



Nevada County Food Waste Collection Program

Q. Why is Nevada County adopting food waste collection?

A. Nevada County is implementing food waste collection in response to Senate Bill 1383, which came into effect in 2022. This legislation requires all California residents and businesses to sort and recycle food waste, food-soiled paper, and yard trimmings. The goal is to divert these materials from landfills and reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants that contribute to climate change.

Q. When the food waste collection program will start?

A. The food waste collection program will launch alongside the completion of the McCourtney Road Transfer Station, which is expected to be finished by December 2024. Nevada County residents and businesses can anticipate the roll-out of food waste collection by January 2025.

Q. What should residents expect?

A. Residents who already have green carts for yard waste will be able to add food scraps and food-soiled paper to the same cart by January 2025. Customers currently subscribed to trash and recycling services will receive an organics green cart in December. By January 2025, Nevada County will fully implement the three-cart system: Black for regular waste, blue for recycling, and green for food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard debris.

Q. What should businesses expect?

A. In December, WM commercial customers will receive a 64-gallon green waste cart to sort food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard waste. Customers can call customer service at (530) 274-3090 to request more carts or adjust their service levels. Businesses may be eligible for a waiver if they don't generate organic waste or lacks physical space for an additional waste collection bin. Please visit nevadacountyca.gov/3466/organics-recycling for more information.

Q. What if I don't want to subscribe to food waste collection?

A. Residents who do not subscribe to WM's curbside collection service are still legally required to source-separate their organic waste and take it to the McCourtney Road Transfer Station or another approved facility. If you subscribe to WM curbside collection service, starting January 2025, this bundled service will now include food waste collection.

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. However, the organics program will accept additional types of organic materials that are not suitable for composting in your backyard. These include clean wood waste, larger branches, food-soiled paper, and specific food waste that may attract pests. It is not recommended to compost these items in your backyard.

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.



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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 yard waste. Customers currently have a variety of wet and dry yard 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 organics cart will be now collected weekly instead of every other week.

Q. Will this change affect residents and businesses in the city limits?

A. Residents and businesses in the city limits should reach out to their jurisdictions directly to learn more food waste collection and this program will impact their current waste collection system. There are portions of Nevada County that are exempt from SB 1383 regulations. Residents of the unincorporated areas of Western Nevada County and who are part of a neighborhood pickup location (community stop), may have the option to opt in or out of the 3-bin service depending on space availability.

Q. Are there exemptions for businesses that don't generate enough food waste?

A. For businesses that don't generate enough food waste or have circumstances that prevent meeting recycling requirements, a waiver may be requested. Options are available at nevadacountyca.gov/3466/organics-recycling.

Q. How can I receive updates and service alerts?

A. Nevada County and WM may provide updates via mail, phone, text, or email. Please ensure that your contact information, such as your preferred phone number, email, and physical address, is up to date at wm.com/account.

Q. How can I get more information?

A. You can find information about SB 1383 at calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/. Nevada County residents can also get updates about the food waste collection program at nevadacountyca.gov/3466/organics-recycling. Sorting education, service tracker, and other resources are also available at home.wm.com/nevada-county.