

ORGANICS RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery is your one-stop shop for organics, recycling, and solid waste collection services. We serve our customers, communities, and environment responsibly by optimizing the use of material we collect and process.

Mandatory Composting Law In California. Why Your Property Must Recycle Organics.

What Is Organic Waste?



FOOD:

Bones, shells, raw, cooked, or spoiled food scraps of any variety.



FOOD-SOILED PAPER:

Napkins, paper towels, paper-based take-out containers, pizza boxes, and coffee filters.



LANDSCAPE WASTE:

Brush, branches (less than 3' in length and 3" in diameter), lawn and plant clippings, shrubbery, twigs, weeds, and wood chips (no dirt).

California's Senate Bill 1383 requires multifamily properties to provide residents with access to organics recycling. Food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard debris must be separated from trash and placed in the organics collection containers.

Requirements for Multifamily Properties (5 or more units)

Properties must:

- Participate in jurisdiction's curbside organics collection service, or
- Self-haul organic waste to an approved site, such as:
 - A permitted composting facility
 - A community-based composting program
 - Another authorized collection option or program

Responsibilities of Property Owners and Managers

Management is required to:

- Provide organics collection service access to both residents and on-site staff.
- Ensure containers are correctly sized, properly labeled, and placed in convenient locations.
- Deliver annual education to tenants and employees on how to properly sort organics, recycling, and garbage.
- Provide new tenants with sorting instructions within 14 days of moving in.



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Prevent Food Waste Tips
For Businesses



Helpful Tips for You and Your Residents:

- Remind residents that state law requires recycling organics.
- Post clear signage on or near collection bins so residents know where food scraps and food-soiled paper belong.
- Regularly communicate with residents about when and how to use the organics containers.
- Encourage residents to collect food scraps at home in a small container (bowl, coffee can, or reusable bin) and then empty them into the property's organics container.
- Remind residents to empty home containers regularly into the property's outside organics container.
- Use paper bags or newspaper to line containers and absorb moisture (**plastic bags are not allowed**)
- Wash home and outdoor containers frequently to keep them clean
- Control odors by adding items such as napkins, paper towels, tea bags, or coffee grounds along with food scraps.

Why it Matters

The decomposition of organic waste in landfills produces methane emissions, which are a significant source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to global climate change. Methane is a climate super pollutant, as it is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide.¹ Food waste alone makes up approximately 18 percent of total landfill disposal.² By taking steps to prevent food waste, rescuing edible food, and increasing the composting and diversion of organic waste throughout the state will help reduce methane emissions from California's landfills.

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California state law SB 1383 requires all businesses to divert organic waste from the landfills by placing discarded food scraps into the organics container. This material is converted into soil-enriching compost.

Multifamily properties with a large amount of organic waste may choose to back-haul their organic material. A record must be kept showing the amount of organics delivered to the composting facility.

Record keeping: Self-haulers must record the amount of organic waste delivered to each solid waste facility operation, activity, or property that processes or recovers organic waste.

This record shall be subject to inspection by the City and include:

- Delivery receipts and weight tickets from the facility accepting the waste.

- The amount of material in cubic yards or tons transported to each facility.
- If the material is transported to a facility that does not have scales on-site or employs scales incapable of weighing the self-hauler's vehicle in a manner that allows it to determine the weight of waste received, the self-hauler is not required to record the weight of material, but shall keep a record of the facilities that received the organic waste.

As of January 1, 2024 jurisdictions are required to enforce this law and penalties may be issued for non-compliance. To learn more visit <https://mdr.com/sb1383-multifamily/> or scan the QR code.



1. California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy. CalRecycle Home Page, 2019, calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/sclp/. Accessed 21 Sept. 2023.
2. State of Disposal and Recycling in California, page 39. 2017. calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications

RECYCLE YOUR WASTE AT OUR PLACE!

Your friendly + convenient self-haul destination

Our Recycling Center and Transfer Station (Contra Costa Waste Services) is located at 1300 Loveridge Road in Pittsburg. The facility is open daily at 5:00 am for businesses and at 7:00 am for the general public, and closes at 6:00 pm (closed Christmas + New Year's Day only). We accept solid waste, organics, wood, plastics, metals, cardboard, building material, dirt, rock, concrete, electronics, appliances, and more. For the full list and pricing, please visit www.mdr.com/rcts.

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