

Brea Recycling & Waste Newsletter



REPUBLIC
SERVICES

Sustainability in Action

WINTER 2023

RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca | 800.700.8610

Organics Recycling Changes Coming Soon



Credit: piotr_malczyk | iStock | Getty Images Plus

California Senate Bill (SB) 1383, which was signed into law in 2016, establishes a goal of reducing the volume of organic waste disposed of in California landfills by 75% by 2025. SB 1383 builds on and expands the requirements of

Assembly Bill (AB) 1826, which affects all businesses that generate 2 or more cubic yards of waste per week and multi-family properties with five or more units. Under SB 1383, all businesses and residential properties, regardless of size, are required to participate in organics recycling programs.

Why Is It Important to Recycle Organics?

Currently, two-thirds of this material is landfilled. As organics break down in landfills, they create methane, a powerful greenhouse gas the state of California has identified as a factor in climate change.

What Happens Next?

In November, the Brea City Council met in a study session meeting to discuss SB 1383 implementation and provide policy direction to staff regarding proposed organics recycling rates. The City and Republic Services staff have been doing outreach about this topic over the past few years, and we understand that some residents are eager to begin organics recycling, especially as they see it happening in neighboring communities. However, until the program is officially approved by the City Council, including new rates, and the program is rolled out, residents should not yet place food scraps or food-soiled paper into their yard waste carts, as it will be considered contamination and the carts will not be emptied. For now, continue to follow these guidelines:

Mark Your Calendar for the Compost Giveaway

Compost creates healthier soil by adding organic matter and improving soil structure. Healthy soil uses water more efficiently, allowing available water to flow toward your plants' roots, storing water in the soil longer, and reducing runoff and erosion.

The City of Brea and Republic Services will be giving away compost for free on Saturday, February 18, 2023, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. (or until compost runs out), at Tri-City Park, 2301 N. Kraemer Blvd. Please bring your own containers or buckets, which Republic Services staff will fill with compost. If it is raining on February 18, this event will be postponed to March 11. For updates, visit RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca.



Credit: Cat_Chat | iStock | Getty Images Plus

To receive free compost, residents must provide proof of residency (California driver's license or utility bill). There is a limit of 60 gallons of compost per household.

For more information, contact Republic Services at **800.700.8610**.

Residents:

- Recycle all clean, dry paper in your recycling cart or dumpster. This includes cardboard and other boxes, envelopes, junk mail, magazines, newspaper, office paper, school papers, paperback books, paper grocery bags, shredded paper (bagged) and wrapping paper with no metal. Also recycle metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles, jugs and containers in the same cart.
- Reduce landscape debris by letting grass clippings drop back onto the lawn as you mow and composting in your backyard. In addition to landscape trimmings and leaves, you can also compost fruit and vegetable scraps. Compost helps create healthier soil that uses water more efficiently, leading to beautiful and productive gardens.
- Use your yard waste cart for limbs, branches, leaves, grass clippings, weeds, other plant material and small scrap wood (no painted or treated wood). Branches and wood must be no more than 4 inches in diameter and no more than 4 feet long. Palm fronds, cacti and other succulents, rocks, soil, pet waste, recyclables and trash are not accepted in the yard waste cart.

- Watch for details about citywide food scrap and food-soiled paper (like coffee filters, greasy pizza boxes and paper napkins) collections to begin soon. Updates will be posted on the City of Brea and Republic Services websites.

Businesses:

- Recycle clean, dry paper and cardboard in your recycling dumpster or cart. Under Assembly Bill 341, many businesses and multi-family properties are already required to recycle paper, along with plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, and metal cans.
- SB 1383 also establishes a goal of increasing edible food recovery from businesses by 20% by 2025. Depending on the size of your business, you may be required to participate in a food recovery and donation program for edible food. Donate excess food to food pantries or other food rescue organizations.
- Contact Republic Services to ensure you have properly sized carts or dumpsters and the correct type and frequency of collection services in place to meet the requirements of AB 341, AB 1826 and SB 1383.

