

SB 1383: Recycling Organic Waste at Home

Frequently Asked Questions



The City of Sacramento is implementing its new organic waste recycling programs July 1, 2022, in accordance with the statewide mandate, Senate Bill 1383. This law will affect all residents of Sacramento, but how and when they will receive organic waste recycling service depends on the nature of their property. More information on SB 1383 and the organic waste recycling program can be found at SacOrganics.org.

The answers to some questions will depend on where the resident lives and their waste hauler.

To determine if you are a residential or commercial customer please see below.

- **Residential customers live at properties of up to four units who receive garbage service from the City of Sacramento (including single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes)**
- **Commercial customers live in multi-family residences of five units or more (including apartment buildings)**

- **When does the program begin?**

Residential: Organic waste recycling (food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard waste) is anticipated to begin July 1, 2022 for residential customers.

Commercial: Apartment buildings of five units or more are already required to receive organics recycling service as of January 2022. Please contact the City at (916) 808-4846 or email wastecompliance@cityofsacramento.org if your apartment complex does not yet have organic waste recycling service.

- **How will I find out when the program is beginning?**

Residents will be informed of the new program through a variety of outreach methods, including a mailed notice, social media, TV, radio, and billboard spots, Sacramento City Express blog, neighborhood association presentations and newsletters, and regular updates to our website.

Your property manager will be notified of how to comply with the new organic waste recycling requirement.

- **Can I put food waste in with yard waste now?**

If you receive trash service from the City, please do not mix in your food waste with your yard waste until July 1. After July 1, we will be using a more intensive process to break down our organic waste into compost.

Customers in apartments can start disposing of food waste in the organic waste container provided by the hauler who services your building.

- **How do I get an organic waste container if I don't already have a yard waste container?**

Customers who don't currently have a yard/green waste service or a container from the City will be issued a new organics container which should be delivered to their residence in late June.

An organic waste container will be provided by the commercial hauler who services your building.

- **What if I don't want the new organic waste service?**

Organic recycling service is mandatory Statewide, with very few exemptions at this time. Those who do not currently receive yard/green waste service from the City will receive a ~32 gallon organic waste container delivered to their residence in June, and will see the new rate for this service on their July bill.

The new organic service is required for all residents, including those in apartment buildings serviced by commercial haulers. Your building's hauler is responsible for implementing the new organics recycling program and providing a new container for organic waste. The new law does allow, in limited cases, exemptions for commercial properties; more information is available [here](#).

- ***How will this affect my bill?***

Information on the rate adjustment approved by City Council on January 25, 2022 can be found [here](#). New rates will take effect on the May bill for solid waste customers.

For those customers who do not currently have City yard/green waste service will see a monthly charge of \$10.02 starting in July. More information is being sent directly to impacted customers and can also be found at sacorganics.org.

Contact your property manager to determine how your bill may be affected.

- ***Will there be a reduced rate for low-income residents?***

Residential customers meeting eligibility requirements can apply for a reduced rate through the Sacramento Utility Rate Assistance (SURA) program [here](#). The SURA program is administered by the City's Department of Utilities, but all aspects of the program are approved by City Council. While it is unknown at this time what Council will approve, it is anticipated that some portion of the proposed rate adjustment for the food waste recycling program would be offset by the SURA program.

- ***What will go in the organic waste container after the program starts?***

Organic waste includes grass clippings, leaves and yard waste, fruit and vegetable scraps, grains, coffee grounds, dairy, eggs, meat, bones, seafood, leftover food, and food-soiled paper such as coffee filters, pizza boxes, and paper napkins. State law prohibits putting organic waste in the trash or mixed recycling can after July 1.

- ***How can I prevent issues with odor, pests and hygiene when we start putting food waste in with yard waste?***

Many issues with odor or pests can be eliminated or reduced by using a compostable bag or layering the food waste with yard trimmings or food-soiled paper and waiting to dispose of the organic waste in your curbside container until the night before collection. More education on how to recycle food waste at home can be found at SacOrganics.org. We do not anticipate this program creating more issues with pests and odor, as this same food waste is currently placed in the garbage container where it would likewise also attract pests.

- ***Where can I get a kitchen food scrap pail?***

Residential customers will receive a mailing with information in spring 2022 on how to get obtain a free food scrap collection pail. Customers can register [here](#) to pick up their pail from one of eight local community centers distributing the containers or at one of two Saturday giveaway events at Sutter's Landing Park.

Commercial customers can ask the hauler who services their apartment building if they are providing free kitchen food scrap pails.

- ***Do I need to use a compostable bag for my food waste?***

Residential customers are not required to use a bag for your food waste, but if you do it must meet the ASTM D6400 standard for compostability. You can find some examples of what is available here:

<https://nymag.com/strategist/article/best-biodegradable-trash-bags.html>

Commercial customers should ask their property manager and/or commercial hauler as different haulers have different requirements on compostable bags. All haulers accept paper bags.