

MOTION

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

California's Senate Bill (SB) 1383 mandates that jurisdictions significantly reduce the disposal of organic waste in landfills to mitigate methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Under these regulations, the City of Los Angeles is obligated to provide curbside composting, facilitate food rescue, and procure recycled organic products, such as compost and mulch, based on a substantial per capita target. Currently, LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) produces approximately 350,000 tons of compost and mulch annually through the City's green-and-food-waste diversion programs. However, only a small percentage of this compost is used by the City. Notably, on June 9, 2026, the City Council advanced the RecyclA 2.0 ordinance amendments, which, when implemented, will require commercial and multi-family customers to maintain adequate organics service. This action closes a critical enforcement gap, providing the City with the clear authority needed to prevent the illegal dumping of organic waste and ensure proper materials management. A comprehensive "Master Plan" that unites RecyclA 2.0 organics gains and LASAN organics diversion is needed to ensure proper compliance to state law.

Historically, the City has faced ongoing challenges with the State mandated procurement compliance outlined in SB1383. To meet state targets quickly, LASAN has utilized a Direct Service Provider model that relies on outsourcing; currently, Los Angeles ratepayers fund the distribution of finished compost to farms over 100 miles away in the Central Valley. This practice is necessary, but unfortunately inadvertently takes away from Angelenos the direct environmental benefits of their own organic waste diversion. Recently, Mayor Bass' Climate Action Plan established Target 6B, which aims to use at least 50% of locally produced compost and mulch within Los Angeles by 2030 to enhance soil health and carbon storage, noting that currently only 25-30% of the City's material is re-applied locally. In addition to the steps needed to effectuate the Mayor's targets, the "Master Plan" report should also further implement recommendations found within the LASAN "Healthy Soils" plan, which is a roadmap to prioritize the distribution of finished compost to local urban farms, community gardens, and city parks.

Recent changes to state law provide new avenues to process organic material locally and cost-effectively. Senate Bill 279, passed in 2025, eases the regulatory burden on local composting operations by expanding the "excluded activity" tier, allowing public agencies to process up to 500 cubic yards of material without needing a full, complex CalRecycle permit. Concurrently, Assembly Bill 2346 allows municipalities to meet 10% of their SB 1383 procurement obligations by resourcing local community composters rather than relying solely on large-scale external procurement.

Capitalizing on these legislative updates allows the City to shift away from expensive, GHG emitting long-haul trucking and toward local community action. By resourcing community composters, urban farms, and partnering with adjacent entities, the City can improve local soil health, grow more food locally, and visibly demonstrate the benefits of the green bin program to residents. At a recent hearing of the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee, when considering the Mayor's FY 2026-2027 budget, LASAN confirmed that environmental and fiscal benefits are significant, and very possible. To achieve these environmental and fiscal objectives efficiently, the City should develop a comprehensive local master plan for modern organics


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processing that ensures a steady organics stream with heavy local uses. This plan should include strategies to partner with adjacent public entities, such as the Los Angeles Community College District, to identify and utilize available land within or near City limits for decentralized composting activities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) to report back with a Modern Organics Processing and Composting Master Plan (Master Plan) designed to greatly increase local composting capacity within Los Angeles, from all possible sources including where possible from Recycla Service Providers, in compliance with new CalRecycle's permitting exemptions for public agencies established by SB 279, and new requirements for public agencies under AB 2346, while utilizing the LASAN Healthy Soils plan.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Bureau of Sanitation to include recommendations to achieve the Mayor's 2026 Climate Action Plan - Target 6B, mandating 50% local compost and mulch usage by 2030, further prioritizing the distribution of finished compost to local urban farms and community gardens, and City parks, including to support the removal of both artificial grass and nonfunctional turf to natural turf.


I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Bureau of Sanitation to solicit input from the public, including but not limited to Neighborhood Councils, non-governmental organizations, local universities, and relevant government agencies in order to develop this policy.

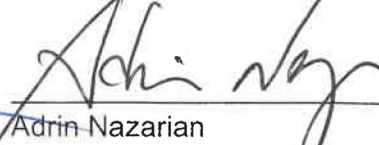
I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Bureau of Sanitation, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), to include an analysis of the fiscal and budget impacts of expanding local composting programs compared to the current Direct Service Provider model.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Bureau of Sanitation to include recommendations on strategic partnerships with adjacent public entities, such as the Los Angeles Community College District, in order to identify and utilize available land within or near City limits for decentralized composting activities.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Bureau of Sanitation, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), to include recommendations for the City to utilize SB 1383 procurement dollars, as authorized under AB 2346, to fund activities such as the development of localized community composting infrastructure, and a plan to leverage California's active Cap-and-Invest Community Composting for Green Spaces (CCG-5) program to deploy machinery, technical training, and paid youth workforce opportunities to community-run sites within historically underserved tracts designated under CalEnviroScreen 4.0.

PRESENTED BY:


Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember, 3rd District

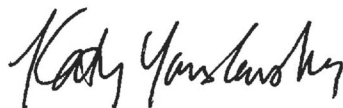

Adrin Nazarian
Councilmember, 2nd District

SECONDED BY:








Katy Yanslow

ORIGINAL