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GREENFIELD, IN
PERMIT NO. 220

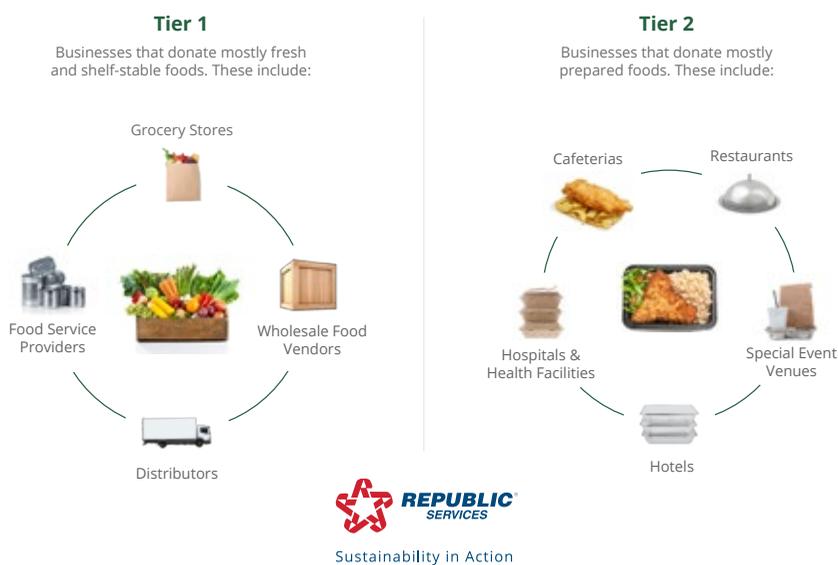
Republic Services
1131 N. Blue Gum Street
Anaheim, CA 92806

Food Recovery Requirements

To reduce food waste and help address food insecurity, SB 1383 requires that California recover or rescue 20% of surplus edible food to feed people in need by 2025. The law directs food-generating businesses to recover the maximum amount of their edible food that would otherwise go to landfills and to maintain records of their food donation activities. SB 1383 places mandated food donors into two tiers. This tier system allows businesses and jurisdictions more time to prepare and expand food recovery infrastructure and capacity in order to donate foods that are harder to safely store and distribute.

Many food recovery organizations serve Orange County and are available to partner with businesses that have surplus food. For more details and a list of these organizations, visit [OClandfills.com/environmental-programs/recycling/edible-food-recovery](https://oclandfills.com/environmental-programs/recycling/edible-food-recovery).

Donate: What tier are you?



Holiday Collection Schedule

- Memorial Day – Monday, May 29, 2023 (service delayed one day)
- Independence Day – Tuesday, July 4, 2023 (service delayed one day)
- Labor Day – Monday, September 4, 2023 (service delayed one day)
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 23, 2023 (Thursday and Friday service delayed one day)
- Christmas Day – Monday, December 25, 2023 (service delayed one day)
- New Year's Day – Monday, January 1, 2024 (service delayed one day)

One Bad Apple Ruins the Bunch



Did you know that putting food waste or trash in the curbside recycling cart can ruin the recyclable material? For example, food waste can make paper products wet and soggy, preventing them from being recycled. Trash can disrupt a recycling facility's sorting processes, causing some materials to be landfilled.

Here are some tips for collection day:

DO

- Close the lids on all your carts.
- Bag waste that will be placed into your trash cart.
- Toss only LOOSE recyclables into the recycling cart.
- Place only recyclables into the recycling cart. If you aren't sure what is recyclable, visit RecyclingSimplified.com.
- Break down and flatten boxes before recycling. If needed, cut cardboard into pieces no larger than about 18 by 18 inches.
- Empty food and beverage containers. Wipe or rinse out food residue, as needed. Allow containers to dry before putting them into the recycling cart.

DON'T

- Don't leave the cart lids open.
- Don't place bagged waste on top of your trash cart.
- Don't bag your recycling.
- Don't overfill carts. Save extra materials to be placed in carts the following week.
- Don't put any of these items into your recycling cart: plastic bags; food; takeout coffee cups; clothing and textiles; hoses and cords; tissues, napkins and paper towels; or household batteries.

