

Your Environment

Cypress - Refuse and Recycling Newsletter - Commercial

SB 1383 Enforcement: Sorting Organic Waste

With 2024 underway, California businesses are now moving into the enforcement phase of SB 1383. This legislation aims to decrease organic waste and its environmental effects. SB 1383 sets ambitious targets: a 75% reduction in organic waste diverting 20% of excess food to communities in need by next year. While 2022 focused on the implementation and education of the organics program, 2024 allows jurisdictions to impose fines on non-compliant entities and for repeated contamination offenses. To comply with SB 1383, businesses must prioritize the correct sorting of organic waste.

What qualifies as food waste?

Food waste includes organic materials like:

- ✓ Fruits & Vegetables
- ✓ Meat, Fish, & Bones
- ✓ Dairy, Bread, & Grains
- ✓ Coffee Grounds & Filters

Remember to **exclude** unwanted items like:

- ✗ Single-Use Plastics
- ✗ Diapers
- ✗ To-Go Cups
- ✗ Takeout Containers
- ✗ Pet Waste & Litter

Mixing trash items with organic waste can lead to the entire load being tagged as general waste and ending in landfills. This contradicts California's objective to decrease organic waste by 75% by 2025.

By effectively separating organic materials like food scraps, yard waste, and compostable items, businesses not only help achieve SB 1383 objectives but also lessen environmental impact and promote sustainable practices.

Organic Barrel Contamination



Are you experiencing repeated issues with organic waste contamination? Contact us to speak to one of our sustainability specialists. Our experts offer FREE on-site employee training sessions at no cost to educate your staff on the significance of organic waste recycling and proper sorting methods. Informative materials regarding organic waste recycling can also be provided. Reach out to us at organics@myvvs.com to get started today.

Employee Engagement

To further enhance your sustainability initiatives, consider organizing training sessions beyond those provided by VVS Sustainability Specialists. These extra programs can help guide employees through new procedures and clarify how these actions benefit their well-being and the company's success. Implement a rewards system to encourage continued engagement in sustainability efforts. Offer incentives such as gift cards, bonus points redeemable for merchandise, or cash rewards for significant contributions to sustainability goals or innovative ideas that lead to waste reduction. This demonstrates the company's commitment to a sustainable future.

Waste Reduction Tips

In today's environmentally conscious society, businesses play a crucial role in minimizing waste generation. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the top three landfill waste categories are food waste (24.1%), plastic (18.5%), and paper (11.8%). Here are practical steps businesses can take:

- **Transition to Digital Systems:** Use digital platforms to reduce paper usage. Encourage double-sided printing and print only when necessary.
- **Promote Reusable Items:** Encourage the use of reusable cups, bottles, plates, and utensils instead of single-use plastics.
- **Food Donations:** Donate edible surplus food to local food banks to reduce food waste.
- **Composting Program:** Establish a composting program for organic waste to minimize landfill waste and create resources for gardening.

By implementing these actions, businesses can significantly reduce landfill waste and contribute to environmental conservation.

Rate Adjustment Notice

At VVS, we consider it one of our responsibilities to be as cost-efficient as possible. We have always worked to provide the customer with the best in service at the lowest cost. Unfortunately, our costs of labor, equipment, maintenance, landfill fees, organics processing, and other related expenses continue to increase.

To help offset some of this cost, which is out of our control, and to provide for changes in the Consumer Price Index, the solid waste franchise with the City of Cypress provides an annual rate adjustment which is effective July 1, 2024. As always, we promise to provide you with the very best in service and value.

Sustainability Practices

With the increasing demand for sustainable business practices, many consumers favor supporting eco-friendly companies. Packaging plays a crucial role in this preference. Check out the following examples of changes that businesses can make.



Compostable Mailers



Kraft Shopping Bags



Corrugated Cardboard



Recycled Paper Filling



Biodegradable Packing Peanuts



Plant-Based Tissue Paper

These alternatives minimize waste, decrease pollution, and cater to the growing consumer demand for sustainability. In turn, this benefits the planet and enhances the brand's image.

Holiday Schedule

Collection Service **will not** run on these holidays:

- ✦ **New Year's Day**
- ✦ **Memorial Day**
- ✦ **Independence Day**
- ✦ **Labor Day**
- ✦ **Thanksgiving Day**
- ✦ **Christmas Day**

If your regular collection day falls on or after one of these holidays, pick up will be delayed one day. Excluding holidays, our normal business hours are:

**Monday through Friday 8 am- 5 pm and
Saturday from 8 am-1 pm.**



Valley Vista Services

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