



Reduce Reuse Rethink

Burbank Recycle
Center Newsletter

Introducing Burbank's Food Recycling Collection

Food Is NOT Trash

Food scraps and other organic waste are valuable resources that are now being recycled in Burbank in the green container



California Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), the Short-lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Act, is a statewide effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting organic material from landfill by 75% by 2025.

Over a third of the waste entering California's landfills is made up of organic matter, such as food scraps and other plant-based items. When buried in a landfill, this material releases methane gas, a harmful greenhouse gas more potent and shorter-lived than carbon dioxide. Reducing methane is a powerful action in fighting the climate crisis.

SB 1383 requires businesses and residents statewide to separate their food scraps and other organic waste, like landscape debris and food-soiled paper, from the trash. This material must go in the green (organics) containers to be recycled into compost to make soil nutrients or to create renewable energy through an anaerobic digester that captures the methane gas.

Nature, the Original Recycler

Put simply, "If it grows, it goes," meaning organic wastes are natural materials that can be absorbed back into nature to benefit the environment and its inhabitants. Wasting this resource in landfills, especially food, has caused harm that now will be corrected through implementation of State law SB 1383.

Residents served through the City of Burbank's curbside cart pro-

gram will place food scraps in the organics (green) container **loose or in an unlined paper bag** with yard trimmings and other organic items.

The City of Burbank is recycling this material at the same industrial composting facility where we take our landscape trimmings. A wide variety of organic materials are accepted (see "Organics" graphic at right). However, this facility does require that materials be free of plastics (including those marked "compostable") and other contaminants that affect compost quality. High-quality compost enriches the soil without introducing microplastic litter.

To download a copy of this Organics sign (also available in Spanish and Armenian), go to: Burbankca.gov/web/public-works/residential-recycling.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 40
GARDENA, CA
ECRWSS

Postal Patron

Know your hauler's rules!

Programs where food scraps will be used to make renewable energy may require that food be contained in plastic bags. Check with your solid waste hauler or property manager to learn more about the requirements of your program.

Burbank Recycle Center
500 South Flower St.
Burbank, CA 91502

ORGANICS

No Plastics

YARD & TRIMMINGS No Treated Wood	ALL FOOD Meat & Dairy too	SOILED PAPER Food-soiled & Non-coated

NO

ALL PLASTICS INCLUDING COMPOSTABLE	PET WASTE	PLASTIC-LINED PAPER	CLOTH & RUGS	

When in doubt, find out!

Where it
GOES

Check WhereItGoes.burbankca.gov for the most up-to-date information on accepted organics and to answer your disposal questions.



Three Streams Required

SB 1383 also aims to clear up resident confusion, reduce contamination and provide access for everyone by requiring that all residents and businesses (unless granted a waiver) have a separate container for each stream with specific colors consistent throughout the state. This is also part of the new Burbank Municipal Code (Title 4, chapter 2) adopted in April 2022.

Black (or grey) = trash **Green = organics** **Blue = recycling**



SB 1383 Business and Multi-Family Requirements

Food scraps and landscape clippings (organics) are not allowed in the trash under SB 1383 and the new Burbank Municipal Code (Title 4, Chapter 2, April 15, 2022). All businesses and multi-family dwellings (5+ units) are required to arrange for regular collection service of source-separated trash, recycling and organics through the City of Burbank Solid Waste Collections or an Authorized Solid Waste Hauler. To learn more about SB 1383 requirements, go to: Burbankca.gov/web/public-works/sb1383-business-requirements.

SEPARATE STREAMS
Provide and make accessible 3 separate containers in compliant colors for recycling, organics and trash in all collection areas (indoors and outdoors).

PREVENT CONTAMINATION
Clear signage and instructions on containers to help educate how to properly sort to reduce contaminating streams. Monitor contamination, provide feedback and corrective actions.

ANNUAL EDUCATION
Reinforce programs by providing education to employees, tenants, contractors and customers about proper sorting.

