

CITY OF BARSTOW RESIDENTIAL ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING & SB 1383

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is SB 1383?

California Senate Bill 1383 was enacted in 2016 and became effective January 2022. It is a State Law aimed at reducing short-lived climate pollutants and greenhouse gases. The law requires all organic waste to be recycled, specifically food waste, for the purposes of diverting it from landfills.

How does this law help the environment?

This law will help California achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by diverting materials from landfills that produce harmful gasses such as methane. Organic materials (food scraps, yard/green waste etc.) make up almost half of the State's waste stream. Redirecting these resources to composting and digesting operations will save landfill space, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, generate energy, and create valuable soil amendments that will be sold to farmers and other agricultural users.

Who must comply with the new law?

The law affects all California residents, including those in single and multi-family homes, apartment complexes, as well as commercial entities, schools, hospitals, care facilities, etc.. The law requires cities to provide organic waste collection to all properties as a means to separate their organics for landfill diversion and recycling.

When will the City require organics recycling to comply with SB 1383?

The City of Barstow's program takes effect July 1, 2022. Many commercial businesses are already recycling their organics under the City's AB 1826 program for Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling. The commercial program is a brown container system for source-separated food waste only. Starting July 1, 2022, the residential program will launch, and eventually expand to include multi-family dwellings.

How will the mandate affect residents?

For any residential household in the city limits, food waste can no longer be placed in the regular trash. Residents will place bagged food scraps and loose yard waste in a new, green barrel that will be provided by the City's exclusive franchise waste hauler, Burrtec Waste. Residents will still have the option to take yard waste to Burrtec's yard under the Drop-Off Collection Program as an additional means of yard waste recycling.

How do I know what can and can't be put in the green organics barrel?

Under the residential program, acceptable organic materials are food scraps such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, grains, eggs/eggshells, meat, bones, seafood, leftovers – any food waste material. Yard/green waste such as grass clippings, leaves, branches, and prunings may also be placed in the container. Food scraps must be bagged, while green waste should be loose in the barrel; bags do not need to be compostable or biodegradable.

Is there a charge for the new program?

Although the State is imposing these requirements on jurisdictions, unfortunately, it is not providing the financial assistance needed to fully implement the program. This means that City of Barstow customers will see an increase in their trash bill effective July 1, 2022 to cover the costs associated with the program. The increase will include costs for the added collection vehicle/route, equipment,

containers, material processing, labor, and administrative costs for ensuring compliance with all obligations under SB 1383.

All solid waste rates are set by Resolution of the City Council. Please contact 760.255.5126 for more information about the necessary rate adjustment for SB 1383 program implementation.

Will there be a reduced rate for low-income residents?

The City will continue to offer an economically disadvantaged rate. Please contact 760.255.5162 for information on how to qualify.

What if I already compost my food waste and/or generate little to no food waste?

You can continue to compost food waste in your home or on your property. The City's program will accept other organics that are not recommended for backyard composting, including larger branches and certain food wastes that can attract vermin. While these are not recommended for *backyard* composting, they will be processed for composting by Burrtec Waste. Unfortunately, SB 1383 does not allow residential exemptions; it requires that the City provide the organics collection services regardless of composting activities or how much organic waste is generated.

When will I get my organics container and when would collection begin? Will my organics be picked up the same day as my trash and recycle?

For residential customers on barrel service for trash and recycling, containers are being delivered starting June 27, 2022 and collection will begin the next service day following the delivery. Each household will receive one (1) 35-gallon, green barrel and collection would begin right away. Organic waste pickup will be on a weekly basis and on the same day as trash and recycle; the material will be collected by a separate truck. Multi-family dwellings on bin service may have a variety of service level options for organics. For more information on the multi-family program, contact 760.255.5162.

I'm concerned about potential odors, rodents, etc. What can be done about these potential impacts?

Here are some tips to help keep your barrels clean:

- Use a lined kitchen container (pail, bucket, bin, box, etc.) to collect the material and securely tie the bag/liner before placing it into the green barrel.
- Avoid putting excess liquids in the containers.
- Keep lids closed at all times and store in a shady area if possible.
- Set your barrel out every week.
- Use scented liners or sprinkle baking soda into containers to remove odors.

What happens to the organic waste after it's collected by Burrtec?

Organic waste collected under the City's recycling program will be transported to Victor Valley Compost in Victorville, CA and processed into compost/mulch material, then sold to farmers. Burrtec will also provide periodic compost giveaways for residents.

I live in the County – will I be affected by this program?

Certain areas of the County may be required to have organics recycling under a separate County program. Please contact San Bernardino County Solid Waste at 909.386.8701 for more information.

How can I find out more about SB 1383?

Visit CalRecycle's website at <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/> OR

Visit the Solid Waste & Recycling section of the City's website at www.barstowca.org or contact the Waste Management & Recycling Office at 760.255.5126.