

All About Organics

CALIFORNIA SB 1383 ORGANICS RECYCLING



What you need to know

WHO

Unincorporated Ventura County residents and businesses can subscribe to service by contacting their service provider. The service providers will collect your curbside organics, including food scraps, and transport them to a facility that converts the organics into energy or nutrient-rich compost.

WHAT

Organics include food, food scraps, food soiled paper, yard trimmings, grass, & non-hazardous wood waste. This newest organic legislation will affect every city and county in CA, most residences and businesses (commercial generators), facility operators, schools, food recovery organizations, and solid waste & recycling collectors.

WHEN

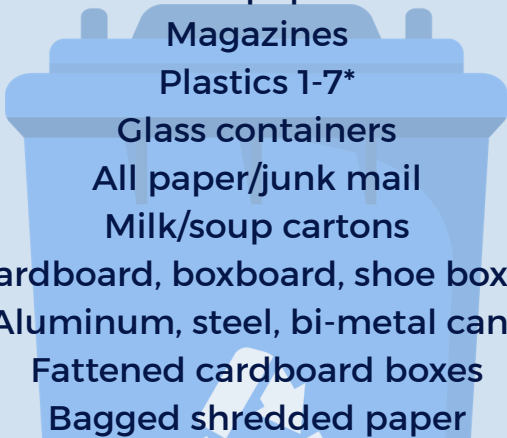
Effective January 1, 2022, all California properties are required to separate organic waste and participate in an organics collection program per State Senate Bill (SB 1383), California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy.

WHY

- Organics make up half of what is disposed of in California landfills.
- Organic waste in landfills emits methane, a “super-pollutant” that is 84× more potent than CO₂.
- SB1383 targets a 75% reduction in the landfilled organic waste by 2025 and a 20% increase in edible food recovery to feed people.
- Reducing organics in landfills means reducing harmful emissions and air pollutants linked to asthma and heart/lung disease.

RECYCLE

Place these types of items in your blue recycling container




- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Plastics 1-7*
- Glass containers
- All paper/junk mail
- Milk/soup cartons
- Cardboard, boxboard, shoe boxes
- Aluminum, steel, bi-metal cans
- Fattened cardboard boxes
- Bagged shredded paper

*It is best to focus on 1, 2, & 5s because they have the highest recyclability.

No Wishcycling!!!
If it is not on this list, do not place it in the blue cart.

TRASH

Place these types of items in your black trash container



- Plastic shopping bags
- Garden hoses
- Straws, plasticware
- All film plastic (bread bags, cereal bags, etc.)
- Styrofoam containers or packing materials

What Does NOT go into my trash cart?

- No Household Hazardous Waste
- No batteries, no battery-embedded items
- No medical sharps or waste
- No pharmaceuticals
- No diapers
- No recycle
- No organics

ORGANICS

Place these types of items in your green organics container




- Food scraps (meat, dairy, peels, trimmings, spoiled)
- Food-soiled paper/cardboard
- Scrap lumber (untreated only)
- Yard Trimmings
- Small Branches
- Plants & Flowers
- Shrubs, Leaves, & Grass

What Does NOT go into my organics cart?

- No flower pots, stretch tape, & markers
- No dirt or rocks
- No plastics
- No Trash
- No HHW

Household Hazardous Waste

Properly dispose of these toxic products by scheduling an appointment or finding a local disposal option.



- Plastic shopping bags
- Garden hoses
- Straws, plasticware
- All film plastic (bread bags, cereal bags, etc.)
- Styrofoam containers or packing materials

Still not sure what goes where?

Visit our webpage to learn more about household hazardous waste. Use our "what goes where" residential recycling search tool to find out how to properly dispose of almost anything.

How residents can properly sort organics

Per state law, unless a facility is permitted to accept food waste and green waste, steps must be taken to ensure they are kept separate. Service providers have different processing capabilities. In Ventura County, unincorporated communities -

- [Athens Services](#) customers can place loose food scraps in the green organics cart. Bags are optional. Use 100% plant-fiber-based.
- [EJ Harrison](#) customers must bag and tie their food scraps. They will accept any plastic bag.
- Both ask customers to remove stickers, twist ties, and rubber bands.
- Do not place any trash, metal, glass, toxics, pet waste, or plastic in the organics. The cleaner you make it, the better product the producers can make.

