

SB 1383 was enacted in 2016 and became effective January 2022. It is a State Law aimed at reducing short-lived climate pollutants and greenhouse gases. The law requires all organic waste to be recycled, specifically food waste, for the purposes of diverting it from landfills.

How does this law help the environment?

This law will help California achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by diverting materials from landfills that produce harmful gasses such as methane. When organic materials are landfilled, they break down anaerobically (without oxygen). This creates methane, a greenhouse gas eighty-four times more potent than carbon dioxide. Organic materials like food scraps, green waste, paper and cardboard, make up almost half of the State's waste stream. Redirecting these materials to composting or recycling operations will save landfill space, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create valuable soil amendments.

Who must comply with the law?

The law impacts all California residents, including those in single and multi-family homes, apartment complexes, as well as commercial entities, schools, and medical facilities. The law requires jurisdictions to provide organic waste collection services to all properties, to separate their organics for landfill diversion and recycling. The law also requires jurisdictions to monitor contamination.

How does the mandate affect residents?

For single family dwellings and dwellings of 2 to 4 units, food waste may no longer be placed in the regular waste. Residents should place food scraps and loose green waste in the new green cart provided by West Valley Disposal & Recycling Service.

Contamination Monitoring

The law requires jurisdictions to monitor contamination levels in the waste, recycle and organics carts. Annually, West Valley Disposal will perform a curbside audit of discarded materials to identify cart contamination levels. West Valley Disposal staff will randomly select and review cart contents for the presence of contaminants. Findings will be shared with generators.

Where can I learn more about SB 1383?

CalRecycle <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/>

West Valley Disposal www.westvalleydisposal.com or (209)835-3639

Residential Organic Waste Recycling

What can be placed in the green organics cart?

Under the residential program, acceptable organic materials are food soiled paper, food scraps such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, grains, eggs/eggshells, meat, bones, seafood, leftovers – any food waste material. Green waste such as grass clippings, leaves, branches, and prunings may also be placed in the cart. Food scraps and green waste should be loose in the cart.

What happens to the organic waste after it's collected?

Organic waste is transported to Tracy Material Recovery where it is processed into compost material, then sold to farmers, gardeners, landscapers, and the public.

What type of bags can I use to dispose of food waste?

All bags, including those labeled compostable and bio-degradable are excluded from the organics program. AB 1201 requires products labeled “compostable” to meet established performance standards, meet U.S. Department of Agriculture’s organic standards, and be certified by a third-party certification entity. AB 1201 also allows Cal Recycle to adopt regulations for labeling compostable products so consumers and composters can tell the difference between non-compostable and compostable products. Currently there are not any products on the market that meet these criteria. Organics carts with bags will be flagged for contamination.

Brown grocery paper bags are the only bags allowed in the organics cart.

I’m concerned about potential odors or pests. What can be done about these potential impacts?

We recognize food can attract unwanted pests and suggest saving the meat and bones in the fridge, freezer, or a lidded countertop compost container until collection day. Wrapping meat in newspaper and/or layering green yard debris such as grass clippings, over the top of discarded food waste, will entrap pest attracting odors.

Here are some tips to help keep your cart clean:

- Avoid putting excess liquids in the containers.
- Keep lids closed at all times and store in a shady area if possible.
- Spray vinegar or sprinkle baking soda, into carts to absorb odors.
- Set your cart out every week to be emptied.

Can I clean my garbage or organics carts?

Residents may rinse carts on their own lawn or landscaped area. Alternatively, residents may block off the catch basin inlet and utilizing a wet vacuum, vacuum up all the rinse water then discharge it to the cleanout on the side of the house. The rinse water cannot be discharged out to the street. Carts may be cleaned by West Valley Disposal for a fee.

Why did the rates increase?

Although the State is imposing these requirements on jurisdictions, unfortunately, it is not providing the financial assistance needed to fully implement the program. Residents and businesses will notice an increase in their utility bill to cover the costs associated with the program. The increase includes costs for the added collection vehicle/route, equipment, containers, material processing, labor, and administrative costs for ensuring compliance with all obligations under SB 1383.

Is there a reduced rate for senior residents?

Yes. MHCSO offers a reduced rate for senior residents aged 65 or older. Please contact MHCSO (209)831-2300 for information.

What if I already compost my food waste and/or generate little to no food waste?

You can continue to compost food waste in your home or on your property. The new program accepts organics that are not recommended for backyard composting, such as larger branches and certain food wastes that can attract pests. While these are not recommended for backyard composting, they can be processed for composting at Tracy Material Recovery and Solid Waste Transfer. Unfortunately, SB 1383 does not allow residential exemptions; it requires jurisdictions to provide organics collection services regardless of composting activities or how much organic waste is generated.

I have received new carts, but my old carts were never picked up. Who do I call to pick up old carts?

If you still have your old waste (green) and yard waste (brown) container, please call West Valley Disposal (209) 835-0601, or email support@tdswm.com.