



# CITY OF SANTEE ORGANICS RECYCLING PROGRAM



## **Frequently Asked Question and Answers**

Waste Management and the City of Santee have partnered together to launch a Commingled Organics Recycling Program, for all businesses and multi-family properties, in the City of Santee. This program ensures less materials are sent to our landfills, affords businesses the opportunity to right-size or down-size their current services, if possible, and become compliant with local and state mandates AB 341 (Mandatory Commercial Recycling), AB 1826 (Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling) and AB 827

Our outreach team has begun to connect with each business via phone, letter, and email to confirm service levels, discuss opportunities for right-sizing and down-sizing, and provide your delivery date of your new food waste container, that reflects the current state of your business.

To understand more about this program, please review the following frequently asked questions and answers.

### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF AB 341?**

AB 341 requires all businesses and multi-family properties generating (4) four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste, per week, to arrange for recycling services. Businesses must subscribe to collection services through Waste Management or they have the option to self-haul. Businesses that choose to self-haul, must provide recycling documentation proof to the City for compliance.

### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF AB 1826?**

AB 1826 requires businesses generating (2) two cubic yards of more of commercial solid waste, per week, to recycle their organic waste. Organic waste means food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and compostable food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste.

### **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF AB 827?**

AB 827 requires AB341 and AB1826 covered businesses to provide organics and recycling containers, at front-of-house, to collect waste generated from products purchased and consumed on the premises. These containers must be placed adjacent to trash containers and be visible, easily accessible, and clearly marked.

### **WHAT IS THE NEW COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM?**

The City of Santee (City) and Waste Management (WM) extended their agreement to comply with State law and to provide organics collection services to Santee customers. The extension and rates became effective January 1, 2021. This means businesses must recycle all organics including food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and compostable food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste, into designated organics bins. These materials must be placed into the organics bins onsite and removed from the trash bin.

This new mandatory organic service will be collected in a separate organics waste bin and or cart, for an additional fee. Please contact WM for pricing.



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As part of this program, commercial customers will receive technical assistance and training, food rescue and food recovery resources, and comingled organics recycling collection services. At this time, this organics program does not provide curbside residential food waste recycling services, it does provide for initial planning and infrastructure development for future residential organics collection services, to begin in 2022.

### **HOW MUCH WILL THE NEW ORGANICS SERVICE COST?**

The rate varies depending on the amount of waste your property generates each week. For a cost-effective quote for services, please contact Waste Management for service appropriate service levels and pricing.

### **WHY IS THE CITY STARTING A FOOD WASTE RECYCLING PROGRAM?**

Californians throw away nearly 6 million tons of food scraps or food waste each year. This represents about 18 percent of all the material that goes to landfill. There are new state regulations that requires each City and its businesses to divert organics material from the waste stream. The goal of this program is to reduce the amount of organics materials sent to our landfill to minimize greenhouse gas emissions. Landfills are the second largest source of methane generation in California. Specifically, food waste produces methane gas as it decomposes in landfills. This new regulation requires municipalities to implement programs to reduce the amount of organics disposed of in landfills by 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025. This new organics recycling program will increase the City's overall diversion and compliance efforts significantly.

### **WHAT IS CONSIDERED ORGANICS?**

Organic waste means food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and compostable food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste.

### **WHAT TYPE OF ORGANICS IS ACCEPTED IN THE COMMERCIAL ORGANICS RECYCLING PROGRAM?**

Santee's organics recycling program will be a comingled program in which, all food scraps (including meat, bones, dairy, bread, fruits, vegetables, peels, pits, cobs, coffee grounds) compostable food soiled paper (food-soiled paper, paper towels, napkins, paper cups, paper egg cartons and pizzeria boxes) and green waste can be placed into the designated organics recycling bin or cart. Paper items with a wax coating are considered trash and are not part of the commercial organics recycling program.

### **IS IT OKAY TO PLACE FOG (FATS, OILS AND GREASE) INTO MY FOOD WASTE CONTAINER?**

No. If you have fats, oils and grease, you are still required to collect and dispose of separately through your third-party haulers.



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### **WHEN WILL COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS RECEIVE SERVICE?**

Bins and or cart delivery will begin in late 2021 for commercial customers. Businesses are being asked to implement organics collection service on or before November 1, 2021. Failure to implement an organics recycling program at your property, by November 1, 2021 will result in the minimum level of organics service being delivered to your property later this year.

### **DO ALL COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS NEED TO PARTICIPATE?**

Yes. State and local laws require the diversion of food waste from the landfill. All commercial customers are required to establish minimum service levels for landfill, recycling and food waste.

### **HOW OFTEN IS MY ORGANICS CONTAINER GOING TO BE PICKED UP?**

The minimum level of collection service is once per week and will depend on the type of business operation and the current food donation/ source reduction efforts in place. Technical assistance will be provided to all commercial customers to help determine the appropriate level of service for your business.

### **WILL MY ORGANICS CONTAINER SMELL?**

With organics recycling, you are simply moving the food waste/food soiled paper from your waste bin into your comingled organics container. Food waste recycling will not smell any differently than your current waste and recycling services.

### **SHOULD I USE A BAG FOR MY FOOD WASTE?**

No, you are not required to bag your organics.

### **WHAT WILL BE THE SIZE OF MY ORGANICS CART?**

Commercial customers will receive either 64-gallon carts or 2 cubic yard containers. The size and frequency of collection will depend upon how much food waste materials your business is generating. WM will work closely with you on an ongoing basis to help you determine the appropriate size containers and service levels to meet your needs. There is also 32 gallon size carts for customers with space restrictions.

### **I DON'T GENERATE MUCH FOOD WASTE; WHY DO I NEED TO PARTICIPATE?**

State and local laws require the diversion of food waste/food soiled paper from the landfill. All commercial customers are required to establish minimum service levels for landfill, recycling and food waste. Participation by all generators, of all sizes, allows the City to ensure compliance with state mandates.

### **CAN COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS GET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FOR THIS PROGRAM?**

Yes. To ensure a successful organics recycling program, the City and Waste Management have partnered together to assist businesses with an opportunity for technical assistance and training. This includes site evaluations to help with right-sizing, down-sizing and staff training and on-going, as needed, support. This assistance is free to all commercial



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customers. Digital resources are also available on both Waste Management's and the City's websites. Recycling resources can be found at <https://www.wm.com/us/en/recycle-right/recycling-resources>

### **WILL FOOD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES BE AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS?**

Yes. Residential food waste collection services will be available to Santee residents in January 2022 and is included as part of the standard scope of service provided by Waste Management now.

### **CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON THE RECYCLING AND ORGANICS PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO ME?**

For more questions regarding the available recycling and organics services, please contact:

#### **Waste Management**

(619) 596-5100

<https://business.wm.com/santee>

#### **City of Santee**

(619) 258-4100 Ext. 127

[santeerecycles@cityofsanteeca.gov](mailto:santeerecycles@cityofsanteeca.gov)

<https://www.cityofsanteeca.gov/services/solid-waste-recycling-services>

#### **CALRecycle**

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/>