

# Commercial Services Guide

## Fines to Businesses for Lack of Compost and Recycle Service Started January 2023



Under State law SB 1383, Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 8.28, and the local Organics Reduction and Recycling Ordinance, all businesses, nonprofits, institutions, schools, and multifamily properties in Oakland are required to have compost and recycle collection service. The law went into effect January 1, 2022 and fines for lack of service started January 2023. If your business fails to establish compost and recycle collection or get an approved waiver, StopWaste, the Alameda County public agency working on behalf of the City of Oakland to enforce the law, will issue citations for non-compliance. Starting fines range from \$50 to \$100, depending on the size of a site's trash service and will increase every 60 days up to \$500 if a site continues to not have the required service.

### Actions to comply with SB 1383 and avoid fines:

- Sign up for compost and recycle service by visiting [oaklandrecycles.com/services/business/](https://oaklandrecycles.com/services/business/).
- Apply for a minimal generation waiver at <https://portal.stopwaste.org/waiver> if your business generates a very small volume (less than 10 or 20 gallons a week) of compostable or recyclable material.

The purpose of the law is to reduce the amount of food and other compostable materials sent to landfills where they break down and release methane, a harmful greenhouse gas and leading cause of climate change. In addition to the collection service requirement for compostable and recyclable materials, sites must set up color-coded and labeled indoor bins, and sort materials correctly. Some food generating sites must also recover and donate any surplus edible food to feed people.

To learn more about the requirements, find free resources, and request free support, visit [www.StopWaste.org/rules](https://www.StopWaste.org/rules) or call 510-891-6575 and leave a message for a call back.



**Compost and Trash Collection**  
 Waste Management of Alameda  
 County, Inc.: (510) 613-8700



### Recycling Collection

Please visit [Oaklandrecycles.com/services/business](https://oaklandrecycles.com/services/business) to view a list of available recycling service providers.

## MYTH

**My small business does not generate enough compostable materials like food scraps or food-soiled paper to need compost service.**

## FACT

**All businesses, even those that don't sell, prepare or manufacture food, need compost service.**

Examples of compost items are coffee grounds and filters, and food scraps and food-soiled paper from employees. You can even compost paper towels.

Employee break areas, or anywhere employees are eating, and bathrooms are a great opportunity to capture and divert these organic materials from the landfill. Paper towels and napkins are not recyclable. Compost them!

Local and State regulations require all businesses to compost their food scraps, food-soiled paper and plant debris and recycle all of their paper, cardboard, bottles and cans to slow the impacts of climate change.

Food scraps, paper, and plant debris decomposing in landfills release 20% of climate change causing emissions in California. Composting these items results in finished compost without the emissions.



## Get the Support You Need

**Waste Management of Alameda County, Inc., the City of Oakland, and StopWaste provide tools and support to help your business comply with all city, county and state recycling laws.**

- Sorting signage and stickers to assist your employees and customers in recycling right.
- Free indoor bins (a value of \$500 per approved site) are available to qualifying Alameda County businesses for compost collection. To apply visit <https://portal.stopwaste.org/freebins>.
- On-site technical support to assess what level of service for compost, recycle, and trash matches your needs.
- On-site or virtual recycle trainings.

For more details, visit [oaklandrecycles.com/services/business/](https://oaklandrecycles.com/services/business/), [stopwaste.org/rules/resources/](https://stopwaste.org/rules/resources/), or contact WMAC at [oaklandoutreach@wm.com](mailto:oaklandoutreach@wm.com)

