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Recycling and Waste Newsletter



We'll handle it from here.®

California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy and the Importance of Organic Recycling

California is experiencing the effects of climate change: excessive heat during summer, devastating fire seasons and prolonged droughts. According to CalRecycle, greenhouse gases released by human activities, such as landfilling organic waste like food waste and yard waste, contribute to climate change.

In 2014, the State performed a Waste Characterization Study and found that California landfilled approximately 30 million tons of waste. More than 30% of this waste was considered organic waste and food waste alone made up nearly 6 million tons.

As part of California's strategy to combat climate change, California is focusing its efforts to reduce organic waste deposited into landfills. Why organic waste? When food and other organic materials are landfilled and decompose, methane gas is released. Methane gas is a super pollutant 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

In 2016, former Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) establishing methane reduction targets for California in a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP). The targets include:

Reducing organic waste disposal 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025.

Recovering at least 20% of edible food currently disposed to feed people in need by 2025.

Fairfield residents can help achieve California's goals by placing food waste in the green waste cart. This waste will be taken to a recycling facility and transformed into nutrient-rich compost.

Food Waste Disposal in the Green Waste Cart Will Be Required for All Californians Starting January 1, 2022



Beginning January 1, 2022, all residents will be required to place organic waste in their green waste cart and participate in composting programs.

For more information about SB1383 requirements, visit CalRecycle.ca.gov/climate/slcp

What can be composted



FOOD SCRAPS

Fruit
Vegetables
Bones
Coffee grounds
Dairy products
Egg shells
Fish and meat
Grains
Baked goods

FOOD-SOILED PAPER

Pizza boxes
Non-coated paper plates

YARD WASTE

Plant trimmings
Grass clippings
Leaves
Weeds



Keeping Your Green Waste Cart Clean

Some Fairfield residents have contacted us to ask how they can keep their green waste clean. Here are some tips:

- ✓ Wrap your food waste in newspaper or place them inside a paper bag.
- ✓ Place your used paper towels and napkins with your food waste. This will help to reduce moisture and odors.
- ✓ You can also keep your food scraps in the freezer and place them in the green waste cart before your collection day.
- ✓ You can use compostable bags, but they must meet Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) standards and show the BPI symbol. You can find these bags in local stores.

Reduce your food waste

- ✓ Shop your fridge before you go to the grocery store. Find out what is in your refrigerator and pantry to find out if you have anything that needs to be used before it spoils.
- ✓ Plan your meals and make a list of items that you need.
- ✓ Monitor your food leftovers and find out if you can prepare less.
- ✓ If you have a lot of leftovers, consider freezing some to extend their life.
- ✓ Store your food in clear containers so you see what is inside. Arrange items in your refrigerator and pantry from the oldest to newest, so you can use the food that is about to be spoiled first.



Please Help Us Serve You Better

Please place carts at least 2 feet apart and 6 feet away from other objects such as cars, mailboxes and light poles.

