

# FOOD WASTE COLLECTION BEGINNING 2025

## FOOD SCRAPS WILL SOON GO IN YOUR GREEN CART

WM's organics diversion program is part of our fulfillment of the new state climate law, SB 1383. This law requires all residents and businesses to keep compostable material out of the landfill. By placing these items in your WM curbside green cart for composting, you will aide in the reduction of methane, a greenhouse gas, which is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide, save space in the landfill, and turn your food scraps into valuable compost! Program will go into effect as soon as the McCourtney Road Transfer Station Renovation Project is completed, see reverse side for more information.

### These food scraps will go in your GREEN cart



**Common Acceptable Items:** Dairy products, fruits & vegetables, cooked meats, rice, bread, pasta, food soiled paper, and green waste (grass, brush & tree trimmings, untreated wood)

### These items will NOT be allowed



Plastics

Liquids

Metal

Glass

Cooking Oil

Plant  
containers

Styrofoam

Waxed paper &  
cardboard

**Other prohibited items:** 'Biodegradable' plastic, aluminum foil, cat litter or animal feces, fabric, wood, dirt, and raw meat. Also invasive weeds such as blackberries, scotch broom, poison oak and cannabis

## HOW TO COLLECT YOUR FOOD SCRAPS



Choose a container like a bowl or pail. Put it in a convenient place in the kitchen.



Collect your food scraps from meal prep, after a meal, and cleaning out the fridge. Exclude any packaging.



Place food scraps in your green cart. (Plastic bag liners or compostable bags cannot be placed in green cart.)

# Organics Recycling Q&A

## Q. When will the program start and what is preventing us from starting now?

A. The start of the program depends upon the completion of the McCourtney Road transfer station renovation project. The program is estimated to start once the transfer station project is complete in **early 2025**

## Q. What if I already compost my food waste and/or generate little to no food waste?

A. You have the option to continue composting food waste at your home or on your property. The County's program will accept additional types of organic materials, some of which are not suitable for composting in your backyard. Examples may include meat & bones and specific food waste that may attract pests. According to SB 1383, the County is obligated to collect all organic waste. Therefore, residents who have items that may not be compostable but are considered organic waste will also need organic waste collection services from the County.

## Q. How will people deal with bears getting into their carts?

A. There are many best practices that community members currently utilize to keep wildlife out of their solid waste carts. For example, keeping their carts in the garage, bringing them out early in the morning, spraying with a strong-smelling liquid such as ammonia or pine sol, etc. The only thing changing is the cart. Instead of disposing of your waste in the black waste cart, it will not be disposed of in the green Organics waste cart. Customers also have an option of purchasing a bear cart from the hardware store of 64 gallon and above. Upon purchase they will need to call Customer Service at (530) 274-3090 to set up bear cart service for a minimal fee. Starting next year, customers will be able to have WM install gravity locks in their carts for a fee. Standby for further announcements about the commencement of this option.

## Q. Won't the food waste fester and make the carts filthy?

A. One suggestion is to keep your food scraps in an indoor pail in the kitchen or freeze them in a container until garbage day. You could also layer your food waste with dry green waste alternatively. Customers currently have a variety of wet and dry green waste in their carts, and in all weathers. They would continue to employ whatever methods they use to keep their carts clean. Another important change is that the food waste/mixed organic cart will be now picked up weekly instead of every other week.

## Q. Where can I find more information?

A. Updates will be added as the program is developed. If you would like information on SB 1383 regulations and statewide resources, you can find it at Cal Recycle's website: <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/>

Unincorporated Nevada County Information: [NevadacountyCa.Gov/SolidWaste](http://NevadacountyCa.Gov/SolidWaste)

Grass Valley Information: [Cityofgrassvalley.com/post/sb-1383-recycling-organic-waste](http://Cityofgrassvalley.com/post/sb-1383-recycling-organic-waste)

Nevada City Information: [Nevadacityca.gov/pview.aspx?id=20771&catid=562](http://Nevadacityca.gov/pview.aspx?id=20771&catid=562)

## McCourtney Rd. Transfer Station Renovation Project

Nevada County's Solid Waste Division is modernizing the McCourtney Road Transfer Station (MRTS) to serve the community better. The McCourtney Road Transfer Station (MRTS) provides solid waste and recycling services for the communities of Grass Valley, Nevada City, and the unincorporated areas of western Nevada County, California. Proposed improvements will address current facility challenges and future operations to accommodate growth leading to increased materials received, and customers served.

### Improvements Include:

- Building a new Public Receiving Area (PRA) building to provide more unloading bays and improve unloading facility capacity and efficiency
- Adding a new access road and entrance scale facilities to reduce arrival wait time and traffic delays
- Improving site circulation to provide easier access to the household hazardous waste (HHW) and recyclables buy-back areas
- Rearranging the site to provide easier access for green waste unloading and construction demolition debris unloading
- Repurpose the existing Public Receiving Area (PRA) for organic waste (food waste) to meet the requirements of SB1383



Scan code to visit the  
McCourtney Road  
Transfer Station  
Project website for  
more info.