DELTA DISPOSAL

Serving Southwestern San Joaquin County

SB 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

ANNUAL NOTICE

Sorting Organic Waste is a requirement in California

SB 1383 is a California state law, enacted in 2016, that aims to significantly reduce landfill waste and combat climate change by targeting organic waste and methane emissions. Nearly everyone in California- including residents, businesses, multifamily properties, and schools- must participate in SB 1383 organics and recycling programs unless they have a specific exemption.

Key Requirements of SB 1383

Reduce Organic Waste Disposal

SB 1383 mandates a 75% reduction in organic waste sent to landfills by 2025, compared to 2014 levels.

Universal Participation

SB 1383 applies to all residents, businesses, and public entities- everyone must separate organic waste (like food scraps and yard trimmings) from trash and use proper recycling or composting services.

Edible Food Recovery

SB 1383 requires that at least 20% of currently disposed surplus edible food is recovered for human consumption by 2025.

Food Donation

Large food-generating businesses must donate excess edible food to organizations that feed people, rather than sending it to landfill. For more information, visit: https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/foodrecovery/.

Compliance and Monitoring

Local jurisdictions must educate the public, monitor compliance, and conduct audits to ensure proper sorting and diversion of organic waste.

Climate Impact of SB 1383

Methane Reduction

Organic waste in landfills decompose anaerobically, releasing methane- a greenhouse gas about 30 times more potent than CO2 in trapping heat. Because methane remains in the atmosphere for a shorter period than CO2, reducing methane from organic waste has a rapid, positive effect on slowing global warming. Composting or diverting organic waste from landfills can reduce methane emissions by up to 78%.

Methane Reduction Benefits

Reducing methane emissions from organic waste delivers significant environmental and societal benefits. Reducing methane from organic waste- primarily by keeping it out of landfills- offers one of the fastest, most cost-effective ways to cut greenhouse gas emissions and generate broader environmental and community benefits.

Soil and Ecosystem Benefits

Composting not only prevents methane emissions but also improves soil quality, water retention, and crop yields.

Economic and Social Benefits

Diverting organics from landfills creates jobs, reduces municipal waste management costs, and supports healthier communities.

Organic Waste Source Reduction Strategies for Businesses

Curbside Organics Collection

Curbside collection plays a key role in lowering landfill methane by diverting organic waste (like food scraps and yard trimmings) from landfills to composting facilities. When organic waste is composted instead of landfilled, it decomposes aerobically, which produces little to no methane, unlike the anaerobic conditions in landfills that generate significant methane emissions. Studies show that curbside composting programs can redirect a substantial portion of organic waste away from landfills, significantly reducing methane emissions and helping mitigate climate change. These programs are increasingly vital as communities aim for zero-waste goals and seek to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the waste sector.

Conduct Waste Audits

- ✔ Analyze waste streams to identify where organic waste is being generated and target reduction efforts at the source.
- ✔ Regularly track waste generation and reduction metrics to identify improvement areas.

Improve Inventory Management

- ✔ Minimize waste generation by optimizing inventory management, purchasing only what is needed, and improving forecasting to reduce spoilage and excess.

Donate Surplus Edible Food

- ✔ Participate in local initiatives that collect and redistribute surplus food.
- ✔ Establish partnerships with food banks and charities to divert edible food before it becomes waste.

Employee Training

- ✔ Educate staff on proper food handling, storage, and preparation to reduce spoilage and mistakes that lead to waste.
- ✔ Incentivize employees to participate in waste reduction, proper sorting, and sustainability initiatives.

Reengineer Processes

- ✔ Switch to reusable or recyclable packaging and eliminate single-use items to reduce associated organic waste.

Menu Planning and Portion Control

- ✔ In food service, design menus and portions to match demand, reducing leftovers and plate waste.

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