

Compost & Recycling Requirements

For Businesses and Multifamily Properties in City of Berkeley



When recyclable and compostable materials break down in a landfill, they produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. To respond to the climate crisis, **State law SB 1383** requires all businesses, nonprofits, institutions, and multifamily properties (5+ units) to:



Note: Berkeley has two bins for recycling — one for containers and one for fiber (cardboard/paper).

- 1 Sign up for compost (organics) and recycling collection services or have a waiver on file.** Contact your service provider to get service.

For waiver eligibility, visit www.StopWaste.org/rules-waivers.

- 2 Set up indoor bins.** Color-coded and labeled compost and recycling bins must be placed next to all garbage bins (not required in restrooms). Use **blue** for recycling, **green** for compost, **black** or **gray** for garbage.

- 3 Sort materials into the proper bins.** Owners/managers must ensure materials are sorted correctly into recycling, compost, and garbage.

CONTAINER RECYCLING	FIBER RECYCLING	COMPOST
Bottles, cans, jars, and rigid plastic containers	Paper, cardboard	Food scraps, compostable paper (paper towels, napkins, etc.), plant waste, and untreated wood

- 4 Inform staff, contractors, and tenants about proper sorting at least annually.**

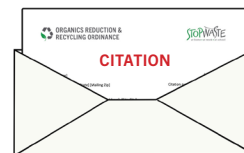
Check bins regularly, e.g. monthly, and provide feedback if materials are found in the wrong bins.

For property managers: Tenants must be informed about proper sorting no later than 2 weeks after move-in and at least 2 weeks before move-out.

Additional requirement for sites that generate surplus edible food: Sites such as grocery stores, food distributors, health facilities, and large restaurants must recover and donate surplus edible food to feed people. Visit www.StopWaste.org/rules-food-recovery to learn more.

Citations and fines for failure to comply

Fines up to \$500 per violation will continue to be issued every 60 days for non-compliance.



Scan for information in English, 中文 (Chinese), Tagalog (Filipino), 한국어 (Korean), Español (Spanish), and Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

www.StopWaste.org/rules • (510) 891-6575

Free Resources to Help You Comply



Scan the code or visit the website to download or request free resources, including many available in multiple languages.

www.StopWaste.org/rules-resources

FREE



Setting Up Indoor Bins

Free resources for indoor bin stations:

- Signmaker tool:** create customized signs that show the types of items being thrown away at your business to help with proper sorting.
- Information** about which bags are allowed in your city to line indoor bins.
- Free indoor green bins** for compost, up to \$500 worth of bins per approved site.
- Free stickers** to label bins.



Training and Education

Free tools and services to educate employees, tenants, and contractors:

5-minute training video: “Recycling & Composting at Work.” Available in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

Templates for sending emails about the requirements and how to sort materials properly.

Free virtual or on-site training from our field team. Team members can also help determine compost and recycling service needs and set up indoor compost and recycling stations.

California law SB 1383 went into effect January 2022. In Alameda County, the State law is being implemented and enforced under the Organics Reduction and Recycling Ordinance, which was passed by local government agency StopWaste. StopWaste partners with the cities of Alameda County, their solid waste service providers, and environmental health departments to help sites comply and enforce the law when needed.

