

## What is Senate Bill 1383?

Senate Bill (SB) 1383 is a statewide law requiring organic waste recycling, or composting. It requires every jurisdiction in California to do the the following:

- Provide organics collection services for all businesses and residents
- Establish edible food recovery programs
- Conduct education and outreach to the community
- Procure recyclable and recovered organic products
- Secure access to recycling and edible food recovery capacity
- Monitor compliance and conduct enforcement

## Why recycle organics?

When organic waste goes into the landfill, they produce a potent greenhouse gas, methane, which contributes to global warming and climate change. When properly composted, organics not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but they also create a rich soil amendment. When added to soil, compost supplies nutrients and beneficial microbes, sequesters carbon, and improves soil structure and water holding capacity.

## What can you do?

- Reduce the amount of food that you throw away
- Donate edible food to a friend or food pantry
- Compost at home or join a community composting program to further reduce your waste's environmental impact
- Learn how to sort your waste in your city
- Teach others about the importance of SB 1383



Sign up for a free home composting workshop at [www.ucanr.edu/compost](http://www.ucanr.edu/compost)

To learn how to sort waste correctly in your city, visit



[www.reducewaste.org](http://www.reducewaste.org)



# Senate Bill 1383

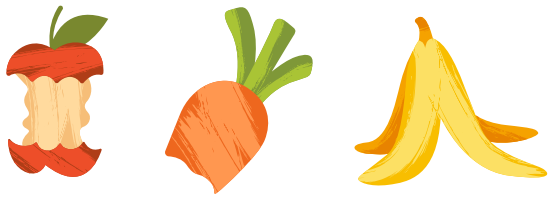
Reducing short-lived climate pollutants in California by recycling organic waste



University of California  
Cooperative Extension  
Composting Education Program  
408-918-4640

Composting Education Program  
COMMUNITY • HOME • CLASSROOM





**Organic** means something that is carbon-based, usually something that is living or was once living. **Organic waste** in our everyday lives includes food scraps, plant materials, and soiled paper products like greasy pizza boxes and used napkins.

### Curbside Collection

In Santa Clara County, there are different ways that residents might sort their food scraps for curbside collection. Some cities have a split cart system, while others combine yard waste and food scraps in one bin. Using advanced sorting technologies, other cities collect food waste in the garbage cart and sort it on the back end. Additionally, yard waste bins come in different colors (typically brown or green), and some cities accept different materials. Make sure to check with your local jurisdiction on how to sort your waste by visiting [www.reducewaste.org](http://www.reducewaste.org) or scanning the QR code on the back of this brochure. Your organic waste will be picked up and sent to be composted, used as animal feed, or broken down through anaerobic digestion.

### Procurement

Now that jurisdictions need to collect all organic materials to be composted, there's a lot of compost being made across the state. To keep the markets stable, jurisdictions are advised to "buy back" compost or mulch in proportion to the size of their population. These products can be used in public green spaces and given or sold to residents, growers, and organizations. Jurisdictions also have the option of sending bought-back materials elsewhere in the state.



### Edible Food Recovery

Before composting food, SB 1383 requires that jurisdictions facilitate recovery of edible food from large businesses to support food insecure populations. Jurisdictions are also supporting better food preservation and food waste reduction to mitigate climate impacts and save money.

## How do home and community composting fit into all of this?

Instead of recycling organic materials through curbside collection, residents, businesses, and other groups can compost their own materials. So, why compost on site?



**To keep the end product.** By composting at home or through a community composting program, residents, schools, and other organizations can use the compost they produce. Plus, this compost is more likely to be free of contaminants like plastics.



**To support local systems.** Composting on site reduces the carbon footprint of composting by lessening the need to transport organic waste over long distances. Additionally, it encourages growing food locally in residential and community gardens or urban farms.



**To reduce a garbage bill.** While most residents don't pay an extra fee for organic waste collection, office buildings, schools, restaurants, and other organizations that produce organic waste may be required to pay for the additional collection. If these spaces compost on site or partner with a community composting site, they might be able to opt out of curbside collection, minimizing their fees.