How commercial business & agricultural properties can sort organics

- All commercial businesses can place food scraps in their organics cart with or without a liner.
- If you are not currently subscribed to the organics collection service, taking one of these steps will ensure your account complies with SB 1383 requirements:
- [Subscribe](#) to the organic collection service by contacting a County-franchised collector; OR
- [Register](#) to self-haul organic waste. Records of delivery receipts and weight tickets (if applicable) must be maintained and available upon request; OR
- [Apply](#) for a Physical Space Constraints or De Minimis Waiver; applicants must meet the outlined criteria.

Residential Methods to prevent food waste

Residents can prevent food waste in the following ways:

1. **REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE** still holds true for organics as it has for material recycling.
2. **PLAN** meals and grocery store runs by first inventorying your pantry and fridge. This helps prevent over-purchasing.
3. **STORE** food properly. Pay attention to sell-by dates, follow your refrigerator's guidance for maximizing storage and food safety.
4. **DONATE** any food fit for human consumption. [Food Forward](#) will accept backyard produce. Many pantries publish lists of needed products based on the clients they serve. Chickens love leftovers, too! Visit [Food Share](#) to learn more about their donation programs.
5. **TRY** repurposing leftovers to extend the life of the food's embedded energy. Vegetable trimmings and animal bones can be used to make soups & broths. Bread and crackers can be turned into savory bread puddings or bread crumbs. Expand your culinary horizons by learning how to maximize food use.
6. **COLLECT** food scraps while preparing meals, scraping plates, or cleaning out the fridge/pantry. Free countertop kitchen pails are available by contacting your service provider. By doing this, you are helping our community reduce harmful methane emissions.
7. **PLACE** food scraps into your curbside organics cart (follow your service provider's guidelines) or choose to compost plant-based food scraps in your backyard compost bin. Free bins are available to unincorporated residents by contacting IWMD.

Commercial Methods to prevent food waste

1. **REVIEW** current inventory and back-of-house practices to identify ways to reduce waste, repurpose leftovers, and improve storage to extend longevity.
2. **DOWNLOAD & SIGN UP FOR** the [Careit](#) app to find food recovery organizations to whom you can donate food still fit for human or animal consumption.
3. **REQUEST** [free containers](#) from IWMD for front & back-of-house collection and subscribe to service.



Commercial Outdoor bins and carts



Indoor bins and carts



Special Event Recycling



COMMERCIAL TRASH & RECYCLING PROVIDERS

Seven (7) solid waste collection companies provide trash & recycling service to commercial customers within the unincorporated area (UA) of Ventura County. By contract, each of these companies has the non-exclusive right to serve any commercial customer within the UA. All collection providers have the same Uniform Commercial Agreement. Customers with questions about their service should contact their collection provider directly:

Athens Services¹
805-856-0113
[Website](#)

Harrison Industries¹
805-647-1414
[Website](#)

J & L Hauling & Disposal Inc.
888-563-4634
[Website](#)

Marborg Industries
805-963-1852
[Website](#)

Mountainside Disposal Inc.
661-831-2837
[Website](#)

[Peach Hill Soils](#)
805-529-6164
[Website](#)

WM
805-522-9400
[Website](#)

¹These service providers also serve residential customers.

Local Ordinances & Programs

- [County Ordinance No.4590](#) (adopted Dec 7, 2021) implements SB1383 in unincorporated Ventura County—including universal organics service, education, recordkeeping, waivers, and enforcement.
- Self-hauling (commercial/business): registration and delivery receipt/weight-ticket recordkeeping required if businesses self-haul organics; residents generally use curbside service.
- City programs: Cities (e.g., Ventura) operate their own SB1383 programs and offer resident kitchen pails and guidance; check your city's website.

