



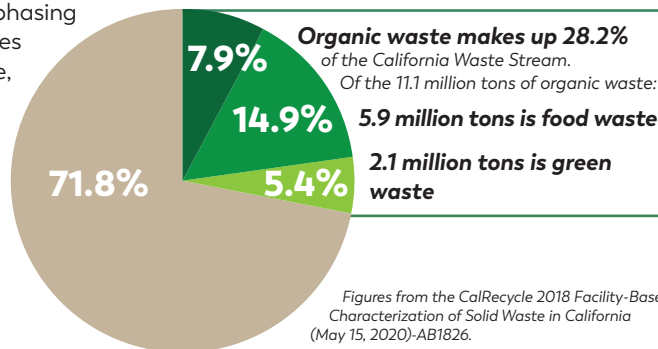
Landscape and Grounds Management

Organic waste makes up 28% of California's waste stream. This material creates methane, a potent greenhouse gas, when sent to a landfill. Effective April 1, 2016, the State's Mandatory Commercial Organic Waste Recycling law (Assembly Bill 1826) began phasing in requirements for businesses that generate organic waste, to arrange for that material to be donated, recycled or composted.

Businesses generating two cubic yards or more of waste per week, must arrange for organic waste recycling services. Los Angeles County Internal Services Department added organic waste recycling services to the Facility Ancillary Services Master Agreement hauler contracts.

Los Angeles County unincorporated areas successfully diverted 37% of organic waste and converted it into mulch, compost and biofuel. The State goal is to reach a 75% reduction of 2014 organic waste disposal levels by 2025.

To reduce green waste, County facilities are encouraged to replace grass turf with drought-tolerant plants and to grasscycle mowed lawns.



Native and drought-tolerant plants grow slowly — reducing the need for fertilizer, waste collection, and maintenance costs. Using grass clippings and wood chips onsite not only reduces waste but improves water retention and provides a natural fertilizer.

Tips, Resources, and Assistance



Use the CalRecycle Organics Toolbox to find your business type and get additional information about organics recycling. CalRecycle.ca.gov/organics/CompostMulch/toolbox



In your contract language, require your landscaper to take green waste to a facility for mulching, chipping, grinding, or other reuse. Insert requirement that no green waste at all ends up disposed at landfill. Find facilities accepting green waste and other organic waste such as agricultural waste, sludge and manure at: pw.lacounty.gov/epd/swims/Residents/where-to-take-my-trash-esri.aspx. Confirm with the facility that accepted organic waste is diverted from landfill.



Contact a Los Angeles County vendor to set up green waste recycling collection by visiting pw.lacounty.gov/epd/organics. Find other local green waste recyclers with Los Angeles County's useful search tool at BusinessRecycling.com



Review the Green Waste Management Resource Guide: BusinessRecycling.com/pdfs/Green-Waste-Management-Resource-Guide.pdf



Grasscycle! Leave grass clippings on the lawn after mowing. They quickly decompose and release nutrients to fertilize the lawn. CalRecycle.ca.gov/organics/GrassCycling



Use recycled organic products on-site. SB 1383 requires jurisdictions to procure landscape materials made from recycled products and your purchases will help. Learn more at Calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/SLCP/Procurement



Plant California native and drought tolerant plants in landscaping to reduce green waste, conserve water, reduce pesticide use, and lower maintenance cost. Visit the Smart Gardening Program website to find native and drought tolerant plants and shrubs at: SmartGardening.com

GREEN WASTE AND WOOD WASTE

PRUNINGS 	VEGETABLE SCRAPS
GRASS 	LEAVES
FLOWERS 	UNTREATED WOOD

OTHER ORGANIC WASTE TO BE RECYCLED

FOOD SOILED PAPER 	FOOD SCRAPS
MANURE 	TEXTILES



Los Angeles County Facility Case Studies

Learn How to Grasscycle

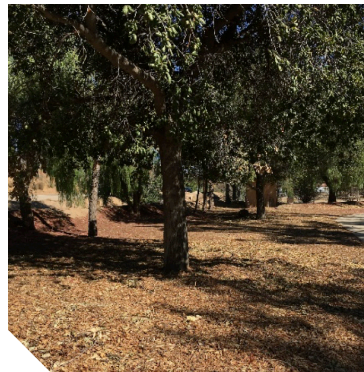
The United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that a 5,000 square foot lawn can trap over 85 pounds of dust, dirt, pollen and mold to help cool surroundings. Grass provides valuable benefits when properly maintained, mowed and watered.

Los Verdes Golf Course in Palos Verdes has 70 acres of turf. Approximately 455 tons of clippings per year are left on the turf. This practice, known as grasscycling, reduces 125 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually — the equivalent of saving 14,000 gallons of gasoline. Grasscycling also fertilizes the lawn, retains moisture and reduces water usage. Start grasscycling by instructing your landscapers to leave grass clippings on the grass after mowing or use a mulching mower that directly applies grass clippings back into the soil.

Learn more at: SmartGardening.com/gr.cfm



Chip and Mulch Tree Trimmings



County Fire Station 81 maintains five acres of land with a variety of plants including shrubs, trees and grasses. The station generates wood chips and mulch from trimmed trees and uses it on-site and at other stations. Larger pieces of trees are chopped and stored for wood. Smaller pieces are chipped into

mulch and placed on the soil to encourage moisture retention and reduce weeds. Wood chips and mulch provide a uniform, aesthetically pleasing appearance to pathways, walkways, hillsides and other landscaped areas.

Encourage the use of mulch by requiring your maintenance staff to save pruned woody materials. Coordinate with your facility maintenance or landscaping department to bring a chipper when the material pile reaches a sufficient size. Once chipped, spread mulch on larger trees and shrubs to maintain moisture near root areas. Maintain additional mulch for subsequent use in a cooler area away from flammable liquids and solvents.

Update Landscaping Contracts

Utilizing contracted landscape service to manage green waste and yard trimmings is an effective way to manage this material. To ensure services are properly performed it may be necessary to update landscape contracts.

At Los Angeles County Library Headquarters, Sepco Earthscape Inc. takes cut branches, shrubbery and grass clippings to a green waste facility for mulching and recycling. The site can ensure items are taken to the correct facility which reduces overall solid waste disposal and prevents valuable materials from being landfilled. If contracted organic waste recycling services are feasible for your facility it is important to review the contract and make sure it includes clauses and provisions requiring the contractor to take any green waste to an approved mulching or green waste composting facility. Additional clauses should note that landscape crews are prohibited from disposing of any green waste and yard trimmings in on-site solid waste bins.



Install Drought-Tolerant Landscaping



Careful planting and efficient irrigation systems can reduce irrigation water use by 70%. This practice reduces overall water usage and associated water consumption costs. Drought-tolerant plants grow slowly, require less pruning and produce less landscape waste. All of these benefits can reduce costs for labor, materials and disposal.

Central Juvenile Hall installed drought-tolerant landscaping in multiple areas of the facility. These areas are a waste and water reduction benefit, and they also beautify the grounds. Gravel and mulch also can protect the soil; thereby, reducing the need for soil amendments and fertilizer. Learn more at: SmartGardening.com