



## SB 1383 Compliance for San Luis Obispo County: **Education Agencies**

### Overview

SB 1383 is a California law set to reduce the amount of organic waste (like food, paper and yard waste) going to our landfills. When organic waste decomposes in the landfill, it emits methane, a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide. The actions of SB 1383 aim to reduce statewide disposal of organic waste by as much as 75% by 2025. As of January 1, 2024, there are two key components of SB 1383 that apply to local education agencies (K-12 public and charter schools, school districts and County offices of education) in San Luis Obispo County:

1. Organic Waste Recycling
2. Edible Food Recovery

### Organic Waste Recycling

According to the law, all local education agencies must:

1. **Separate organic (food, yard, and paper) waste for collection by implementing a three-bin system.** This means that all areas, except restrooms, that have trash receptacles must have recycling and organic waste receptacles as well. This creates a three-bin system: a green bin for organic waste, a blue bin for recycling and a gray bin for trash.
2. Either **sign-up for organic waste collection service** (through your curbside waste management provider), or self-haul organics. If self-hauling, you must maintain records of disposal for five years.
3. **Inform employees and students of methods for preventing organic waste generation and proper disposal.** This might include food scrap sorting games, creating a program for students to act as waste station monitors during lunch, distributing a food scrap recycling guide to teachers, or making announcements in the school newspaper. Your waste management provider and the IWMA can help provide proper labeling for bins, as well as informational fliers.
4. **Periodic inspection of organic waste containers for contaminants.** There is no set number/frequency of inspections, this is up to the local education agency to determine what is effective for their school(s). CalRecycle recommends that entities may inspect more often at the beginning of the program, and slowly reduce frequency after they are satisfied with participation and contamination rates.

*These methods can and should be used in tandem with waste generation prevention, on-site maintenance and composting techniques.*

**Waivers:** Schools may be eligible for a waiver based on lack of adequate space, residence in a low population status area, or if they generate 1) more than two cubic yards per week of solid waste and less than 20 gallons of organic waste, 2) less than two cubic yards per week of solid waste and less than 10 gallons of organic waste.

Otherwise, there are no reporting or recordkeeping requirements for organic waste collection programs in local education agencies. Education agencies are empowered to determine what data they collect and run a program that suits the unique needs of their students, as long as it conforms to the organic waste recycling standards of SB1383.

## Edible Food Recovery

SB 1383 classifies local education agencies with an on-site food facility as “Tier 2 Commercial Edible Food Generators”. Tier 2 Generators include all local education agencies that have an operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends or otherwise provides food for human consumption. This includes school cafeterias, and vending machines with a food facility permit.

As of January 1, 2024, Tier 2 Generators must:

1. Recover the maximum amount of edible food that would otherwise be disposed of.
2. Be under contract or written agreement with a food recovery organization/service that collects their edible food for food recovery or accepts food that the agency self-hauls to the organization.
3. Maintain the following records:
  - a. A list of each food recovery service that takes its edible food under written agreement
  - b. A copy of written agreements with each edible food recovery service
  - c. A log of the types of food, frequency of food collection and quantity of food collected (measured in pounds per month)

Only edible food that would otherwise be disposed must be recovered. Local education agencies are encouraged to implement programs that recirculate food within their school, like share tables. Share tables are set up during meal hours, where students can leave their unwanted food for classmates to take.

Schools and districts are not required to report to any entity on these programs, but they must maintain accurate and up-to-date records, which are subject to inspection for compliance.

**Food Safety:** There are no limits on the types or amounts of food that may be donated, as long as they are safe for human consumption. Prepared foods provided by school cafeterias likely require more careful handling, like time and temperature controls. Public Health Departments are responsible for monitoring food safety requirements.

## Non-Compliance

If the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) finds that a local education agency is non-compliant, they may issue a Notice of Violation, requiring compliance within 90 days. The education agency should be prepared to provide evidence of program implementation to CalRecycle, if requested.

## SLO County Food Recovery Organization Contacts

Food Recovery Organization	Location	Website
Cambria Vinyard Church	Cambria	<a href="https://www.cambriavineyard.org/cvcsurvey.html">https://www.cambriavineyard.org/cvcsurvey.html</a>
Five Cities Christian Women Food Pantry	Grover Beach	<a href="https://fivecitieschristianwomenfoodpantry.org/">https://fivecitieschristianwomenfoodpantry.org/</a>
Loaves and Fishes	Paso Robles	<a href="https://loavesandfishespaso.org/">https://loavesandfishespaso.org/</a>
SLO Food Bank	San Luis Obispo	<a href="https://www.slofoodbank.org/">https://www.slofoodbank.org/</a>
Sunny Acres	San Luis Obispo	<a href="https://www.sunnyacres.community/">https://www.sunnyacres.community/</a>
The Church of God of Prophecy	Oceano	<a href="https://cogop.org/">https://cogop.org/</a>



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**  
**INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
*Connecting the Community to Waste Solutions*

We're here to help! For more resources regarding SB 1383 requirements for schools and local education agencies, visit [www.IWMA.com](http://www.IWMA.com), or give us a call at (805) 782-8530