

COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE PROGRAM

California's AB 1826 and SB 1383 require businesses that generate food waste to separate it from your trash and recyclables.

South Tahoe Refuse provides waste evaluations to help determine whether these requirements apply to you. If they do, STR also provides materials, signage, and employee training as well as a separate food waste dumpster and weekly pickup. All of the food waste is transported to Full Circle Compost in the Carson Valley to be turned into compost. If your business has very minimal amounts of food waste, you may qualify to drop it off at STR for free.

Contact us for a free and simple waste evaluation, and we will guide you from there: 530-541-5105 or organics@southtahoerefuse.com.



F.A.Q.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is my business required to separate my food waste?

If you are a California business that generates over 2 cubic yards of solid waste per week, you must participate in organic waste (food scraps or yard waste) and trash collection services. There are certain circumstances that may qualify you for a waiver, however, like if you don't produce much food waste or don't have space for the additional bin:

Low-generator "de minimis" waivers are available if your business has:

- 1) Total solid waste disposal of two cubic yards or more per week, and includes food waste of less than 20 gallons per week; or
- 2) Total solid waste disposal of less than two cubic yards per week, and includes food waste of less than 10 gallons per week.

Waiver applications and instructions can be found at:

https://southtahoerefuse.com/resources/sb_1383/guides/

Space waivers are available if your business:

Lacks space for separate or additional food waste collection containers. To qualify, you must demonstrate that space constraints cannot be resolved by downsizing existing containers and you must first work with STR to consider solutions - contact the Organics Team regarding your situation and a staff member will schedule a time to meet with you: 530-542-8336 or organics@southtahoerefuse.com.



Waiver applications and instructions can be found at:
https://southtahoerefuse.com/resources/sb_1383/guides/

How do I know how much food waste my business generates?

South Tahoe Refuse staff will work with you to estimate your food waste levels if you're unsure. In fact, we are required to visit your location for an evaluation if you might want to apply for a "de minimis" waiver.

Didn't the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County receive waivers for food waste requirements?

Our local jurisdiction service areas did receive an SB 1383 "high elevation" waiver from collecting curbside food waste. However, California AB 1826 (2014) has similar organic separation requirements and does not have exemptions for high elevation communities.

How does the program work?

If you generate more than 20 gallons of food waste per week, STR will provide you with a separate food waste dumpster that will be collected and emptied each week. If you produce less than 20 gallons each week, you can bring it to our facility at no charge. Details on the drop-off option can be found at

<https://southtahoerefuse.com/resources/food-waste/>

STR staff will provide signage, materials, and a quick training to you and your staff. It's a simple program and we're here to help make it as easy as possible.

Once my business begins separating our food waste, will fruits and vegetables be the only appropriate food scraps for the food waste bin?

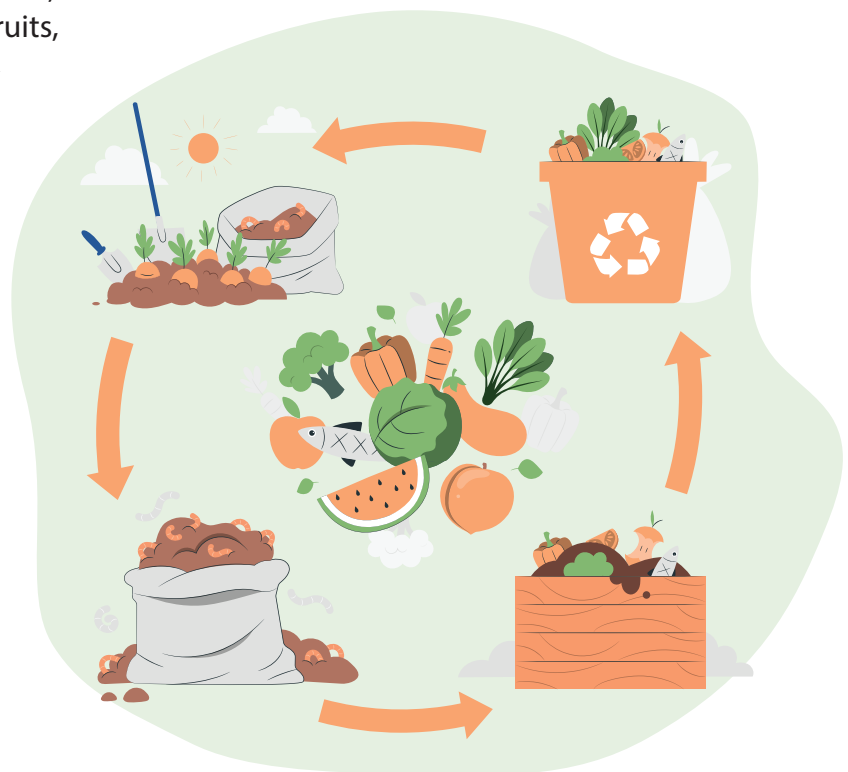
All food scraps can be composted including: all surplus, spoiled or unsold food such as, but not limited to, fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, seafood, shellfish, bones, rice, beans, pasta, bread, cheese, and.

Only food waste goes into the bin—no bags, stickers, paper, containers, or foodservice ware of any kind.

For more information about SB 1383 & AB 1826 please visit:

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/orgaincs/slcp> and
<https://calrecycle.ca.gov/recycle/commercial/organics/>

For an evaluation or to begin food waste collection service, contact STR at
530-542-8336 or
organics@southtahoerefuse.com



2140 Ruth Avenue
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150



(530) 541-5105



organics@southtahoerefuse.com