RECYCLE

Acceptable items (empty, clean and dry)

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Unacceptable items

Sustainability in Action

Eating Well While Wasting and Spending Less



Credit: wwing | iStock | Getty Images Plus

In the United States, as much as 40% of all food goes to waste. That waste costs a family of four more than \$1,500 each year. At home, you can reduce your food waste by using the 3 Rs — Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Try these tips to enjoy your food, reduce your waste and spend less money at the grocery store.

- Plan your meals for the week. Only buy what you need to make those meals. If possible, try to avoid ingredients that can only be used in one specific meal. Only make as much food as your family needs, and store leftovers in your freezer or refrigerator to be eaten later.
- Get the most out of your ingredients. If you have extra ingredients that you need to use, look online for recipes that use those ingredients. You might discover your new favorite meal this way.
- If portions are large at a restaurant, share with a friend or family member. Bring along your own reusable containers to take leftovers home with you. It's better to eat these leftovers sooner rather than later.
- Organize your refrigerator and pantry to have an "eat first" shelf for leftovers, open items and foods that are close to their "best by" dates.
- Freeze extra food. Food that is frozen can be thawed out and used later. To see how long items can be safely stored in the freezer, visit [FoodSafety.gov/food-safety-charts/cold-food-storage-charts](https://www.foodsafety.gov/food-safety-charts/cold-food-storage-charts).
- Make your own stock. Vegetables that are reaching the end of their freshness can be tossed into a pot with water and aging spices and then simmered into a delicious stock. This stock can then be frozen for future use.
- If you have unwanted food, share it with friends or donate it. Local food banks always appreciate donations. Bring them your unwanted nonperishable foods and they will be very grateful for it. Perishable goods, such as produce or baked goods, can be shared among friends and quickly make you the most popular person in your neighborhood.
- Compost your food scraps. You can compost fruit and vegetable scraps, as well as bread, pasta, grains, coffee grounds and tea bags, in your backyard compost bin or pile. Bury the food about 10 inches below the surface to discourage unwanted pests. You can also compost food scraps in a vermicompost (worm composting) bin indoors or an in-ground food composter outdoors. If you want to get started with backyard composting and have questions, please contact Republic Services Recycling Coordinator Izabella Villegas at IVillegas@RepublicServices.com or [714.238.3317](tel:714.238.3317).



Large Items to Discard?

Don't Dump Them - Call Us

Furniture and old appliances are among the most common items illegally dumped along roadways, in parks and on vacant lots. There is no need to dump these items improperly. The City of Brea and Republic Services provide residents with three (3) pickups of up to 20 items per collection per calendar year. During these curbside pickups, you may dispose of furniture, appliances, electronics and other large items. To schedule this service, simply call Republic Services Customer Service at **800.700.8610** to schedule a pickup day.

When you do spot an illegal dump site, don't ignore it. Instead, note the location and report it to the City. If you see someone dumping illegally, do not confront them. If possible, discreetly take a photo of the activity. Write down a description of the person, as well as vehicle make, color and license plate number. Call the Police Department's nonemergency number to report this activity. Working together, we can keep our city looking good for residents and visitors.

Recycle Your Holiday Tree

Real holiday trees will be accepted at the curb by Republic Services from Tuesday, December 27, 2022, through Saturday, January 7, 2023. Be sure to take off all lights, ornaments, tinsel and garlands, as well as the metal or plastic stand. Set the bare tree at the curb or next to the dumpsters in your complex. If your tree is more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half for safe and easy collection. No flocked trees will be accepted for recycling.

If you don't take your tree down until after January 7, 2023, please cut it into pieces that will fit into your yard waste cart or dumpster with the lid closed. You can also recycle holiday wreaths and greenery in your yard waste cart or dumpster. The wreaths and greenery must also be bare, so please remove all wires, hooks, bows and other decorations. Collected trees and greenery are turned into mulch, compost and ground cover.

If your family enjoys an artificial tree, pack it up for next year. If you are discarding an artificial tree or wreath or a flocked tree, please place it into the trash cart or dumpster or schedule a bulk item pickup. Artificial trees and wreaths and flocked trees are not recyclable.