Residential Comingled Recycling

- Need to subscribe to curbside service? Here's how you can meet local requirements to properly recycle materials like plastic, cardboard, and aluminum:
- [Subscribe](#) to the recyclables collection service by contacting a County-franchised collector.
- Use the blue recycling cart every week; follow hauler-specific guidance.
- [Recycle right](#) (keep items clean/dry). Avoid contamination. Use the What Goes Where search tool.
- Prevent waste and donate edible food when possible.

Commercial Businesses Comingled Recycling

- Still missing the blue bin or cart? Here's how you can meet local requirements to properly recycle materials like plastic, cardboard, and aluminum:
- [Subscribe](#) to the recyclables collection service by contacting a County-franchised collector; OR
- [Register](#) to self-haul recyclables. Records of delivery receipts and weight tickets (if applicable) must be maintained and available upon request.
- Use your organics cart every week; follow hauler-specific bagging guidance.
- Recycle right (keep items clean/dry). Avoid contamination.
- Prevent waste and donate edible food when possible. Sign up for [Careit](#) to find a food recovery partner to receive your donations and distribute them to those in need.
- Check out [Waste-Free VC](#) to learn more about commercial business edible food recovery requirements.

Backyard & Community Composting

- Backyard/home composting: turn food scraps & yard trimmings into nutrient-rich compost that improves soil and reduces watering needs.
- Follow local guidance and service provider rules on what to compost at home.
- Residents can request a FREE backyard compost bin from their service provider.
- Use the FREE kitchen pail countertop pail (request from service provider) to collect scraps.
- Follow your service provider's bagging or loose-placement rule when transferring them to the organics cart.
- Take advantage of the [Compost/Mulch Coupon programs](#).

Environmental, Social, & Economic Benefits

1. Compost Use & Soil Health

Buying from [local compost suppliers](#) reduces transportation emissions and strengthens regional markets. Unincorporated residents can pick up compost or mulch at select sites or order delivery through their service provider, with delivery fees applying. Schools and educational farms may qualify for delivery subsidies or incentives to maximize the reuse of recovered organic waste. Using local compost and mulch improves soil health, saves water, and reduces erosion, which is especially important after storms or wildfires. Compost use in agriculture increases carbon sequestration and reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

2. Climate & Environmental Protection

Keeping organics out of landfills cuts methane and harmful particulate pollution, helping us breathe easier, mitigate climate-driven extreme weather, and preserve limited landfill space. Edible food recovery significantly reduces methane emissions, supports food banks and pantries, and improves operational efficiency for food producers. Buying products made from recycled content supports circular economies, creating jobs and strengthening local green industries. Responsible waste habits build community resilience, especially during climate-driven disasters, supply chain disruptions, and landfill closures.

3. Food Recovery & Community Benefits

Donating fresh, edible food increases access to nutritious meals for community members in need. SB 1383 requires communities to build local food recovery networks and sets a statewide goal to recover 20% of edible food for people rather than sending it to landfills. [Waste-Free Ventura County](#) provides outreach templates and shared record-keeping tools to help partners meet these requirements. Local food recovery efforts create community benefits such as more meals for food-insecure neighbors, stronger nonprofit partnerships, and reduced disposal costs for food generators. Community members can donate directly to neighborhood food recovery organizations, and using local pantry lists helps strengthen hyper-local, resilient networks.

4. Ways Residents Can Participate

Residents can donate surplus backyard fruit through [Food Forward](#), where volunteers harvest it, donate it on their behalf, and provide documentation for potential tax deductions. Residents can also volunteer with [Food Share](#) or organize a food drive at their workplace or place of worship. Every household plays a role, and small actions multiplied across neighborhoods lead to measurable environmental and economic impact.

5. Ways Businesses Can Participate

Commercial businesses must subscribe to organics collection and divert food scraps from disposal. IWMD encourages businesses to partner with food-recovery organizations or animal-rescue groups to reduce disposal costs. Businesses can sign up for [Careit](#) to connect with a food recovery partner that accepts donations and distributes them to those in need.