

Fullerton Recycling & Waste Newsletter

ANNUAL 2025-2026



Sustainability in Action

What SB 1383 Means for You



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.

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.

New organics recycling programs are rolling out across the state of California. Every city is developing a unique food waste and yard waste recycling program. In Fullerton, the new program will begin citywide soon. In the meantime, please follow these guidelines.

Residents

- Recycle all clean, dry paper in your recycling cart or dumpster. This includes cardboard and other boxes, envelopes, junk mail, magazines, newspapers, 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.

Join Us for the Compost Giveaway

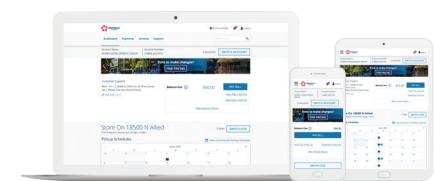
The City of Fullerton and Republic Services will be giving away compost for free on Saturday, March 14, 2026 from 8 to 10:30 a.m., or until compost runs out, at Independence Park, 801 W. Valencia Dr. This compost giveaway will feature all bagged materials, with perforated bags provided at the event. Each car will receive a maximum of four bags of compost. The event will be held rain or shine but may be postponed for other reasons. For updates, visit RepublicServices.com/municipality/fullerton-ca. To receive free compost, residents must provide proof of residency such as a California driver's license or a utility bill.



Credit: Milovan Zrnic | E+ | Getty Images

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

Download the Republic Services App



With the Republic Services app, you can schedule a special pickup or report a missed pickup. You can request repairs or graffiti removal from commercial dumpsters. Plus, you can even pay your bill. Visit RepublicServices.com/Account/login to sign up or download the app.

- Reduce landscape debris by letting grass clippings drop back onto the lawn as you mow and by 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 expanded organics collections for food scraps and food-soiled paper soon. Updates will be posted on the City of Fullerton 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 established 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.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GREENFIELD, IN
PERMIT NO. 220

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

Avoid These Common Recycling Mistakes



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- **Know What's Recyclable** – Place all clean, dry paper and cardboard in your recycling cart or dumpster. Also, recycle metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles, jugs and containers in the same cart or dumpster.
- **Label Bins Clearly** – Inside your home, label your recycling bins clearly to remind everyone what can and cannot be recycled. Simple, visible labels can make a big difference.
- **Empty, Clean and Dry** – Empty bottles and other containers, remove excess residue, rinse them out, and allow them to air-dry.
- **Keep It Loose** – Don't bag your recycling. Place all items loose into the recycling cart or dumpster.
- **Avoid Hazardous Materials** – Never put tanglers, like hoses or cords, or hazardous waste, such as batteries, chemicals or medical sharps, into your recycling cart or dumpster. These items can endanger workers and damage equipment.
- **Steer Clear of Contaminants** – Keep "yucky" items out of your recycling cart or dumpster. These include dirty recyclables, greasy pizza boxes and diapers.
- **Know What NOT to Throw** – Items like plastic bags, plastic wrap, palm fronds, Styrofoam™, pet waste and diapers belong in the trash. Food-soiled napkins, paper towels and greasy pizza boxes should go in organics. Batteries and lightbulbs must be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.
- **Place Carts Correctly** – Set your carts in the street gutter, against the curb, in front of your premises, or in the alley or easement behind your premises. Proper placement helps keep collection routes safe and efficient.
- **Set Carts Out on Time** – Place your carts out before 4 a.m. on your regular collection day so drivers can service them without delays.
- **Learn More** – For more tips about recycling, visit RepublicServices.com/municipality/fullerton-ca.

Contamination Monitoring

In accordance with state law, Republic Services staff will be conducting annual contamination monitoring reviews. Representatives, in clearly identified safety vests, will be in the community reviewing the contents of yard waste, recycling and trash carts and dumpsters. If contamination is found, a tag will be placed on the cart or dumpster identifying the incorrect items. Please note that these reviews are mandated by state law and will occur on an annual basis. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Eco-Friendly Gift Shopping

Gift-giving brings joy to both the giver and the receiver. How we choose and present those gifts has environmental, as well as financial, impacts. Eco-friendly gift shopping embraces the heart of giving while considering the well-being of the planet.

