

# MANDATORY ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING FOR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

## WHAT IS ORGANIC WASTE?

### FOOD WASTE & FOOD-SOILED PAPER



### GREEN & WOOD WASTE



### OTHER ORGANIC WASTE



Can include:  
organic textiles, carpets, manure,  
biosolids, digestate, and sludges

## WHY RECYCLE ORGANIC WASTE?

### REDUCE CLIMATE CHANGE



Composting 25% of the wasted food in LA County annually is equivalent to removing the pollution from 52,000 cars. <sup>1</sup>

### DIVERT LANDFILL WASTE



Countywide, it is estimated that over 1.6 million tons of food was disposed in 2020, representing nearly 15% of all disposal. <sup>2</sup>

### PRODUCE RENEWABLE PRODUCTS



Food waste can be converted to clean energy, refuse derived fuel, and mulch & compost products.

## HOW TO RECYCLE ORGANIC WASTE

### IDENTIFY GENERATION



Identify where organic wastes are generated:

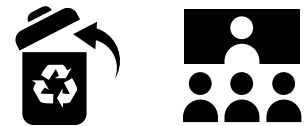
- Cafeteria kitchen food prep
- Cafeteria dining area
- Lunch rooms
- Employee workstations
- Landscaping

### CONTACT YOUR HAULER



- Donate excess edible food to a local food recovery organization.
- Ask your hauler and/or landscape maintenance to:
  - Conduct a site visit and make recommendations for your facility
  - Provide information about organic waste collection and recycling programs they offer
  - Provide separate food waste and/or green waste containers

### IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM



- Contact Public Works for assistance
- Distribute organic waste collection bins where organic waste is generated
- Post signage and distribute educational materials to all employees

# MANDATORY ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHY RECYCLE ORGANIC WASTE?

SB 1383 was passed in 2016, with regulations developed by CalRecycle adopted in November 2020. The law requires businesses, including government facilities, to arrange for organic waste recycling.

Currently, AB 1826 requires facilities with 2 cubic yards or more of all solid waste (trash, recycling & organics) to arrange for organic waste recycling; however, when SB 1383 comes into effect by January 1, 2022, all facilities with more than ½ cubic yard of organics must have a formal organics collection program in place.

Additionally, SB 1383 requires certain food waste generators to recover edible food to avoid landfill disposal. Tier 1 food waste generators are to be recovering edible food by 2022, and Tier 2 food waste generators are required to be recovering edible food by 2024. A property owner, manager, or business operator, is required to provide employees convenient access to organic recycling bins with proper signage, and provide regular training and monitoring. Failure to comply with the requirements of SB 1383 will subject facilities to the required penalties as established by the law.

## WHAT IS CONSIDERED ORGANIC WASTE?

“Organic Waste” means Solid Wastes containing material originated from living organisms and their metabolic waste products including, but not limited to, food, yard trimmings, organic textiles and carpets, lumber, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, manure, biosolids, digestate, and sludges.



## WHAT ARE THE BASICS OF SETTING UP AN ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM?

### Step 1

- Identify where organic wastes are generated and disposed.
  - Kitchen food prep areas
  - Dining area trash bins
  - Monitor break rooms, lunch rooms, and trash bins
  - Identify if green waste is being disposed in on-site waste containers

### Step 2

- Contact your facility’s solid waste collection provider, landscape maintenance contractor, or ITD (for FASMA hauler) to set up organic waste collection and recycling services.
- If your facility generates edible food, arrange to have excess food donated to a local food recovery organization.

### Step 3

- Place organic waste recycling bins throughout the facility or work areas. Public Works may be able to provide a limited number of bins to assist in implementing your organic waste recycling program.
- Provide educational materials and program information to employees, including:
  - Ongoing reminders to promote the program
  - Program information in new-hire training
- Monitor the program regularly.

For additional information, call (888) CLEAN-LA to request assistance.

## ARE THERE REQUIREMENTS FOR LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS THAT HANDLE GREEN WASTE?

All landscape contracts must require appropriate recycling of all landscaping materials as well as procurement of compost and mulch products made from recovered organic materials. Public Works can provide sample contract language. To comply with AB 1826 and SB 1383, a facility must recycle all organic wastes it produces.

## WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO HELP COUNTY FACILITIES COMPLY?

Public Works and ISD are ready to assist you in subscribing to organic waste collection services. On April 1, 2018, waste hauling agreements were established with Athens Services, Southland Disposal, Universal Waste Systems, and USA Waste. These contracts include collection for food waste and green waste. For more information, please contact Carla Leung of ISD at (323) 267-2209 or Ted Lo of ISD at (323) 267-2271.

- Before implementing an organic waste collection program at your facility, please contact your waste hauler to find out their requirements for separating food waste and green waste from other trash for collection. Some haulers may accept food waste only, while other haulers may accept food waste mixed with food-soiled paper products such as napkins, compostable food containers, and compostable utensils.
- If you do not contract through ISD for organic waste recycling service or if your current waste hauler does not provide organic waste recycling, you may subscribe to services with any of LA County’s approved commercial franchise waste haulers. For a list of commercial franchise waste haulers, visit [BusinessRecycling.com/businesses-hauler-services.aspx](https://www.businessrecycling.com/businesses-hauler-services.aspx)

<sup>1</sup> Calculation computed using the U.S EPA Waste Reduction Model calculator, estimating a reduction of 400,000 tons of food waste annually. U.S. EPA, Waste Reduction Model, version 15, with data sources obtained from: [epa.gov/warm/versions-waste-reduction-model-warm#15](https://epa.gov/warm/versions-waste-reduction-model-warm#15)

<sup>2</sup> Data obtained from Table 1: 2020 Annual Report Los Angeles County Countywide Organic Waste Management Plan