MULTI-FAMILY (5+ units)
Additional requirements: Property managers or owners must provide outreach to new tenants within 14 days of occupation of the premises.

CONTACT YOUR HAULER:
Waste haulers will provide compliance guidance, as well as recommend how to "right size" containers and service levels. For a list of Burbank permitted haulers go to: bit.ly/3Jytjaj

Free Food Scrap Collection Pail

Residents and businesses served by City of Burbank collection must put food scraps into the green organics cart loose or in an unlined paper bag. To make it easier to store food scraps and keep them out of the kitchen trash, Burbank residents can pick up a pail that can be stored on a countertop. The pail is then emptied into the green cart on collection day.

Apartments serviced by private haulers may have a program that requires residents to collect food scraps in plastic bags. Please check with your property management office for instructions on your program.

Pick up your free food scrap collection pail at:

Burbank Recycle Center Office
500 S. Flower Street
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Burbank Water and Power
164 W. Magnolia Blvd.
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Go to BurbankRecycle.org to learn where the next food scrap pail distribution event will be.

Burbank ID required; limit of one pail per household.

Pro Tip: Putting a layer of landscape clippings or plastic-free cardboard can help keep the green organics cart cleaner.

Get the Food Is NOT Trash Guide

Every pail includes this helpful guide that will walk you through the new organics collection program and answer many of your questions. Available online in English, Spanish and Armenian at Burbankca.gov/web/public-works/food-scrap-pail.

WAIVERS

The City is issuing waivers from required organics or recycling services for businesses that don't produce enough organic waste or find other ways to divert organic waste from the landfill. Exemptions may also be issued if the City considers a business to have space constraints.

To learn more about waiver eligibility and requirements, go to Burbankca.gov/web/public-works/waivers. If you have questions, contact the Burbank Recycle Center at 818-238-3900 or zerowaste@burbankca.gov.

Feed People, Not Landfills

Millions of pounds of edible food are thrown away each year, while nearly 20% of Los Angeles County residents deal with food insecurity. Rescuing surplus food that is suitable for human consumption before it becomes waste puts healthy food on hungry people's plates. Under SB 1383, large food-related businesses are required to donate the maximum amount of edible food that would have otherwise been disposed. Mandated businesses have been identified by the law and will need to have signed donation agreements with one or more local non-profit recipients to ensure edible food is recovered.

Attention Non-Profits: If your organization could benefit from becoming a recipient of edible food, please email zerowaste@burbankca.gov.

Cut City Trees Go from Logs to Lumber

City trees provide a vital urban canopy that offers shade, wildlife habitat and an important aesthetic that defines a community. Every year, several hundred trees are cut down in the City of Burbank, destined to be ground up at great expense to the City. What if many of them could keep their value at the end of their lives by being milled into high-quality, locally sourced wood products? This is the goal of a new “logs to lumber” urban wood reuse pilot program.



Through the Logs to Lumber program, mature felled trees collected at the City of Burbank Landfill now go to Angel City and are turned into beautiful and functional items like furniture, fireplace mantels or cutting boards.

Leaders from the City of Burbank and local advocates worked with Los Angeles-based Angel City Lumber to begin recovering quality Burbank logs for their milling operations. This effort reduces waste and ensures the trees achieve a better use as lumber. Some wood may even supply the City of Burbank with lumber for future City projects, such as a high-quality walnut tree removed for a bike path expansion that will become a new public bench.

Angel City Sees Value in Urban Lumber



City of Burbank’s Landfill Supervisor, Curtis Jordan (right), pictured with local advocate Kreigh Hampel (left) and Angel City Lumber founder Jeff Perry (center) is excited to see the goal of a “logs to lumber” program become a reality. “The cost savings to the City is important, of course, but reusing these unbelievable natural resources for more generations to enjoy is priceless.”

