



City of Hermosa Beach

Civic Center, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3885

Mandatory Organics Recycling FAQs

- 1. Why is organic waste recycling now mandatory?** Recent State laws (specifically Senate Bill 1383 of 2016) have made recycling and recovery of organic waste mandatory statewide, with a goal of reducing organic waste disposal by 75% (of 2014 baseline) by 2025. These mandates aim to not only reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions from landfills but also improve access to food for those in need. The law requires customers to divert their organic waste from the trash stream and requires certain businesses to implement edible food donation and recovery programs. The mandate also requires each City to adopt procurement policies to ensure use of recovered organic waste products (e.g., compost, bio-gas, etc.).
- 2. What is considered organic waste?** Organic waste includes food scraps, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste (paper products mixed in with food scraps). Examples include, but are not limited to:

GREEN WASTE: • Grass clippings • Leaves and branches • Flower and hedge trimmings • Weeds • Lumber, scrap wood and plywood types (not painted or treated)

FOOD SCRAPS: • Fruits and vegetables • Cheese and dairy • Meat, bones, poultry, and seafood • Bread, rice, and pasta • Coffee filters and tea bags • Cut flowers and herbs • And any putrescible matter produced from human or animal food production, preparation, and consumption activities

FOOD-SOILED PAPER: • Napkins, towels, and tissues • Paper plates and cups • Fast food wrappers (paper only. No aluminum or plastic coating.) • Egg cartons • Pizza boxes • Paper packaging • 100% (fiber based) compostable serving-ware and to go container packaging
- 3. Who is affected?** Organic waste recycling service is mandatory for all residential, multi-family, and commercial customers.
- 4. Are there any exemptions?** Currently, per the State regulations (and the City ordinance modelled on these regulations), there are no exemptions for residential customers. Commercial and multi-family customers are allowed exemptions when space limitations make it impossible to place an additional cart. Additionally, commercial customers may be exempt if:
 - They produce 2 cubic yards or more of solid waste weekly and generate less than 20 gallons of organic waste
 - They produce 2 cubic yards or fewer of solid waste weekly and generate less than 10 gallons of organic waste



Customers seeking an exemption must contact Athens Services for a site assessment and City staff will provide final verification of exemption requests.

5. **How will I recycle this organic waste?** All Hermosa Beach customers are already able to recycle their organic waste in their green waste cart. For customers without a green waste cart, customers may contact Athens Services to set-up services and inquire about different container size options by calling 1-888-336-6100.
6. **How much will this service cost?** Currently, organics service is free to commercial and multi-family customers with bin service. Residential and multi-family customers with cart service are subject to a monthly service fee for a 35-gallon green cart. This is the smallest green cart available and is recommended for most customers. Larger containers are available at an additional cost.
7. **How do I request an organic service cart?** Customers may contact Athens Services at 1-888-336-6100 to request an organics service cart at any time. Otherwise, Athens Services will be delivering carts automatically to all customers without carts towards the end of the year. Notices will go to customers to verify the timing of these deliveries.
8. **When will my cart be serviced?** Residential and multi-family cart service customers will have their organics carts serviced on the same day as their regular trash and recycling service. Commercial and multi-family bin service customers' service days will vary with their service needs. These schedules will be coordinated with Athens Services.
9. **Are there any other requirements for businesses?**
 - a. Businesses must train and educate employees on proper organic waste recycling practices. Upon request, Athens can assist with training employees.
 - b. Businesses must provide in-house containers on their premises for use by staff and customers that allow source separation of recyclables, organics, and waste (i.e., a three-compartment bin).
 - c. Identified large food generators (i.e., grocery stores) must also implement food donation and recovery programs (<https://athensservices.com/in-the-news/sb-1383/>).
10. **What is considered a multi-family property?** Multi-family properties are defined as those with five or more dwelling units. These properties may share an organics container(s).
11. **Where can I inquire about signage or educational material?** Visit Athens Services Outreach Material and Resources webpage: <https://athensservices.com/outreach-materials/>.
12. **Where can I get more information or assistance?** You can visit the City's website at: <https://www.hermosabeach.gov/our-government/city-manager/environmental-programs/solid-waste> or the Athens Services website at: <https://athensservices.com/residential-services/city-of-hermosa-beach/>. You may also call Athens Services at 1-888-336-6100 or the City of Hermosa Beach at 310-750-3603.