

Eastern Kern Universal Collection Area

2026 Summer Commercial Business Waste and Recycling Newsletter



Hello From WM!

We're pleased to share helpful tips and resources to support your WM services. As summer brings new projects and warmer weather, this issue includes information to help you plan, manage your service, and stay informed throughout the season.

Service Overview

Businesses within the EKUCA must subscribe to recycling and organic waste collection services along with their trash collection service unless issued a waiver by the Kern County Public Works Department.

Trash Collection

Regardless of the size of your business, WM can create a customized collection program that meets your needs and protects the environment. Trash containers are available in a variety of sizes. Roll-off containers and compactor services are also available.

Recycling & Organic Waste Service Requirement

California State Senate Bill (SB) 1383 requires businesses to recycle both traditional recyclables and organic waste. This includes materials like food scraps, food waste, food soiled paper, and yard waste. To meet these requirements, your business must have recycling and organic waste collection service in place, unless a waiver has been approved by the Kern County Public Works Department. WM offers recycling and organic waste services to help you stay compliant and manage your waste more efficiently.

To get started, contact Customer Service to schedule a site visit with a WM Recycling Manager.

Holiday Schedule

Collection does not occur on the following holidays:

New Year's Day | **Memorial Day** | **Independence Day** | **Labor Day** | **Thanksgiving Day** | **Christmas Day**

When a holiday falls on a weekday, your collection will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week. If a holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday, there will be no delay in service.



business.wm.com/kern-county

Organics Recycling: What to Know

Why it's Important

Did you know? Food scraps and yard waste make up a significant portion of what is sent to landfills. When organic waste is landfilled, it breaks down and releases greenhouse gases and liquids that can seep into the ground. Keeping these materials out of landfills helps reduce methane emissions, a major contributor to climate change, while supporting healthier air, soil, and the community. Composting and recycling organics helps ensure food scraps and yard waste are managed in the intended way when placed in the green cart.

Reducing Waste


Plan meals and store food properly to reduce waste. Donate edible food whenever possible. This aligns with SB 1383, which requires some commercial food generators to donate the maximum amount of edible, recoverable food to food recovery organizations, visit <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/foodrecovery/donors/> or email organics@kerncounty.com.


How to Handle Organics

Place food scraps, yard trimmings, and other organic materials in your green container. Please do not use plastic bags, which can contaminate compost and interfere with processing. Paper bags, cardboard boxes, or compostable bags that meet ASTM D6400 standards are acceptable.

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Container Color Changes: What You Should Know

As part of statewide requirements, you may also notice updates to your carts. California State Senate Bill (SB) 1383 requires collection containers to be uniform in color across the state by 2036. Existing carts and bins will be gradually transitioned to the new color scheme—recycling carts will have a blue lid, recycling dumpsters will have a blue body with black lid, organics carts will have a green lid, and trash containers will have a black lid. Please check the lid or label for instructions on how to use the container correctly and avoid contamination.



Trash



Recycling



Organics

Kern County Public Works – Commercial Generator Waiver Program

State regulations allow Kern County to grant waivers from one or both recycling containers to qualifying businesses. However, only those who have completed a waiver application and received approval from Kern County Public Works can avoid mandatory participation. A site visit to your business might be required. If a waiver is not approved by Kern County Public Works, your business will be required to have the mandatory service. There are two (2) types of waivers that can be requested:

De Minimis Waiver

Businesses that generate below a certain amount of organic waste material may qualify if either of the following conditions are met:

- The total solid waste collection service is two (2) cubic yards or more per week and organic waste comprises less than twenty (20) gallons per week.
- The total solid waste collection service is less than two (2) cubic yards per week and organic waste comprises less than ten (10) gallons per week.

Space Constraint Waiver

Businesses that lack the physical space for a separate or additional organic waste and/or recycling container may qualify if the business is able to demonstrate the space constraints cannot be resolved by changing container sizes or locations. Kern County requires that all applicants for this waiver work with WM first, before beginning the waiver process.

If you believe your business may qualify for either of these waivers, please visit www.kernpublicworks.com/organics to complete the online waiver application.

Connect with WM

Your Community Website

Visit business.wm.com/kern-county to check pickup schedules (including holidays), review service guidelines, submit requests, and contact us—all in just a few clicks. It's your one-stop hub for staying informed and in control.

My WM Account

With My WM, you can easily view your service and holiday schedules, manage your account, pay bills, and even set up autopay and paperless billing for added convenience. Getting started is simple, visit wm.com/mywm or download the My WM App from Google Play or the Apple App Store.

Let's Chat

Visit wm.com/support to chat with our virtual assistant or connect with a customer service representative who's ready to help.



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Organics | Recycling | Trash

Right Materials - Right Container - Know Which Container to Use

SB 1383 aims to slow climate change by diverting organic materials from landfills, recovering 20% of edible food, and redirecting it to food-insecure Californians. Organic waste in landfills emits 20% of the state's methane, a climate super pollutant that heats 84 times more than carbon dioxide*. (*CalRecycle, <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp>)

What Goes in the Organics Container:



Food Waste



Yard Waste



Produce



Food Soiled Paper,
Coffee Filters & Tea Bags



Meat, Fish & Poultry



Dairy



Bread, Pasta, Rice,
Grains, Coffee Grounds

You may use a paper bag, a compostable bag that meets ASTM D6400 standards or place organic waste loosely in the cart.



Do Not Include:

- Plastic Bags or Film
- Serveware/Utensils
- Plastic Containers
- Foam Containers
- Hazardous Waste
- Fats, Oils, or Greases

What Goes in the Recycling Container:



Plastic Bottles, Cups
& Containers



Paper & Paper Cups



Glass Bottles & Containers



Flattened Cardboard
& Paperboard



Food & Beverage Cans



Place recyclables directly into your recycling cart -
Don't bag your recycling materials.



Do Not Include:

- Food Or Liquids
- Plastic Bags or Film
- Foam Containers
- Clothing, Furniture or Carpet
- Batteries
- Electronics
- Hazardous Waste
- Yard Waste

What Goes in the Trash Container:



Foam Cups &
Containers



Garden Hose



Broken Ceramic
Dishes & Pots



Candy, Snack &
Food Wrappers



Plastic Bags & Film



Diapers



Pet Waste



Clothing & Textiles



Do Not Include:

- Organics/Recyclables
- Hazardous Waste
- Electronics & CFL Bulbs
- Batteries, Tires or Paint
- Flammable Material

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