A decade ago, Jeff Perry was a woodworker who noticed a large Coast Live Oak fallen in a park. He saw an opportunity to create furniture from locally sourced lumber. But because it was publicly owned land, he wasn’t allowed to harvest the wood. Jeff found it a shame to prioritize the lumber of trees from far away while we discard our local trees that can produce wood of equal quality. This epiphany led him to research how to save more urban wood and start a business, Angel City Lumber. He began working with private tree services and other businesses, but he knew there was huge potential in working with cities to alleviate the disposal burden they face in dealing with tree waste daily.

Over time, Jeff began working with city forestry departments, leading to a dependable supply of locally sourced lumber. Because many local species are less well-known for woodwork, Angel City also created a database of ideas for the design and architectural community. The results are unique and high-value products with a story to tell.

Sustainable Leadership

Meet Amber Duran

Burbank Recycle Center’s Recycling Coordinator Amber Duran is leading the path toward the City’s goals for waste reduction, including the new food scrap collection program. Having previously worked as an environmental consultant for SCS Engineers specializing in Sustainable Materials Management practices and planning, Duran joined the City in August 2021 and spearheaded SB 1383 planning to reduce and divert organic waste from the City’s landfill.



Despite the various mandates, Duran sees these as opportunities for the City, businesses and residents to adopt new habits and practices that create more resilient and healthy communities.

Duran’s diverse experience in environmental health, solid waste, organics and regulatory oversight has been key in helping the entire Public Works Solid Waste Division navigate the complexity and comprehensive requirements of the new law. She has spent the past year arranging collaborations with various partners and lent her expertise and insight for the design

and launch of the new organics collection program. Additional State requirements involved creating a local SB 1383 ordinance (adopted in April 2022) and research to prepare for edible food donation requirements from qualifying businesses, such as grocery stores.

Her “day” job also includes overseeing Burbank’s materials recovery facility and the electronics and used motor oil recycling programs.

Treated Lumber Is NOT Organic Waste

The City’s organics collection has been very contaminated with treated wood, and staff have been working hard to remove these harmful materials. Treated wood waste is wood that has been treated with chemical preservatives to protect it from insects and decay while in use as fence posts, landscape timbers and railroad ties. Coated wood with stain or paint, such as furniture or construction debris, is also not clean wood for organics recycling. These materials should never go in the organics collection because the chemicals they contain can leach out of the wood and contaminate stormwater and groundwater. **The only wood that is accepted for organics recycling is untreated, such as branches, twigs and wood shavings.**

Street Trash Is Gutter Chaos

Stormwater pollution heads straight to waterways. Unlike the sewer system, which carries wastewater (sewage) to a treatment plant, stormwater isn’t treated and instead goes into a catch basin, taking any debris in the street with it. The polluted stormwater then moves through underground pipes and eventually flows directly into rivers and the ocean.

Your gardener plays an important role in preventing stormwater pollution. Make sure storm drains located at your property are free of trash and organic materials. Please instruct your gardener that it’s illegal to blow yard material into the street, especially near storm drains. Blower waste and any other green waste contaminated with litter should go into the black trash cart.

If you see anyone washing materials such as soil, paint, lawn clippings or rocks into the gutters and storm drains, please email zerowaste@burbankca.gov.



“Upon Request” Expansion

You’re probably familiar with California’s “Upon Request” policy for plastic straws and glasses of water at sit-down restaurants. To further reduce plastic waste pollution, especially litter, recently passed Assembly Bill (AB) 1267 is expanding the upon request policy to include single-use plastic items like utensils, stirrers and condiment packaging for both takeout and delivery. Not only will this law help reduce unnecessary single-use plastic waste and steer a new consumer mindset, but it will also help restaurants cut costs. So, please reduce by refusing items that you don’t need and remind restaurants that fall back into old habits of putting handfuls of condiments in your takeout order to “Skip the Stuff.”



