



SB 1383: Residential Organics Recycling

Frequently Asked Questions

What is SB 1383?

Senate Bill 1383 is a statewide organic waste recycling mandate which was passed in 2016 and is intended to divert short-lived climate pollutants from landfills, reducing organic waste, food waste, and greenhouse gas emissions. You can view the legislation text [here](#).

How will this law help the environment?

Landfill gas created by decomposing organic waste is a significant source of overall greenhouse gas emissions. This law helps California achieve its aggressive recycling and greenhouse gas emission goals and address climate change by reducing materials in the landfill which produce gas.

How much landfill waste will this law reduce?

Despite the state's robust and traditional recycling infrastructure, organic materials (yard trimmings, food scraps and soiled paper) make up about half of the State's waste stream, and food waste is the largest single waste stream in California. Redirecting these resources to composting and digesting operations will save landfill space, generate energy, reduce emissions, and restore soils.

When does the new requirement take effect?

Organics recycling within the City of Sacramento is anticipated to begin for residential customers in summer 2022. Commercial entities and businesses are required to begin their organic recycling services starting July 1, 2021.

Who must comply with the new law?

The law affects all California residents, including those in single- and multi-family homes, commercial entities, and schools. The City of Sacramento is expecting to launch its organics recycling program for residents in summer 2022. Education and outreach will be provided for Sacramento residents before the anticipated launch.

What does this mean for residents?

Residents will dispose of all organic waste in their green waste bin, which is currently only used for yard waste, instead of the garbage bin. Organic waste refers to food waste (including vegetable and fruit scraps, eggshells, meat, dairy, bones, and rotting food), food-soiled paper, (including pizza boxes, coffee filters, and paper napkins) and yard trimmings. Residents who do not currently have a yard waste bin will be provided a new bin for their organic waste service.

Can a resident apply for an exemption or waiver?

This is a statewide mandate and there are no exemption waivers granted for individual residents. Business owners seeking a commercial waiver can apply [here](#).

Will there be an exemption for residents who are currently exempt from having a yard waste bin?

Residents who are exempt from having a yard waste bin will not be exempt from SB 1383, as all residents will be required to have an organic waste bin to dispose of their food waste to comply with the law.

What if I have no space for a new or larger bin?

Residents will have an option between bin sizes, but all residents must have a green waste bin to comply with the law. Multi-family residences (such as apartment complexes) will be provided with bins for their properties.

Will there be a special rate for low-income residents?

There are no special rates currently offered for this service, but residential customers meeting eligibility requirements can apply for a reduced rate through the Sacramento Utility Rate Assistance (SURA) program [here](#).

What if I already compost all my food waste/generate no food waste?

Under SB 1383, we are unfortunately not able to offer exemptions to customers who compost their food waste or who generate minimal food waste. However, we will be offering free countertop compost bins to our customers in 2022, as well as compost seminars and information about composting.

Can I self-haul my food waste?

We do not currently offer the option to self-haul food waste. Residents must be signed up for organic waste collection service to comply with SB 1383.

Can I start using my yard waste bin to dispose of my food waste now?

Although we are very happy to see our residents getting excited about upcoming residential organics recycling, residents cannot currently use their yard waste cart for food waste. Waste processing facilities have different processing requirements for only green waste versus green waste mixed with organics. At this time, our residents should continue placing only green waste in their yard waste bin until notified otherwise.

What happens to the organic waste after collecting it?

The organic waste will be taken to one of the City's recycling processors and turned into compost which will be made available free of charge to customers.

Where can I find more information?

You can find information here www.cityofsacramento.org/organics. Updates will be added as the program is developed. If you would like information on SB 1383 regulations and statewide resources, you can find it at Cal Recycle's website: <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp>.

sacrecycle.org