



RIDGECREST, CA

Q: What is SB 1383?

Senate Bill 1383 is a CA state law that requires local jurisdictions to provide sanitation services to all residents and businesses, including collection services for solid waste, recycling, and organic materials. CalRecycle is the state agency responsible for overseeing the implementation and enforcement of SB1383 regulations.

Q: Why doesn't the City refuse to comply with SB 1383 regulations?

Beginning in January 2022 the City would be fined by CalRecycle for every violation under SB 1383 (and there are a lot of regulations). This is why the City filed for the Notice of Intent to Comply - to allow more time to educate citizens and implement the program before jurisdiction fines are incurred.

Q: So now I'm required to have an additional organics bin? Why?

Yes - beginning the week of January 9, 2023, WM will begin collecting 3-streams of waste, including the new organics bins. This is to reduce the organic material that is landfilled - according to CalRecycle, organics account for 50% of landfilled waste. As organic materials decompose, methane is released. Methane is classified as a short-lived climate super-pollutant, 80x more potent than carbon dioxide.

Q: What materials will be accepted in each bin?

Sorting guide magnets are available to Ridgecrest residents upon request from City Hall. Collection services will include the following waste streams:

- Organics (green lid): grass/leaves/tree clippings, coffee filters, tea bags, food-soiled paper products, all food (dairy, meat, bones, shells)
- Recycle (blue lid): paper and cardstock, cardboard, rinsed plastic/aluminum/tin containers, recyclable packaging
- Trash (black lid): non-recyclable packaging (Styrofoam, saran wrap, etc.), waxed paper products, sanitary/hygienic napkins, diapers, pet waste



Trash



Recycling



Organics



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SB 1383



UPDATED: DECEMBER 13, 2022

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Q: Doesn't all the material end up in the same place anyway - what's the point?

No – this is why proper sorting is so important to reduce contamination of material streams. Recycling and organic materials are separated from the solid waste that is landfilled. The recycling is transferred to Pearson's recycling. Organics will be transferred to Mt. Vernon composting facility. By reducing the amount of material that is landfilled, the life of the landfill is extended (prolonging the need for an expensive new landfill) and there are various environmental benefits including better water quality and reduction in the potent greenhouse gas methane.

Q: I already have other ways to dispose of organic materials (i.e. landscaping service, self-haul, at home composting, garbage disposal) - why am I required to subscribe to WM service?

SB 1383 requires that jurisdictions provide organic waste collection services to all single-family and multifamily residences of all sizes and business that generate organic waste. Alternative means of disposal will be allowed to supplement collection, however per SB 1383 regulations, the jurisdiction must automatically provide collection service to all organic waste generators. The City of Ridgecrest contracts with WM to provide the required sanitation services, which is why residents and businesses within City limits will now have mandatory collection services with WM.

Q: What services are included under the new WM contract?

In addition to collection, monitoring, and reporting services for organics, recycling, & trash, WM provides the following services for residential customers at no additional charge:

- On-property service for elderly and/or disabled residents
- Bulky item collection for residents including multi-family properties (3 times per year)
- Sharps mail-back program
- Holiday tree collection
- Household hazardous waste collection at the Kern County Special Waste Facility, Ridgecrest landfill (2nd and 4th Saturday of the month).



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Q: How much will this cost me? Are there ways to reduce my bill?

For residential customers the cost will be dependent on the size of the trash container – this is called ‘right sizing’ and it means that the cost of service will be based on the amount of material that is being landfilled. Smaller trash bin sizes are available at a lower cost for households that do not generate large quantities of waste (i.e. senior citizens, one-person households, etc.). An additional recycling and/or organics bin can be requested free of charge. See the table below for more information regarding monthly residential rates for different size options.

Residential Service Rates	Monthly Rate (2021-2022)	New Monthly Rate (2022-2023)	Difference
35-gallon trash service	\$15.32	\$20.23	\$4.91
65-gallon trash service	\$17.25	\$22.79	\$5.54
95-gallon trash service	\$19.15	\$25.29	\$6.14
Additional 95-gallon trash cart	\$8.97	\$11.84	\$2.87
Every other week Recycling service (up to two carts)	INCLUDED	INCLUDED	-
Weekly Organics service (coming 2023)	-	INCLUDED	-
Additional Recycling or Organics cart (3 or more carts)	\$8.97	\$11.84	\$2.87
On Property Service (except Seniors or Disabled)	\$35.55	\$46.96	\$11.41



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Q: When do these new rates go into effect? Why?

