

Senate Bill (SB) 1383 Three-cart Residential Organics Recycling Program FAQ



*Green Waste carts will transition to **Organics** carts (co-collected green waste and food waste) beginning sometime in 2023.*



SB 1383 & How it Affects You

What is SB 1383?

In September 2016, former Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law SB 1383, establishing methane emissions reduction targets in a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants in various sectors of California's economy. SB 1383 establishes targets to achieve a 75% reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste by 2025. Organic waste includes both food waste and other green waste, such as yard trimmings. Part of this law requires cities to establish organics recycling programs to all properties, including single-family residential properties, multi-family residences, and businesses. For more information, please visit calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/.

Is everyone required to recycle organic waste?

Yes, all single-family residences, multi-family properties, and commercial businesses in California are required to recycle their organic waste per SB 1383.

Will this program affect my refuse collection rate?

Yes, rates will cover the costs of collecting and processing organic waste. The City is currently working with Waste Management (WM), the City's official contracted hauler, to finalize a program and rate, which will be presented to the City Council for approval in the coming months. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Can I opt out of the new organics recycling program? What if I do not produce any organic waste?

There are no waivers or exemptions for residential locations. Per SB 1383, the City must provide organics collection service to all residents, regardless of waste generation. All residents will be required to receive and participate in this service.

Can I continue to compost at home?

Yes! Residents are welcome to continue composting at home. For tutorials, please visit the Backyard Composting and/or Worm Composting links located at cityofirvine.org/composting.

Does SB 1383 require residents to start composting at home?

No, residents are not required to compost at home, though they may continue to do so voluntarily. The law requires cities to provide organics collection service to all residents. Food waste service will be included as part of WM's curbside collection program.

Are residents required to donate food?

No, SB 1383 only requires certain businesses, such as major supermarkets and grocery stores, to donate edible food. However, if you would like to volunteer or donate food, please reach out to your local food pantry to see how you can help.

Learn more: cityofirvine.org/ep
environmentalprograms@cityofirvine.org

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Residential Food Waste Recycling Program

How do I separate food scraps from the trash at home?

You may keep food waste separate from the trash by having a designated container or food scraps pail inside your kitchen. These containers can be purchased at various retail stores and online marketplaces. Alternatively, you may keep food inside your fridge or freezer, and empty directly into your curbside collection container on your day of service.

What will happen to the food waste being collected?

Food waste will be diverted from the landfill and processed into compost or renewable energy.

When can I start combining food scraps and yard trimmings in the organics cart?

The City is currently finalizing a residential organics program with WM. The anticipated start date of the program is in 2023. Further communications will be shared upon finalization of the program.

Acceptable & Unacceptable Materials

What materials should be placed in each container currently?

To learn what goes where, visit cityofirvine.org/householdrecycling, or refer to your WM residential service guide which can be found at home.wm.com/irvine.

What kind of waste can I place in my organics container once the new program begins?

Acceptable items in the organics (co-collected green waste and food waste) cart will include grass, leaves, small branches, shrubs, brush, plants, weeds, garden trimmings, sawdust, cooked and uncooked meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, bread, pasta, rice, grains, eggs/eggshells, coffee/tea grounds, and food-soiled paper/napkins.

What if I put my food waste in the trash?

If you continue to place food waste and yard trimmings in the trash bin, contamination charges may be assessed by WM. It is crucial that you sort your waste properly so that it can be recycled and handled safely. Placing trash, recyclable, or organic material into the incorrect container is considered

contamination. In addition, City fines can also occur beginning in 2024. For more information, visit calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/faq/enforcement.

Where do I put large palm fronds?

These should be placed in the trash cart.

Can I place compostable or biodegradable products in the co-collected organics cart?

Unfortunately, these items are not currently accepted at the processing facility. These products do not break down fast enough and can contaminate the compost. We kindly ask that if you use these products, please discard them into the trash container.

Can I place plastic bags in the co-collected organics cart?

Please do not place plastic bags in the organics cart. If you choose to collect your organic waste in a plastic bag, please empty the contents directly into the organics container and dispose of the plastic bag in the trash cart. As an alternative, paper bags may be utilized and placed in the organics cart.

How to Keep Containers Clean & Fresh

How do I avoid odors in the organics container?

Consider lining your curbside cart with yard trimmings before disposing of your food scraps. Alternatively, you can use a paper bag to collect and dispose of your food waste in the organics cart or line the bottom of the cart with some newspaper. You may also keep your cart in a shaded area if possible.

Inside the kitchen, consider using a container or pail with a closed lid and/or charcoal filter to alleviate odor. Empty your indoor container in your curbside collection cart frequently. To maintain freshness, keep food scraps bagged in the fridge or freezer until collection day. Sprinkling some baking soda or dried coffee grounds on top of your food scraps may also alleviate potential odor. Wash and dry indoor food scraps pails frequently to avoid odors.

Will WM offer a cleaning service for my collection carts?

No; however, residents may contact a third-party cleaning service if desired.

Will the food waste program attract pests?

This should not be the case. Residents have always disposed of food waste; now it will just be a different color container. To avoid attracting unwanted pests in any of your collection carts, we recommend always keeping the lid closed and only leaving containers curbside on day of service.



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