



December 15, 2021

A new California state law, Senate Bill (SB) 1383, “Short-lived Climate Pollutants,” will go into effect on January 1, 2022.

Organic material, including food scraps, landscape material and food-soiled paper, accounts for more than one-third of the material going to California landfills. Greenhouse gas emissions caused by the decomposition of organic material in landfills contribute to global climate change. SB 1383 sets ambitious goals to reduce methane emissions in California, including reducing overall organic waste disposal by 75% by 2025, from 2014 levels, and requiring the rescue of currently disposed edible food.

Local education agencies are specifically named in the regulations as a type of organic waste generator that must comply with specific organic waste disposal reduction requirements.

For public schools, the new state law will be implemented and enforced by CalRecycle, in partnership with RecycleSmart. RecycleSmart Schools Program coordinators are available to provide free technical assistance to help comply with SB 1383. Visit www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/SLCP/schools or RecycleSmart.org/1383 for more information on SB 1383.

Organics Handling Requirements for Local Education Entities

1. Subscribe to organics collection services with a provider that takes the organics to a facility for recovery, such as Republic Services, the current franchised service provider in central Contra Costa County, or self-haul organics to a facility that can recover organics.
2. Separate organics, including all food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard trimmings.
3. Set out a three-container system in all areas where disposal (trash) containers are located (except restrooms) for collection of organics, recyclables, and landfill materials. When purchasing new containers, the containers must be **green for organics**, **blue for recycling**, and **black or gray for landfill**. All containers must be properly labeled.
4. Properly sort materials, and prohibit staff from placing organics in the incorrect containers, carts and bins.
5. Provide education to students and staff on methods for preventing organic waste.
6. Periodically inspect organics carts and bins for contamination, and inform staff of contamination and proper disposal requirements.
7. RecycleSmart or its designee may inspect local education agencies for record keeping related to food recovery and self-haul compliance.

Food Donation Requirements for Local Education Entities

Beginning in 2024, SB 1383 requires schools to **donate the maximum amount of excess edible food** to feed people. This does not mean that every school has to donate food daily, but schools must donate excess edible

food that becomes available. Donation opportunities may arise, for example, before school vacations and at the end of the school year. *Please note that SB 1383 requires schools to enter into a written agreement with an edible food recovery organization.*

Our food recovery partner, **White Pony Express**, is a food rescue organization serving Contra Costa County. They offer **free, as-needed** food rescue services. White Pony Express can dependably pick up and safely distribute your surplus fresh and prepared foods within 24 hours, supporting our highest-need neighbors: isolated seniors, students and their families, veterans and the unhoused.



donatefood@whiteponyexpress.org

(925) 322-0604 x129

We're Here to Help

Many schools are already sorting organics and recyclables, and subscribing to services to help reduce organics going to landfill. For information to get started, or to relaunch or improve your school and district program, contact the RecycleSmart Schools Program coordinator for free technical assistance.

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- Site visit, container audit and service analysis
- Program guides, posters and signage
- Training for staff and students, including record keeping requirements if self-hauling
- Educational information and activities
- Referral to edible food rescue resources

For more information on the RecycleSmart Schools Program please visit www.RecycleSmart.org/Schools.

This letter is sent with the support of the RecycleSmart member cities and towns, and the franchised service provider, Republic Services.

