

# CALIFORNIA WASTE AND RECYCLING LAWS

California leads the nation in diverting waste, increasing recycling, and reducing greenhouse gases. Athens Services is here to help you navigate through these state mandates and ensure you have compliant waste and recycling programs.

## SB 1383 (2016) SHORT LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANT REDUCTION

SB 1383 targets the reduction of methane emissions from landfills. The law establishes targets to achieve a 75% reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organics waste from the 2014 level by 2025. It also requires that at least 20% of currently disposed edible food be recovered for human consumption statewide by 2025.

Beginning January 1, 2022, all businesses, multi-family complexes, and single-family home residents are required to subscribe to an organics collection service and must separate into their green organics container ALL of their green waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper (100% fiber based).

In addition, Edible Food Generators (considered Tier 1 and Tier 2) must recover the maximum amount of edible food that would otherwise be disposed of, arrange for food donation and collection through contracts or written agreements with food recovery organizations or services, and maintain food donation records. For more information, please visit [AthensServices.com/FoodDonation](https://AthensServices.com/FoodDonation).

### TIER 1 BUSINESSES

Effective January 1, 2022

- Food distributors
- Wholesale food vendors
- Food service providers
- Grocery stores and supermarkets (10,000 square feet or greater)

### TIER 2 BUSINESSES

Effective January 1, 2024

- Hotels with at least 200 rooms and an on-site food facility
- Restaurant facilities (5,000 square feet or larger, or seating more than 250)
- Local education agencies with an on-site food facility
- Healthcare facilities with an on-site food facility and 100+ beds
- Large venues (including shopping centers and malls) and events with 2,000+ daily visitors

### ACCEPTABLE ORGANICS WASTE:



#### GREEN WASTE

Flower & hedge trimmings  
Grass clippings  
Leaves & branches  
Lumber, scrap wood, & plywood (not painted or treated)  
Weeds



#### FOOD SCRAPS

Bread, rice, & pasta  
Cheese & dairy  
Coffee grounds & filters  
Fruits & vegetables  
Flowers & herbs  
Meat, bones, & poultry  
Pet food (non-medicated)  
Seafood & soft shells



#### 100% FIBER-BASED, FOOD-SOILED PAPER\*

Food-stained paper  
Paper egg cartons  
Paper napkins & kitchen towels  
Pizza boxes  
Plates  
To-go boxes (no coating)  
Wooden & fiber-based utensils

*\*Must be 100% fiber-based. NO materials with petroleum based plastic, wax, or bio-plastic coating, liner, or laminate.*

## AB 827 (2019) COMMERCIAL AND ORGANICS WASTE: RECYCLING BINS

Businesses subject to AB 341 and AB 1826 must provide customers (on or before July 1, 2020) front-of-house access to collection bins for recycling and organics (including food scraps) alongside trash. All three bins must be grouped together, easily accessible and visible, clearly marked with signage on what “can or cannot be placed into each bin,” and properly serviced for recycling and composting.

All commercial food service establishments that provide food for purchase and immediate consumption on site must comply with AB 827. “Full-service restaurants” are exempt as long as they provide organics and recycling bins in the back of house for their employees. Full-service restaurants are defined as those where all the following are true:

- Customers are escorted or assigned to an assigned eating area.
- Customers’ food and beverage orders are taken after being seated.
- The food and beverage orders as well as any other requested items are delivered directly to the customers.
- The check is delivered directly to the customer at the assigned eating area.



## AB 619 (2019) BRING-YOUR-OWN REUSABLE FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

This law explicitly allows reusable food containers to be refilled by either the owner/operator of a food facility or the consumer. Consumers may supply their own reusable containers. Facilities may accept returned containers from consumers for reuse. The bill also allows Temporary Food Facilities to use multiuse utensils when approved by the local enforcement agency. This law allows consumers to bring reusable containers to a food facility to be filled by an employee or the customer, provided certain conditions are met [pursuant to the law](#). AB 619 does not enforce the use of reusables.

## AB 1826 (2014) MANDATORY COMMERCIAL ORGANICS RECYCLING

This bill requires businesses and multifamily buildings (of 5 or more units) that generate 2 cubic yards or more of solid waste per week to arrange for organics recycling services. As of January 1, 2022, all businesses are required to follow the SB 1383 regulations.



Athens’ composting program is an integral part of the recycling loop. By processing local organics waste, we can create nutrient rich, soil amendment that can be reused in the communities we serve.

### WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR ORGANICS

Athens recycles organics waste at our American Organics composting facility. Through composting and mulching, Athens helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions by limiting the amount of methane gas generated from the decomposition of organics in a landfill.

## AB 341 (2011) MANDATORY COMMERCIAL RECYCLING

To further California’s recycling efforts, AB 341 established a statewide recycling goal of 75% by 2020. This law requires California commercial or public entities that generate four or more cubic yards of solid waste per week, and multifamily dwellings of five or more units, to arrange for recycling services.