

California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Law SB 1383 for Schools

This information about complying with California State Law SB 1383 is meant for schools, school districts, charter schools, universities and colleges. Private schools are considered a commercial entity; see SB 1383 for Businesses.

SB 1383 (Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction law) went into effect in 2022 and affects all Californians. The law addresses “short-lived climate pollutants” or the greenhouse gases caused when food is sent to landfills instead of compost. The law requires that everyone – residents, businesses and schools – keep compostable waste out of our landfills.

How to Comply

Schools are required to keep organic materials out of the landfill and can receive fines if they do not comply.

- Subscribe to compost service, or self-haul your organic waste and maintain clear records of the disposal to a compost facility.
- Provide an adequate number of waste stations with trash (black), recycling (blue), and compost (green) options, along with clear signage.
- Educate your staff on proper waste sorting.
- Inspect containers periodically to confirm correct sorting.

Your school might be required to donate surplus edible food if your site meets certain thresholds indicated in the law.



Waivers

If you feel that you need an exemption from some or all requirements, you may be able to request a waiver. Waivers for having recycling and compost service will be managed through your hauler. To find out who your hauler is and to get their contact information, visit ZeroWasteMarin.org/Hauler.

Enforcement & Compliance

Non-compliance with any of the requirements may result in enforcement action.



The Zero Waste Marin Schools Program is Here to Help

Learn more about the Program and how we can help you comply with SB 1383. Visit ZeroWasteMarin.org/Schools

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Protecting Our Resources Together

Why Compost?

When food scraps and other organic matter go to the landfill, the rotting process releases methane, a powerful greenhouse gas pollutant that contributes to climate change. Landfills are the third largest source of human-caused methane in the United States. To respond to the climate crisis, California is implementing statewide organic waste recycling and surplus food recovery. California SB 1383 has two main goals:

- Reduce the disposal of compostable waste to landfills by 75% by 2025.
- Recover at least 20% of edible food currently disposed of in landfills by 2025.

This law is a win-win. By reducing food waste in all its forms, from the farm to the store to the table, we can feed more Californians and help the environment.



Fight Climate Change!

The warming climate has led to more intense and prolonged droughts, more dangerous storms, rising sea levels, and more damaging wildfires, among other effects. We need to limit this warming and take every action we can. Keeping organic materials out of the landfill is an important action in the fight against climate change.



Feed People!

An important part of SB 1383 requires that by 2025 California will recover 20 percent of edible food that would otherwise be sent to landfills, in order to feed people in need. Businesses and non-profits will work to direct surplus food still safe for people to eat to go to food banks, soup kitchens, and other food recovery organizations and services to help feed Californians in need.

