

In 2016, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 1383 to address climate change via greenhouse gas emissions produced by trapped food waste in landfills. Organics such as food waste, paper, yard clippings, and cardboard make up about half the contents of California landfills. Reducing the amount of organic waste diverted to landfills is one of the fastest methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our atmosphere. SB 1383 aims to reduce organic waste disposal by 75% in 2025. While this is a crucial step in combating climate change, it is important to recognize the role Angelenos have in making this bill successful.

In Los Angeles, residential accounts serviced directly by LA Sanitation & Environment (LASAN) – typically single-family homes and multifamily buildings four units or smaller – already have green bins. While they were originally used only for yard trimmings, on January 16, 2023, organics recycling was officially introduced for all 710,000 LA Sanitation-serviced residents who were not part of one of the City's small organics recycling pilot programs. Commercial accounts that are serviced by contracted recycLA Service Providers (RSPs), including a majority of the City's larger multifamily buildings and businesses, mostly do not currently have green bins. While green bin service has been mandated for commercial accounts since 2018, there has been no enforcement mechanism. That will change on January 1, 2024, when as per City ordinance, commercial accounts without green bin service can be fined repeatedly until they add the service.

Many larger commercial account holders are reluctant to participate in the organics program due to the excess effort believed to be required, and due to fees for additional bins and service that when added up, may end up being more expensive than the fines they would have to pay if they didn't have a green bin. For struggling small businesses and smaller apartments, the additional burden of cost, whether it be fines or green bin fees, could take a significant toll on their ability to operate. Additionally, multifamily buildings that do sign up to participate may want to pass on these additional costs to their tenants, many of whom are already struggling to pay their rent. The City should take steps now to mitigate the financial burden RSP customers will face when enforcement of organics recycling participation begins.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct LASAN to report back within 60 days with options for commercial accounts to mitigate cost increases associated with adding commercial green bin service. Analysis should include:

- Waiving of expensive waste fees, such as distance fees and gate fees, for commercial accounts who are in compliance with the bill;
- Helping commercial account holders recalibrate their waste removal by reducing black bin service to make up for the new green bin service; and
- Developing a recycLA "base rate" structure that includes organics collection (green bin service), in addition to solid waste (black bin service) and recycling (blue bin service).

I FURTHER MOVE that City Council instruct LASAN to report back within 60 days regarding the creation and implementation of a window stickering program to reward businesses who add green bin service, and recognize them for their efforts in being compliant with SB 1383.

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I FURTHER MOVE that City Council instruct LASAN to report to the Council on a quarterly basis on City-wide compliance of SB 1383 so that Council may know the success of the program and if any additional help or incentives are needed to ensure its success.

PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN

Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



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