



Fact Sheet: Reducing California's Landfill Methane Emissions

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In 2016, the Legislature and Governor enacted SB 1383, which set an ambitious and laudable goal to divert large amounts of organic material out of landfills, reduce dangerous greenhouse gas emissions and improve the state's air, water, and soil quality.

Sadly, California is falling short of its methane reduction goals. The state missed its 2020 target but is also poised to miss its 2025 target. The goals of SB 1383 are of utmost importance to ensuring a livable state. California must reduce its landfill methane emissions, and it must do so in a way that is transparent, compatible with its larger climate strategy, and has the buy-in of the Californians it protects.

In its 2023 report, [Reducing California's Landfill Methane Emissions: SB 1383 Implementation](#), the Commission recommends California:

- Enact a temporary pause on SB 1383 implementation to address implementation concerns and fund an educational campaign that explains to Californians why the law's requirements are important.
- Prevent conflicting state directives on waste processing, and produce consistent and clear guidelines on how to meet statutory and regulatory requirements.
- Require a multidisciplinary team to develop recommendations on how to expand market opportunities for recycled organic waste, and then work to implement those recommendations.
- Build in as much flexibility as possible for local governments to recycle organic waste, and let communities choose the best options for them.

- Support near-zero emission vehicles until commercially viable zero emission vehicles are available in the waste sector.
- Permanently exempt counties that produce less than 200,000 tons per year of waste from SB 1383 requirements, except to provide options at self-haul facilities for residents to separate their organic waste from their trash.
- Embrace a concept of keeping waste local and allow communities to be innovative with organic waste solutions.
- Position CalRecycle as an international expert and leader in solid waste management, including by facilitating exchange visits with other countries.
- Separate edible food recovery from SB 1383 implementation and conduct studies to better understand from where the edible waste is being initiated and create incentives for bottom-up solutions to prevent food waste.
- Help lower landfill methane emissions by fixing the small proportion of super-emitters that produce the majority of emissions.
- Develop a financial plan to implement SB 1383 and clearly communicate what that plan will cost, who will pay it, and what Californians will receive in return.

The Commission's recommendations will help California navigate priorities among different branches of government, build multidisciplinary expertise into the rulemaking process, incorporate industry expertise without regulatory capture and recognize the different needs of different communities.

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