

# Organics Recycling Program Frequently Asked Questions

The City of Encinitas is preparing for changes to both residential and commercial trash and recycling collection services, to help you better understand what changes will be taking place, please reference this FAQ Sheet. For more information please visit the [City's Trash & Recycling webpage](#).

## Organics Recycling

### Q: What is SB 1383?

A: In September 2016, Governor Brown signed into law SB 1383, establishing methane emissions reduction targets in a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants in various sectors of California's economy. SB 1383 establishes targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. The law gives CalRecycle the regulatory authority required to achieve the organic waste disposal reduction targets and establishes an additional target that not less than 20 percent of currently disposed of edible food is recovered for human consumption by 2025. This means everyone, including all residents and businesses, is required to recycle organics. [Find out more information here.](#)

### Q: What is considered "organic waste"?

A: Organic waste is a renewable natural resource. It mainly comes from yard and kitchen waste from homes, and food waste and scraps from industrial and commercial operations.

### Q: What will go in the green cart?

A: If it grows, it goes! All organic material should go in the green cart. Examples include apple cores, banana peels, moldy bread, coffee grounds and eggshells. Meat, bones, and dairy should also go in the green cart, along with food-soiled paper and cardboard, such as paper napkins and greasy pizza boxes. Additionally, natural fiber materials made such as Popsicle sticks, sawdust, toothpicks, wooden chopsticks, and untreated wood should also go in the green cart.

### Q: Why recycle food waste?

A: Organic waste accounts for over 40% of the material in California's waste stream. Organic material cannot break down when buried in a landfill, as it would in nature or in a compost pile. Instead, it decomposes without oxygen, releasing methane gas into the atmosphere. Organic material (food scraps and yard waste) will soon be recycled when placed in green carts and then transported to EDCO's AD Facility, where it will break down and convert waste into renewable natural gas and fertilizer.

### Q: Will I get a new cart?

A: If you have a green waste cart, you will not likely need a new cart for the organics recycling program. All food scraps and other organic waste can be placed in addition to yard trimmings in the comingled organics green cart. If you do not have a green cart, you will receive one to collect your organic waste.



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## Rates

**Q: If I don't know the size of my cart, how do I know what my new rate will be?**

A: To determine the size of your cart, you may look at your bill to see what you're paying now and compare it to the rate table presented on the rates .  
webpage. Please note, the waste hauler, EDCO, bills residents every two months, so divide your trash bill total by two (2) to calculate the monthly total.



**Q: Why is the proposed rate increase so much higher than in the past?**

A: The rate increase includes a new organics collection fee for a new program required by SB 1383. EDCO built an Anaerobic Digestion facility to process food waste with green waste to help the region meet these new state requirements. The proposed rate also includes an increase to the franchise fee from five (5) to ten (10) percent to fund the City's current solid waste programs, such as street sweeping and environmental education, and to provide new funding for required SB 1383 programming. To cover the costs of initiating a curbside organics collection program for residents, a temporary special fee of \$0.94 is proposed to be billed to residential customers for a period of 12 months. This fee covers the distribution of kitchen caddies and paper bags for residents to transport food waste from the kitchen to the green cart.

## Using the Green Cart

**Q: What's not allowed in the green cart?**

A: No compostable or biodegradable plastics (bags, utensils, cups, etc.), these belong in your trash cart. Also, no plastic, metal, or glass; these belong in the recycling cart.



**Q: Will I be able to put food waste in plastic bags? What about compostable plastic bags?**

A: Plastic bags, compostable plastic bags, and biodegradable plastic bags cannot be processed by the AD facility, and therefore, cannot be placed in the green cart.



**Q: Can I use liners in my kitchen caddy?**

A: You may line your kitchen collector with a paper bag or newspaper to absorb moisture and manage odors in your kitchen caddy. NO compostable or biodegradable plastic bags or plastics bags.

**Q: What if I live in an apartment complex?**

A: Apartment complexes will be contacted mid-year in 2021 to begin the process of voluntarily implementing a commercial organics collection services with full SB 1383 mandated compliance as of January 1, 2022.

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**Q: What if I don't need a kitchen caddy? Can I return it?**

A: If you would like to return your caddy, you may do so by dropping it up at the designated drop-off area in the courtyard at City Hall located at 505 S. Vulcan Ave. or in front of the Public Works Facility, located at 160 Calle Magdalena (behind In-N-Out).

**Q: What if I have more organic waste and yard trimmings than will fit in one cart?**

A: If you find this is occurring regularly, contact EDCO by completing a Contact Us form or calling (760) 436-4151 to order a larger or additional cart. Up to 3 carts are available to residents for no charge; additional carts will be available for a nominal fee. Do not place yard trimmings outside of the bin; they will not be picked up.

**Q: I already compost my food scraps in another way. Am I able to opt out of EDCO's program?**

A: The City of Encinitas supports and encourages those who compost at home or through community compost programs. Residents will not be able to opt out of EDCO's program, however, EDCO's program will allow residents to recycle additional organic materials such as meat, bones, dairy, and food soiled paper (such as greasy pizza boxes and paper-based takeout containers) that are not well suited for traditional composting.

**Q: How can I reduce odors, moisture, and pests in the green cart?**

A: Here are a few helpful tips:

- Layer your food scraps with yard trimmings inside the cart.
- Place yard trimmings and food scraps directly in your cart. No plastic bags of any kind, please, as they cannot break down in the anaerobic digester. Paper bags are okay.
- Place yard trimmings and food-soiled paper at the bottom of your cart to absorb moisture.
- Keep your food scraps frozen and place them directly in your cart the night before your collection day.



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3