

## **FAQ: Sunnyvale Multi-Family Unit Property Managers and SB 1383**

### **Q: What is SB 1383?**

A: SB 1383: Short-Lived Climate Pollutants is a 2016 state law that reduces the amount of organic material California sends to landfills. SB 1383 requires the state to reduce organic waste (food scraps, yard trimmings or landscaping material, and paper products) disposal 75% by 2025. The law also requires state jurisdictions to increase edible food recovery 20% by 2025.

### **Q: Why was this law created?**

A: SB 1383 was created to reduce the negative impacts of climate change that California has already experienced by limiting the amount of food and other organics sent to landfill. When organic material is landfilled, it creates methane, a greenhouse gas up to 70 times more potent than carbon dioxide. This directly contributes to and worsens the effects of climate change. Furthermore, landfilling organic material worsens local air quality pollutants.

SB 1383 was also passed to recover the immense amount of organic material that is sent to landfills each year. California residents throw away over six million tons of food each year, yet 20 percent of California children are food insecure. This law will not only divert food scraps from the landfill, but will direct edible food towards people in need.

### **Q: How will it affect me?**

A: To date, multi-family complexes have only been required to provide garbage carts or bins and paper and container recycling carts for residents. Now, all multi-family complexes regardless of size will have to provide additional carts or bins for recycling food scraps. Just like residents now sort and separate their containers and paper from their garbage to be recycled, they'll be asked to separate all food scraps and put them in the new food scrap carts or bins. If your property has any landscaping, you will also have to order carts or bins for yard trimming material unless you have a landscaper that takes it offsite for composting.

### **Q: What is the deadline to comply with SB 1383?**

A: In January of 2022, the program will start rolling out. It will take several months to get all properties up and running so we will be visiting all properties several months before the program starts to assist with the set up. When we meet with you, we'll coordinate service levels, outreach materials needed for tenants and cart/bin delivery date so your property is compliant with the program.

### **Q: What will happen if I don't comply?**

A: In 2022, state enforcement of SB 1383 will begin. Properties that are not in compliance will be issued violations by the City, which could eventually result in fines. Fines will start being issued in 2024.

### **Q: How much space will the new cart or bin take and where will it go?**

A: We will call you and do a site visit at your property to determine 1) how much food scrap service and potentially yard trimming service is likely needed, and 2) the best location for food scrap or yard trimming carts to go. The best locations will vary by complex, but most carts/bins will likely be inside existing garbage enclosures or next to where carts are already kept. If your complex has chute/garbage rooms, we'll work with you to determine if each room has enough space for a food scraps cart. The smallest size is a 35-gallon cart, which is approximately 20 in. wide and 39 in. tall.

**Q: What outreach information will be available to give to my tenants?**

A: Each tenant will receive an outreach “kit”;

- 1) Countertop pail to collect food scraps in their home;
- 2) Pail hanger to notify them of the new pail and food scraps cart or bin;
- 3) “How-to” flyers that explain how to separate food scraps, where to store them, tips and tricks to make the program easy and basic information on recycling other materials; and a
- 4) Storage tote bag for recyclable materials.

We will ask for your assistance in distributing the kits to your tenants.

We are also available for presentations or Q&A sessions for your colleagues and tenants. If you’re interested in this option, please reach out to the Recycling Program at 408-730-7262.

**Q: Will I have to pay more for food scraps or yard trimmings collection?**

A: Yes, food scraps is a charged service. Below is a chart of starting prices for different food scraps options; yard trimmings prices can vary. We will work with you to find the right service levels for your property. A full list of utility rates can be found by going to [Sunnyvale.ca.gov](http://Sunnyvale.ca.gov) and searching *utility rates*. It is possible to reduce your garbage service once the program is fully implemented.

35-gallon food scraps cart	\$31.21
Additional 35-gal food scraps cart	\$13.57
1 cubic yard food scraps bin (200 gal.)	\$121.85

**Q: What if my tenants don’t want to participate or contaminate the food containers with the wrong items?**

A: Separating food scraps will be an adjustment for residents, but basic container and paper recycling seemed challenging when it was first introduced in the 1970’s. We are available to give presentations, provide support and answer questions for residents to help them understand the program. Property managers will need to also provide oversight and support for tenants to comply with the program requirements. As mentioned previously, non-compliant sites can be fined for non-participation.

**Q: Is there anything else I need to do to be compliant?**

A: Meeting with City or Specialty staff and adding a sufficient amount of food scraps collection service is the primary compliance measure for SB 1383. If your property has any landscaping, you will also have to order carts or bins for yard trimming material unless you have a landscaper that takes it offsite for composting. We’ll provide educational material to inform tenants about the program, and will ask for your help to distribute the information.