



ORGANIC RECYCLING GUIDE



Additional Resources:

Commercial Recycling Info:
calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial

Organics Recycling information:
calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/

Organics:
calrecycle.ca.gov/RecycleOrganics/

Edible Food Recovery:
calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/foodrecovery

Home Composting:
calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/homecompost/

Community Composting:
[calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/compost mulch/ community](http://calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/compost%20mulch/community)

Composting Regulations:
[calrecycle.ca.gov/swfacilities/permitting/ facilitytype/compost](http://calrecycle.ca.gov/swfacilities/permitting/facilitytype/compost)

Short-Lived Climate Pollutants
calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp

CONTACT US

For additional questions:

Recycling: Nevada County
Solid Waste

Email: solidwaste@nevadacountyca.gov
or call (530) 265-7111

Composting: Nevada County
Environmental Health

Email: env.health@nevadacountyca.gov
or call (530) 265-1222, Option 3

Permitting tiers for non-excluded composting activities **:

Excluded Tier	Enforcement Agency Notification Tier	Registration Permit Tier	Full Solid Waste Facility Permit
Refer to 14 CCR §17855	Agricultural Material Composting Operations (all) 14 CCR §17856 Green Material Composting Operations (<12,500 yd3) 14 CCR §17857.1(a) Biosolids Composting Operations at POTWs (all) 14 CCR §17859.12 Research Composting Operations (<5,000yd3) (Within-vessel >5,000 yd3 with EA determination) 14 CCR §17862 Chipping and Grinding Operation (<200 tpd) 14 CCR §17862.1(a)	Vegetative Food Material Composting Facilities (<12,500 yd3) Chipping and Grinding Facilities (<200 tpd and <500 yd3) 14 CCR §17862.1(b)	Composting Facilities (all) (e.g. biosolids, digestate, food material, mixed material) 14 CCR §17854 Green Material Composting Facilities (>12,500 yd3) 14 CCR §17857.1(c) Vegetative Food Material Composting Facilities (>12,500 yd3) 14 CCR §17857.2 Chipping and Grinding Facilities (>500 tpd) 14 CCR §17862.1(c)

Source: <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/swfacilities/permitting/facilitytype/compost>

** CalRecycle regulations prohibit the composting of unprocessed mammalian tissue (except in the case of an authorized research project) because of public health and safety concerns associated with mammalian tissue.

Why Do We Need Organics Recycling?

An important part of California's efforts to protect the environment is to increase the diversion of organic materials away from landfills and toward the production of value-added products such as compost, fertilizers, and biofuels. Compost, made from a mixture of food and yard wastes that have been fully decomposed, can fertilize and condition soil.

Compost is a key to healthy soil, and healthy soil is critical to reducing carbon in the air. Keeping recyclable and compostable materials out of the garbage is an excellent first step toward cost savings and improved operational efficiency.

MORE: Mandatory Organics Recycling (AB 1826)

Businesses, including schools and public entities that generate 2 cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week (total for trash, recycling and organics), shall arrange for organic waste recycling services.

SLCP: Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SB 1383)

By January 1, 2022, jurisdictions are required to adopt enforceable ordinance(s), or similarly enforceable mechanisms to mandate that organic waste generators, haulers, and other entities are in compliance with the requirements of SB1383, by subscribing to and complying with the requirements of the organic waste collection service provided by their jurisdiction, properly recycling organic waste on-site (e.g. home composting) or Self-hauling organic waste to a legally permitted facility.

Edible Food Recovery

Beginning in 2022, food service businesses will also be required to donate edible food to food recovery organizations (SB 1383).



Educating & Involving Customers to Achieve Recycling Goals

- Effective July 1, 2020, MORE-covered businesses must provide organics and recycling containers at the front-of-house to collect waste generated from products purchased and consumed on the premises (AB 827, McCarty, Chapter 441, Statutes of 2019). These containers must be placed adjacent to trash containers and be visible, easily accessible, and clearly marked. This law targets businesses that sell products meant for immediate consumption. Full-service restaurants do not have to provide containers for patrons but must provide containers for employees to separate post-consumer recyclables and organics for customers. Please contact your city/county or hauler for more information and for signage. Model signage is available at calrecycle.ca.gov. Search for "Education/Outreach Toolkit".
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How should Composting be done in Nevada County?

Composting practices should be done in a way that:

- Prevents "vectors" - potential disease-carrying animals and insects, such as rats, mice, flies, and mosquitoes;
- Prevents health and safety threats and nuisances, such as fires, odors, dust, animal/insect attractants; and
- Prevents litter and water contamination.

A permit through Nevada County Environmental Health, Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) is not required for the following composting activities*:

- Composting any combination of green material, agricultural material, and/or food material if the total amount of feedstock and compost on-site at any one time does not exceed 100 cubic yards and 750 square feet. Composting on designated agricultural property if the materials are generated at the site and if the compost is returned back to the site. Agricultural sites can sell or give away up to 1000 cubic yards of compost product annually. Composting materials are handled in such a way to prevent their reaching temperatures at or above 122 degrees Fahrenheit. Storing bagged compostable material products, if bags are no greater than 5 cubic yards.
- Chipping and grinding of materials derived from the site of operation, which are applied to lands owned or leased by the owner of the site of the chip and grind operation. A publicly designated site for the storage of yard trimmings for the collection of lot cleaning necessary for fire protection provided that the public agency designating the site has notified the fire protection agency and no chipping and grinding is occurring.



*Please note pertaining regulations from other agencies, local regulations, and private community regulations must be met. Falling under an excluded activity does not preclude the LEA from inspecting the site to verify that the activity is being conducted in a manner that qualifies as an excluded activity or from taking any appropriate enforcement action.