

MANDATORY ORGANIC WASTE DISPOSAL REDUCTION ORDINANCE

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022

On November 16, 2021, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the Mandatory Organic Waste Disposal Reduction Ordinance. The Ordinance ensures everyone does their part to divert organic waste and edible food from landfills to reduce emissions of methane and our impact on climate change. The Ordinance is required per state Senate Bill 1383 regulations. To read the Ordinance and Ordinance Guidelines, please visit CleanLA.com/OrganicWaste.

In short, the Ordinance requires all businesses and residents in County unincorporated communities to subscribe to organic waste collection services. Self-hauling is also allowed under certain circumstances.



WHAT IS ORGANIC WASTE?

Organic Waste is a material that comes from living organisms such as, but not limited to, food scraps, food soiled paper, paper products, yard or green waste, wood, manure, and organic textiles like cotton. When organic waste is buried in a landfill and decomposes, it releases methane, a greenhouse gas that pollutes the air and contributes to climate change. Climate change can contribute to extreme weather such as more frequent and intense heat waves, large storms, drought, wildfires, and insect outbreaks. When organic waste is collected separately from trash, it can be processed to create useful products such as compost, renewable energy, and transportation fuel without releasing methane into the air.



HOW TO COMPLY

With the new organic waste collection service, most residents will continue utilizing their current containers for trash, recyclables and green waste but place food waste in with their yard or green waste container. Most businesses will need to separate their food waste and utilize a new food waste container. Your waste hauler will provide specific information on how to separate waste into correct containers to ensure proper processing of organic waste and reduce contamination.

If you self-manage any part of your organic waste, such as through composting or back-hauling, you will be required to register and submit information to Los Angeles County Public Works to ensure compliance. More details regarding this process can be found in the Ordinance Guidelines.



FOOD SERVICE PROVIDERS

If you are a large food service provider, such as a large restaurant or grocery store, you are required to enter into a written agreement with a food recovery service that can recover your excess edible food. Excess edible food is food that is safe to consume but often discarded because there is a surplus of it. Los Angeles County Public Works will reach out directly and assist food service providers that must comply with the edible food recovery requirement.



QUESTIONS?

For more information, please call Los Angeles County Public Works at (888) CLEAN-LA from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Thursday, or e-mail us at CommercialFranchise@pw.lacounty.gov. We also encourage you to visit the Organic Waste Management website periodically for updates.