Credit: Lillboas | iStock | Getty Images Plus



Meet German Hernandez

As General Manager, German Hernandez is responsible for all operations in the Anaheim and Santa Ana Hauling Divisions. He ensures that all federal, state and local laws and ordinances are met and is responsible for managing all programs to provide the highest levels of service in the safest manner possible. Mr. Hernandez joined the Republic Services team in 2013, bringing more than 25 years of management experience working in recycling and waste collection. He has managed several large municipal contracts throughout Orange, Los Angeles and Imperial counties.

Join the Republic Services Family

Republic Services is always looking for talented, hard-working employees. If you would like to stay close to home and advance in a well-paying career, consider joining our team. Available jobs in our region include drivers, equipment operators, mechanics, shop technicians, material sorters, laborers, customer service specialists, dispatchers, recycling coordinators, sales representatives, office support staff members and more. To see and apply for open positions, visit [RepublicServices.jobs](https://www.republicservices.com/jobs).

Contact Us

Trash Collection Service
800.700.8610

Household Hazardous Waste • Orange County
714.834.6752

Public Disposal Center
800.700.8610

Bulk Item Pickup
800.700.8610

Billing • City of Brea
714.990.7687

Street Sweeping Citation,
Storm Drains and Sewers • City of Brea
714.990.7691



[RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca](https://www.RepublicServices.com/municipality/brea-ca)

Properly Dispose of Batteries, Hazardous Chemicals and Electronics



Batteries power our everyday lives, but at the end of their lives, they can present a fire hazard — especially if they are improperly disposed of with household trash. Properly dispose of batteries to avoid fires like this that put the collection driver and surrounding vehicles in danger, damage expensive equipment and risk starting larger fires. If batteries survive the ride in the collection truck, they can start fires in landfills or at materials recovery facilities, where blazes can quickly get out of control.

(Photo Courtesy: City of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue)

Historically, we've experienced some truck and facility fires because rechargeable batteries and flammable materials were improperly disposed of with recyclables or waste. When a fire occurs in a truck, it is extremely dangerous for the driver, and it also puts surrounding vehicles, pedestrians and properties at risk. At a facility where recyclable paper and plastics are moving rapidly along conveyors, a fire can quickly spread, endangering workers and causing costly facility shutdowns and repairs.

You can help reduce the risk of fires by properly disposing of all household batteries, hazardous waste and electronics. Here's what you need to do:

- When you remove batteries from devices and prepare to discard them, tape over the terminal ends with clear packing tape. Bag your batteries in a sealable plastic bag.

- Separate household hazardous chemicals, including pesticides and fertilizers, oil-based paint, automotive fluids, pool chemicals and similar items, from other waste.
- Set aside old electronic devices, such as computers, televisions, laptops, tablets, smartphones and wireless speakers.
- Do not place any of these items into your recycling, yard waste or trash carts or dumpsters!
- Deliver batteries, household chemicals and electronics to one of Orange County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. These items are accepted at no charge. For locations and other details, visit [OCLandfills.com/hazardous](https://www.OCLandfills.com/hazardous) or call **714.834.6752**.

Say No to "FOG"

No fats, oils or grease down the drain!

FOG is the acronym for Fats, cooking Oils and Grease. If FOG goes down the drain and into sewers, it congeals, coating the inside of pipes and leading to blockages and sewer backups. Follow these easy steps to properly dispose of FOG:

- Never put fats, oils or grease down the drain.
- Never put liquid FOG into any of your carts or dumpsters.
- At businesses, contain grease and oil by using covered grease storage containers or installing a grease interceptor. Never overfill your grease storage container or transport it without a cover. Grease control devices must be emptied and cleaned by permitted companies. Keep maintenance records on-site. For a list of oil/grease recycling companies, visit [CalRecycle.ca.gov/organics/food/rendering](https://www.CalRecycle.ca.gov/organics/food/rendering).
- At home, mix small quantities of FOG with absorbent materials, such as paper towels, kitty litter, coffee grounds or shredded paper. Then bag it in a plastic bag and put it into your trash cart or dumpster. With larger quantities, such as liquid cooking oil from a turkey fryer, place it into a sealed container (5 gallons or less in size) and deliver it to one of Orange County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. These centers will accept a maximum of 15 gallons of cooking oil per resident per visit.



Credit: Kondor83 | iStock | Getty Images Plus