

Organic Waste Requirements for County Facilities

Senate Bill (SB) 1383 aims to reduce 75% of organic waste disposed in landfills statewide by 2025. SB 1383 requires, all Los Angeles County facilities to subscribe to collection services for organic waste, including food waste and green waste by January 1, 2022. County facilities are advised to contact Internal Services Department to subscribe to organic waste collection services through the Facility Ancillary Master Services Agreement or to directly contact their waste hauler.

Food Waste Management



LA County Public Works developed the Scrape Your Plate Program to divert inedible food away from landfills. The program allows employees and visitors to discard food waste in separately labeled bins at Public Works' Headquarters cafeteria and break rooms. Cafeteria employees also separate food waste for recycling. Instead of being disposed in landfills, the food waste is delivered to a local material recovery facility where it is anaerobically digested. County facilities will need to develop similar food waste recycling programs and update contracts with any on-site food vendors to include food waste recycling requirements.

Edible Food Recovery

SB 1383 also places commercial edible food generators into two tiers that requires them to donate their excess edible food to food recovery organizations. Food service providers, such as County facilities with a cafeteria, included in Tier 1, are required to sign up for edible food recovery services by January 1, 2022. Health facilities with on-site food facilities and over 100 beds as well as large venues and events are included in Tier 2 and are required to sign up for edible food recovery services by January 1, 2024.

Public Works developed the Food Donation and Recovery Outreach Program (Food DROP) in 2018 to provide commercial edible food generators, including County facilities, an opportunity to safely donate their excess edible food to feed people in need. County facilities in Tier 1 and Tier 2 are encouraged to use Food DROP to donate their excess edible food.

What Else Can We Do?

When feasible, County facilities should procure organic waste products, such as compost, mulch, energy and fuels, for their operations. County facilities should update their landscaping contracts to require contractors to use compost and mulch from recycled organic waste. County facilities that generate large amounts of food waste and green waste should consider processing organic waste on site if space permits.

Failure to meet the requirements of SB 1383 subjects the County to potential fines of up to \$10,000 per day from the State. For more information and resources on County organic waste management requirements, visit pw.lacounty.gov/epd/organics or email EPDOrganics@pw.lacounty.gov.

