

# Food Waste Recycling

## SENATE BILL 1383 AND YOUR COMMERCIAL BUSINESS

### WHY IS ORGANIC WASTE A PROBLEM?

Organic waste in landfills accounts for 20 percent of the methane gas generated in California. The state agency CalRecycle reports that the super-pollutant methane has a short life span, but a long-term impact on the climate. Targeting methane reductions in emissions is an effective mechanism for combating climate change and moving toward a more sustainable future.

The implementation of the state's organic waste reduction regulations adopted under Senate Bill 1383 (Short Lived Climate Pollutants) is the next critical step to protect our communities and our environment from the impacts of climate change.



### HOW ARE BUSINESSES AFFECTED?

**Under SB 1383, businesses are required to:**

- Subscribe to organic waste collection service provided by Varner and Son Inc.
- Ensure employees, contractors, tenants, and customers have access to an adequate number, size, and location of containers with appropriate labels and container color.
- Provide containers for the collection of all waste streams including trash, food waste and recyclables in all areas where disposal containers are provided for customers, except for restrooms.
- Provide information to new tenants before or within 14 days of occupation of the premises.
- Prohibit employees from placing organic waste in a container not designated to receive organic waste.



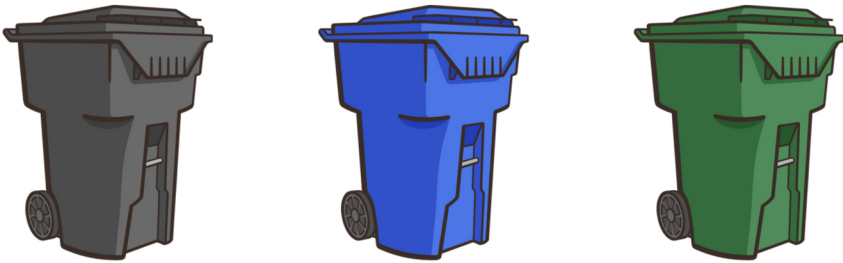
### WHAT ARE THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS?

If your business is a supermarket, grocery store, food service provider, distributor, or wholesale food vendor, you may be classified as an edible food generator and have additional requirements such as:

- Not intentionally spoil edible food that is capable of being recovered by a food recovery organization or service.
- Arranging via contract with a food recovery organization or service to recover the maximum amount of edible food that would be redistributed for human consumption.

## AUTOMATIC SB1383 COMPLIANCE COMING IN 2025

California Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), a state law, requires that all businesses have 3-container trash and recycling services at their location. This means, you are to have, a trash container, blue recycling container for traditional recyclables, and green recycling container for organic waste like food, food soiled papers and cardboard, and yard waste. As required by SB 1383, County Ordinance G-9091 was adopted in 2022 to include the mandatory services in Kern County's municipal code for unincorporated areas of Kern County. Commercial rates for this service were set by the Board of Supervisors on May 23, 2023 and began July 1, 2023.



*This year, we will be notifying any non-compliant customers and deliver one blue 96 gallon cart and/or one green 96 gallon on a progressive schedule. The total cost for these containers is \$77.83 per month, currently.*

Limited options are available for businesses to receive an exclusionary waiver from SB 1383 requirements. For more information, visit Kern County's SB 1383 website at [www.KernPublicWorks.com/Organics](http://www.KernPublicWorks.com/Organics) and follow the links to the Waiver Applications page to see if your business qualifies. It should be noted that there are self-haul options; however, SB 1383 requires that non-residential entities (businesses) obtain permission from their local jurisdiction and follow certain guidelines.

For more information on that program, please contact [Organics@KernCounty.com](mailto:Organics@KernCounty.com). County Staff will send self-haul informational flyers and answer additional questions. If a waiver is not approved by Kern County Public Works, your business will be required to have the mandatory service.

These changes are occurring statewide and are part of the State's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, divert recyclable material away from landfills, and convert recyclable material into new products. The key to making that difference is ensuring our community is educated and correctly separating materials into the proper containers.

Per regulations, periodic checks will be performed, and tags will be left on bins to inform you of contamination. Please understand that this required check is to ensure that no trash is added down the line to recycling and composting facilities. Help us prevent that from happening.

Together, we can all make a change for the better!

For additional information regarding SB 1383 visit [BurrtecKern.com](http://BurrtecKern.com) and [www.KernPublicWorks.com/Organics](http://www.KernPublicWorks.com/Organics). You can also select the "Business Owners" tab to learn more about business and commercial recycling requirements.

### WE CAN HELP!

We are proud to offer site visits for customers to assess their service level needs. Please contact us for more information.

### Varner and Son Inc.

9930 Brimhall Rd  
Bakersfield, CA 93312  
(661) 588-7844

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

[VSCustomerService@BurrtecKern.com](mailto:VSCustomerService@BurrtecKern.com)