In searching for the perfect gift, start by considering materials that have a minimal environmental impact. Look for products made from recycled, upcycled or organic materials. Gifts crafted from organic cotton, bamboo, or reclaimed wood are not only beautiful, but also a nod to environmental stewardship. You can also think outside the box and consider gifting experiences

rather than physical objects. From cooking classes to weekend getaways, experiences can create lasting memories without the need to store or care for material possessions. Subscriptions to services can be a delightful, ongoing reminder of your thoughtfulness.

Finding a gift does not end after the purchase, because presentation matters! Opt for reusable or recycled wrapping materials, or get creative with what's already on-hand. An old map, a newspaper or a piece of fabric can be transformed into unique and environmentally friendly gift wrap.

Eco-friendly gift shopping is a thoughtful, considerate process that goes beyond the traditional act of giving. It's a way to celebrate relationships and special occasions while honoring a commitment to the earth.



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Customer and Employee Access to Recycling in Food Service

Under Assembly Bill (AB) 827, limited-service restaurants in California must provide customers with visible, clearly marked and easily accessible containers for recyclables and organics (uneaten food scraps, soiled paper and similar items) adjacent to trash bins. Limited-service restaurants include all food vendors who provide food for on-site consumption, including food courts, food trucks and restaurants where customers collect their own food and bus their tables. Full-service restaurants need to provide separate bins for use by employees. You can download container and cabinet labels from RecyclingSimplified.com/business-resources.

Break Down Those Boxes

Please break down and flatten all cardboard and paperboard boxes. First, it will save a lot of room in your recycling cart. Second, it keeps items from getting caught inside the box. At the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), staff members and machines work together to identify and sort materials as they travel rapidly over and through equipment. When other recyclables are inside boxes, they aren't visible and can't be separated by category, leading to contaminated bales of boxes and lost recyclable containers. Thank you for your help!



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Cutting Food Waste Starts at Home



Credit: RuslanDashinsky | E+ | Getty Images

Wasting food may seem like a small issue from one household to the next, but across the country it adds up in ways that are hard to ignore. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently updated its estimate on the cost of food waste, finding that each American throws away about \$728 worth of edible food every year. For a family of four, that loss grows to nearly \$2,913 annually. And it is not just money going to waste. It is also the energy, water, labor, and transportation invested in getting that food from the farm to your kitchen.

While fresh produce and grain products are commonly wasted by weight, it is actually meat, seafood, and dairy that create the biggest financial loss when discarded. These items often have shorter shelf lives and higher prices, so when they spoil or get overlooked in the fridge, the cost is especially steep. What may look like a forgotten cut of steak or expired yogurt quietly represents a meaningful chunk of a household's food budget.

Even with best intentions, food waste often happens because of overbuying, poor storage, confusion about labels, or a lack of planning. [SaveTheFood.com](https://www.savethefood.com) offers helpful tools to support better planning, including a Guest-imator that helps households estimate portions before hosting meals so they can avoid buying more than they need. Once food is thrown away, it often ends up in landfills where it produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas. That makes food waste not just a matter of dollars but also an environmental concern. In fact, food is the single largest category of material found in municipal landfills in the United States.

Reducing food waste at home does not require a major lifestyle change. Awareness is the first step. By shopping more thoughtfully, preparing meals based on what is already in the kitchen, and understanding that "sell by" and "best by" dates do not always mean unsafe, families can cut back on waste and stretch their food dollars further. Preventing food waste is not only a smart financial decision. It also supports a more sustainable future by easing pressure on natural resources and reducing unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions.

Putting a Stop to Illegal Dumping

When you do spot an illegal dump site, don't ignore it. Instead, note the location and report it to the City of Fullerton. 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 the 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.



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Planning a Party?

No one wants to host a party or family gathering and run out of food. As a result, we tend to make the opposite mistake — overbuying and overpreparing. By properly estimating how much food you need, you can save yourself time and money. Plus, you'll reduce waste and unwanted leftovers. To calculate what you'll need for your next party or celebration, use the "Guest-imator" tool at [SavetheFood.com/guestimator](https://www.savethefood.com/guestimator).

