

**SB 1383 Organics Recycling Program
Frequently Asked Questions
City of Garden Grove and Republic Services**

1. Is everyone required to recycle organic waste?

Yes. Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) is a mandatory state-wide law intended to reduce environmental pollutants in landfills, such as methane gas, that affects all Californians. The state requires all California jurisdictions to comply with the regulations. For the City of Garden Grove to meet requirements under the law, everyone who generates trash is required to participate in the Organics Recycling program. Without the community's participation, the City will be fined by the state.

Cities throughout California, including Orange County, have similar programs in place.

2. How will this affect my trash bill?

Costs for the residential program are already included in your trash bill. New trash rates were negotiated between the City and Republic Services that went into effect on July 1, 2022.

The impact on commercial customers' bills will depend on the service level and service types. Businesses can request a Republic Services' representative to help right-size service levels to reduce cost impacts to monthly bills.

3. Can I use a plastic bag to dispose of food waste? Can I use a compostable or biodegradable bag?

The destination facility where the organic waste is processed determines if compostable plastics are accepted in the organics cart.

In Garden Grove, residential organic and landscape debris goes directly to a processing facility that does not have the ability to remove regular or compostable plastic bags, therefore, plastic, compostable, or biodegradable bags should not be used. Compostable plastic bags do not break down at the same rate as other organic materials and hinder the process of creating new materials such as soil amendments and renewable natural gas.

For commercial generators in Garden Grove, food scraps are screened for contaminants, like compostable plastic bags, before being processed into new organic materials. Commercial generators are billed at a higher rate for organics collection services as a result of the different processing methods.

4. What if my organics cart gets really dirty or smelly? Will this attract pests or insects?

The following tips are recommendations to help residents mitigate potential issues with odors, pests, insects, or other vectors:

- If possible, place food scraps in your organics cart the night before collection day. Food scraps can be stored in a countertop container, kitchen pail, refrigerator, or freezer until it is time to take them to your cart.
- Keep your organics cart in the shade when it is warm.
- Alternate layers of yard waste, paper or cardboard, and food waste.

- Ensure your cart is undamaged and the lid stays securely shut. Damaged carts can be replaced by calling Republic Services at (714) 238-3300.
- You can contact Republic Services to request they clean your curbside carts for an additional fee by calling (714) 238-3300.
- Home improvement retailers also carry garbage can insect repellants that may be used in addition to the tips outlined above, if desired.

5. What if I accidentally place materials in the wrong container?

If a significant amount of non-permitted items are found in your containers prior to collection, Republic Services may place a warning notice on the cart where the non-permitted items were found. The tag is meant to provide education on the incorrect materials placed in your cart.

Residents will receive three (3) warning notices. After the third warning, Republic Services may assess a fee to cover the extra costs involved in processing the waste. Commercial customers receive one (1) warning notice before a fee may be assessed.

As mandated by SB 1383, Republic Services will perform annual route reviews throughout the city.

6. How is this different from traditional recycling?

Both organics recycling and traditional recycling are important for managing our local landfill space and conserving resources. Organic waste can be turned into nutrient rich soil amendments or renewable natural gas. Traditional recycling materials must be sorted into their individual material types and are sold as raw materials to be made into new items.

7. What if I live in a multi-family or townhome development?

Republic Services will be working with your landlord, HOA board, committee, or property manager to implement these programs in 2023. All commercial, multi- and single-family residential generators will have an organic recycling program by the end of 2023.

8. Will I be fined if I don't do this?

Starting in 2024, the City/Garden Grove Sanitary District has the ability to pursue penalties for non-compliance with any of the requirements of SB 1383 per the Garden Grove Sanitary District Code of Regulations. This is separate from the fees assessed by Republic Services described in question 5. In addition to reducing environmental pollutants, this is another reason why it's so important to start developing routine organics recycling habits.