The new rates went into effect in July 2022 and cover the cost of the materials that WM will be procuring to prepare for the new collection program implementation in January 2023. The rates can be thought of in two parts: the first part is to cover the cost of equipment (carts, bins, and trucks). Even though this is a “one-time cost” for purchasing each piece of equipment, WM is putting the money in up front, and will be paid back, through the rates, over the length of the contract, which is ten years starting July 2022. By starting the increase in July, WM was able to order all of the necessary equipment (e.g. trucks, containers, etc.) at the July 2022 price avoiding the inflation that will be included in the January 2023 price. This also ensures that all new containers can be distributed to the community on time for the collection program to begin in January. The term length of the agreement was specifically chosen to align with the useful life of the assets to enhance rate stability and equity. The second part is, as noted, is to cover on-going costs for collection (both current collection services for trash and recycling, and future organics collection).

Q: What is the City doing to reduce rate impacts to residents and/or businesses?

In an effort to reduce rates to customers, the City negotiated a bi-weekly collection frequency schedule with our Local Enforcement Agency to allow solid waste and recycling to be collected every other week with the implementation of weekly organics collection. This reduced the proposed rate increase to residential customers by 32%. Furthermore, the City worked with WM to develop a cart transition schedule to re-lid existing carts for color compliance rather than replacing existing inventory for additional savings. WM offers an option for a 35-gallon trash cart service at a reduced rate for those that do not generate a significant amount of waste. WM offers ‘on-property service’ free of charge for seniors/disabled residents.



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Q: What's the deal with the new bi-weekly collection frequency? Isn't the organic material collection going to create public health concerns (i.e. odors, pests, etc.)?

The City worked with WM and the Local Enforcement Agency to address any potential health hazards that may arise from bi-weekly collection of solid waste. The majority of putrescible waste will be collected as 'organic' material on the same weekly frequency as current solid waste collection. The City also gained approval from Kern County Public Works to accept compostable bags in the organic bins to help reduce lingering odors/residue from food waste. For those that may have above-average volumes of solid waste - additional bins are available from WM. For residents that generate large quantities of diapers or pet waste, a twelve-month pilot program will be implemented to provide an additional drop-off facility for these materials. This program will include a diaper drop-off bin located at WM's corporation yard to collect nuisance non-organic solid waste in conjunction with the every-other-week solid waste and recyclable materials collection.

Q: I don't want to pay for a service that I don't want and/or need - what if I refuse WM service?

As of January 2023, opting out of WM service is no longer an option for Ridgecrest residents. A commercial business may be eligible for a waiver (de minimis, space constraint) if specific criteria are met per SB 1383 regulations. Unfortunately, CalRecycle does not allow jurisdictions to issue residential waivers. If service is not set up, automatic enrollment will occur and billing will commence. Remember, costs can be reduced by rightsizing your trash cart. To set up or modify service with WM, contact Customer Service at (760) 463-6024.

Q: How will the City be enforcing these regulations?

Local jurisdictions are required to begin enforcement in January 2024. The City of Ridgecrest will focus on addressing violations with additional outreach and education to reach compliance. If violations are egregious and/or continuous, the City does have the ability to levy administrative citations. However, the City is committed to working with residents and businesses to address issues prior to levying fines whenever feasible.



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Q: What's going on with the community recycling bins on Ridgecrest Blvd?

The community recycling bins on Ridgecrest Blvd. have proven challenging to maintain and service due to overuse and illegal dumping. For this reason, the bins will be moved to WM Corporation Yard [237 San Bernardino Blvd. (County Line Rd.), Ridgecrest, CA 93555] beginning January 2023. Information will be provided at the current site to inform citizens of the relocation. The recycling bin will be available to accept recyclable materials over the weekend and will start empty on Saturday mornings. WM will work on providing a second recycling bin to accommodate additional recycling generated during the holiday season.

Q: Will compost be available to citizens as part of this change?

The City is working with Kern County Public Works to arrange procurement of organic material in the form of compost that will be made available to residents through free compost giveaway events. More information to follow.

Q: What if my address is outside City limits? Will SB 1383 affect me?

Yes - for those outside City jurisdiction, Kern County Public Works is responsible for implementing programs to comply with SB 1383. For more information, contact Kern County Public Works Department - Waste Operations Division at (661) 862-5100 or <https://kernpublicworks.com/contact-us/>.

Q: Who should I contact with questions or concerns regarding this program?

Where can I find more information?

For policy questions, contact Megan McKenzie at mmckenzie@ridgecrest-ca.gov. For logistical questions, contact WM representative Ashley Sparks at acrowsp@wm.com. More information and resources can be found at the City's website at www.ridgecrest-ca.gov/waste or the CalRecycle website at <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/>.



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