Bulk Item Pickup

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 Fullerton and Republic Services provide residents with convenient pickup by appointment for bulk items and electronics. To schedule this service, simply call Republic Services Customer Service at **800.700.8610** at least 24 hours before your regular collection day to request a bulk item pickup. Once you have made the call, a truck will be scheduled to collect your bulk items on your next regular collection day.

Used tires are not accepted at curbside. If you purchase new tires, recycle the old tires through the retailer. For additional tire recycling locations, visit [Earth911.com](https://www.earth911.com).



Medication Disposal

Unused or expired medication left in your home can lead to accidental poisoning or allow access for misuse of the medication. Many local drugstores accept medication for proper disposal. You can quickly search online for "medication disposal near me" to locate permanent disposal locations nearby. For more details, visit [OCLandfills.com/hazardous-waste/medication-and-sharps-disposal](https://oclandfills.com/hazardous-waste/medication-and-sharps-disposal).



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Edible Food Recovery

To reduce food waste and help address food insecurity, SB 1383 requires that California recovers or rescues 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. As of January 1, 2024, large food businesses, such as wholesale food vendors, distributors, food service providers and grocery stores, as well as some cafeterias, restaurants and venues, are required to comply. These businesses must establish an agreement with an edible food recovery organization (EFRO) and track the types of food donated, the frequency of food donations, and the quantity of food donated.

What Do I Do With Old Paint?

Oil-based paint is considered hazardous waste and should be delivered to one of the Orange County HHW Collection Centers. Latex paint is not hazardous. However, liquid paint cannot go into your trash cart. You have several options for proper disposal of latex paint:

- Mix kitty litter or paint hardener into the paint. Allow the paint to dry out and harden. Dispose of the can and lid in your trash. (Remember — never place liquid paint in the trash!)
- Recycle paint through California's Paint Care program. For locations and other details, visit PaintCare.org.
- Deliver paint to one of the Orange County HHW Collection Centers. For locations and hours, visit OCLandfills.com/hazardous.



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Safely Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any product in your home that could be poisonous or dangerous if thrown into the trash. HHW includes car and lawn care products, paints and paint thinners, cleaning supplies, solvents, sharps and more. Never toss HHW into the trash. HHW can endanger children or pets, result in spills in your neighborhood or cause fires in collection trucks if it is placed into curbside carts.

Orange County residents can dispose of HHW for FREE at any of the county's four HHW Collection Centers. Electronic waste items, such as televisions, computers, tablets and cell phones, are also accepted at these centers. Proof of county residence is required.

Homebound seniors and disabled residents of Orange County may qualify for scheduled pickups of HHW. If you need more information about this special assistance, please call **714.834.4000**.



Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

Hours: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (closed on major holidays and during rainy weather)

Locations:

1071 N. Blue Gum St., Anaheim, 92806
 17121 Nichols Ln., Gate 6, Huntington Beach, 92647
 6411 Oak Canyon, Irvine, 92618
 32250 Avenida La Pata, San Juan Capistrano, 92675

OCLandfills.com/hazardous

New CRV Law Adds Wine and Spirits

Senate Bill (SB) 1013 expands California's Bottle Bill to include wine and distilled-spirit containers, making them eligible for California Redemption Value (CRV). Businesses that sell these beverages must ensure containers are properly labeled with CRV messaging and work with approved recycling or take-back programs to support customer redemption. SB 1013 also strengthens convenience-zone requirements, increases access to redemption options, and updates responsibilities for retailers and beverage distributors.

Recycle Your Holiday Tree

Real holiday trees will be accepted at the curb by Republic Services through Friday, January 16, 2026. Be sure to take off all lights, ornaments, tinsel, and garland, as well as the metal or plastic stand. Set the bare tree at the curb next to your carts. If your tree is more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half for safe and easy collection.

If you take down your tree later in January, 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.



Holiday Collection Schedule

We observe the following holidays:

- Memorial Day – Monday, May 25, 2026
- Independence Day – Saturday, July 4, 2026
- Labor Day – Monday, September 7, 2026
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 26, 2026
- Christmas Day – Friday, December 25, 2026

After the holiday, service will be delayed for one day for the remainder of the week.



RepublicServices.com/municipality/fullerton-ca