

WEST COVINA – New Residential Recycling and Organics Program

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR NEW PROGRAM

WHAT IS CHANGING?

Why is the City of West Covina changing its waste and recycling services?

Effective January 1, 2026, the City of West Covina will be implementing a source-separated waste and recycling program to comply with Senate Bill (SB) 1383. This new program will ensure all residents and businesses are compliant with state law requiring organics waste to be diverted from landfills.

What is Senate Bill (SB) 1383?

Effective January 1, 2022, SB 1383, California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy, was passed to reduce methane and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions statewide. The law establishes targets for the reduction of organics waste sent to landfills and requires the recovery of all edible food currently disposed.

Jurisdictions, including the City of West Covina, are mandated to require all residents and businesses to separate their organics waste by ordinance and through enforcement mechanisms. Additionally, this new law requires specialized programming, including outreach and education, contamination audits, waste stream analysis, and data management.

SB 1383 is the most significant waste reduction legislation adopted in California in the last 30 years. It builds on the requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 1826, Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling, which jurisdictions have been implementing since 2016.

What is organics waste?

Organics waste means food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, and food-soiled paper waste that is mixed with food waste.

ACCEPTABLE ORGANICS WASTE			🚫 DO NOT INCLUDE
GREEN WASTE	FOOD SCRAPS	FOOD-SOILED PAPER*	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flower & hedge trimmings Grass clippings Leaves & branches Lumber, scrap wood, & plywood (not painted or treated) Weeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bread, rice, & pasta Cheese & dairy Coffee grounds & filters Fruits & vegetables Flowers & herbs Meat, bones, & poultry Seafood & soft shells (lobster, crab, & shrimp) Pet food (non-medicated) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food-stained paper Paper egg cartons Paper napkins & kitchen towels Pizza boxes Plates To-go boxes (no coating) Wooden & fiber-based utensils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All plastics Cacti, succulents, & yucca Compostable plastics (bioplastics) Coffee cups & pods Fats, oils, & grease Food stickers (please remove) Gloves Hard shells (clams, mussels, & oysters) Medication Palm fronds Paper napkins & towels with cleaning chemicals Parchment & wax paper Pet waste Rocks & soil Rubber bands & twist ties Tea bags Textiles Tissues & wet wipes

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

What changes are happening to my waste and recycling services?

Currently, single-family residential customers are being serviced as a two-stream collection program, where customers have a 96-gallon or 64-gallon trash container, along with a green yard waste container. Under the new program, services will be transitioned to a three-stream program, where all single-family residential customers will be issued a third blue recycling cart as part of the base level of service. There will be no rate impact to the base level of service.

Beginning February 2026, single-family residential customers will be receiving a blue recycle cart to match the size of the trash cart they currently have. All customers will be required to separate their waste material into the appropriate containers.



With the introduction of a blue cart, each resident will automatically have additional capacity to dispose of waste. As a result, residents may want to reduce their cart sizes to either a 64-gallon or 32-gallon container. Much of what currently gets placed in your black container (plastics, glass, metal, cardboard) will now be redirected into your blue container. Below is a brief listing of what goes where. For a full listing, please refer to the attached recycling cheat sheet.

- Blue Container: Recyclable material includes plastics, metals, paper (clean and dry), cardboard, and glass
- Green Container: Organics waste includes green waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper (100% fiber-based)

When can I expect these enhancements?

Beginning February 2026, Athens Services will be delivering to each single-family residential customer a blue recycling container. Customers will receive the same size blue container as their existing black container. Once your new equipment is received, residents will start placing their blue container curbside for collection. Additional details will be shared in the coming weeks with the timeline for this new program.

What are the benefits of the new program?

The new system will maximize the recovery of recyclable materials and organic material diversion away from landfills to reduce methane gas emissions into the environment by focusing on recycling, reusing, and composting whenever possible. It will also ensure that the City of West Covina maintains compliance with state recycling laws, including SB 1383.

SERVICES

Will my pick-up day change?

There will be no changes to collection schedules at this time.

What is the standard service level for residential customers?

The service rate is based on the selected trash service. Single-family residents and multi-family properties with individual carts will have an option of a 96-gallon, 64-gallon, or 32-gallon trash (black) cart, which includes a recyclables (blue) and organics (green) cart of the same size as your trash cart. Any additional carts beyond the standard set of three can be provided upon request for an additional fee.

Will I get new containers under the Athens program?

Yes. Single-family residents will receive a blue recycling cart delivered to their home in February 2026. Collection services for this container will start the week after delivery. In the coming years, single-family residents will also have their black and green carts exchanged for new equipment. Additional details will be shared in the coming weeks with the timeline for this new program.

What if I need more containers beyond the standard service level?

All customers will have the option to increase container sizes or add additional containers to accommodate their disposal needs. Any increase in size and/or frequency for trash, recycling, or organics service is available for an additional fee. To change your services, please call the Athens Customer Care Center at (888) 336-6100.



What is acceptable in each container?

For a full breakdown of acceptable materials, check out the Athens interactive recycling guide at CanIRecycleMy.com. The guide features more than 450 items and is the go-to resource for correctly reducing, reusing, recycling, composting, and disposing of unwanted waste material. For recycling signage and additional education materials, visit AthensServices.com/Outreach.

How do I dispose of bulky items?

Single-family residents and multi-family properties with individual carts can schedule weekly bulky pick-ups on their regular pick-up date for no additional charge. Each bulky item collection can include up to five (5) items. Each item must not be larger than what two people can safely handle. Collections will occur on a customer's scheduled pick-up day and must be reserved at least 24 hours in advance. To schedule a collection, visit AthensServices.com/Bulky or call the Athens Customer Care Center at (888) 336-6100.

BILLING INFORMATION WITH ATHENS SERVICES

The service rate assessed will be based on the selected level of trash service (96-, 64-, or 32-gallon). Additional carts are subject to charges.

Is my rate changing?

No. Residential rates will remain the same, and there will be no change to the base level of service. The service rate is based on the selected trash service (96-, 64- or 32-gallon) and includes your standard set of three containers (blue, black, and green). Any additional carts beyond the base level of service will be assessed additional fees.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Customers can speak with a local customer service representative by calling (888) 336-6100. The Athens Customer Care Center is available Monday - Friday, from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, and on Saturday, from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.

How do I pay my bill?

All customers will have several options to pay their bill, including:

- Online self-service: Visit AthensServices.com/Billing
- By phone: Call the Athens Customer Care Center at (888) 336-6100
- In person: Visit the local customer service center located at 4777 Irwindale Avenue, Irwindale, CA 91706