Credit: design56 | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Our Burbank 311 App



Now there is an easier way to reach a City department, even after hours, and it’s right at your fingertips with the City of Burbank’s new mobile app, Our Burbank 311. Press “Create New Request” to schedule a bulky item pickup, report graffiti, request street services and more. Your order is sent straight to the appropriate department.

The free Our Burbank 311 app is available on both the Apple iTunes Store and the Google Play Store and on the web at 311.burbankca.gov.

Recycling News

Clear #1 Clamshell Containers Now Accepted in Recycling

Due to increased demand from manufacturers seeking recycled content for their packaging, clamshells and clear plastic foodware are now allowed in the City of Burbank’s blue recycling carts!

Accepted Clamshells (empty and clean)

- CLEAR #1 plastic (PET)
- #5 plastic (PP)

Unacceptable Clamshells

These items are NOT accepted for recycling and are trash:

- Black containers
- #6 PS (polystyrene)
- Compostable or bioplastics (These are not recyclable nor compatible with commercial composting.)



Credit: Dzmityry Ryshtchuk | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Pizza Boxes

Blue and Green Cart Options

Clean pizza boxes are now accepted for recycling. Use your judgment on the condition but be sure to put sections that are very greasy or have excess baked-on food into the green cart. You can also use them to help line the green cart for food scrap collection to keep it cleaner. Of course, pizza boxes are also great in a home compost bin or as weed barriers in landscapes.



Credit: Pross | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Outdoor Watering is now 1 DAY/WEEK



From November 1st to March 31st, outdoor watering in Burbank is allowed:

Saturdays
Before 9 am or after 6 pm
15 minutes per irrigation station

STAGE III Watering Schedule

November - March						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
X	X	X	X	X	X	Water Drop



Attended hand watering is allowed any day before 9 am or after 6 pm.



No outdoor evaporative cooling devices, such as misters.



Low flow irrigation is allowed on watering days, they are exempt from the 15-minute rule.



Pools must be covered to decrease water evaporation. Visit bit.ly/pool-cover-credit for bill credit information.

Buyer, Be Aware

New Mattress Delivery Means Free Pickup of Old Mattress

If you are in the market for a new mattress and concerned about recycling your old one, you should be aware of a mandated statewide recycling program, called Bye Bye Mattress. Retailers and online merchants that provide free delivery MUST offer to take back your old mattress for free. This includes online purchases, even if it is not clear on their website.

The customer is charged a “recycling” fee of \$10.50 at the point of sale, which helps cover the cost of retrieving and recycling the old mattress to support the recycling program. And don’t be confused to think old mattress pickup is only a service included with a premium fee for new mattress setup — mattress recycling removal and transport services are already included with the recycling fee.



Credit: dreamsquare | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Please request pickup of your old mattress during the purchase and delivery scheduling process. Even if it hasn’t been clearly offered, it’s the LAW. Before scheduling bulky item service with the City, check to see whether your retailer was supposed to pick up your old mattress. To learn more, visit Byebyemattress.com/programs-by-state/california.

Smart Gardening Compost Workshops

The Burbank Recycle Center is discontinuing the Zoom composting workshops and compost bin giveaways. Instead, we are partnering with Los Angeles County’s Smart Gardening program. This program includes in-person workshops and webinars, as well as discount backyard composting units, including worm bins. The Smart Gardening program covers a wide array of topics including composting, water-wise gardening, organic gardening and small-space gardening. For more information or to view the calendar for upcoming workshops, go to: SmartGardening.com.



Public Works Customer Service

Public Works Field Services:
818-238-3800
Distribution and collection of trash, organics and recycling bins and carts

Bulky Item Pickup:
818-238-3800

To request pickup of oversized furniture and appliances only



Facebook.com/BurbankRecycle

Burbank Recycle Center

Recycling drop-off, electronics collection, bottle and can drop-off, composting information

500 South Flower Street, 91502
818-238-3900



For information on disposal:
BurbankRecycle.org
Whereitgoes.Burbankca.gov



Instagram.com/BurbankRecycle