



SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Green Paper: Implementation of SB1383 in Multifamily Homes

Prepared by the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Greenhouse gases are generated by burning fossil fuels to produce electricity or power our vehicles. They also come from organic waste in our landfills.¹ In California, organic waste generates about 20% of the state’s methane, a super pollutant that heats the atmosphere 84 times more than carbon dioxide².

In Del Mar, residents and businesses generate about 9,800 tons of solid waste annually, of which about 3,200 tons are recycled.³ In 2022, in compliance with California Senate Bill *Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy* (SB 1383), Del Mar began recycling food scraps along with green waste. This means that residents in single-family homes and multifamily complexes alike and businesses are required to collect food scraps and yard cuttings for green waste collection. EDCO, the City’s waste hauler, collects the food scraps and green waste, eventually turning them into digestate, the end-product of the anaerobic digestion of green waste. Digestate is often used as a soil amendment distributed to local farms.

For residents in multifamily homes, the green waste collection process involves a few extra steps, as multifamily properties face unique circumstances—such as a varying number of residents and available space for the storage of green waste collection carts. In Del Mar, for example, eight multifamily complexes are comprised of fewer than four units, and 32 complexes are comprised of more than five units. EDCO has visited all multifamily complexes in Del Mar since the start of curbside food scraps and organics collection in 2022, sharing information, providing printed materials on commingled recyclables and organics recycling, and offering kitchen caddies for each resident.

In the Fall of 2024, EDCO visited multifamily homes to meet with tenants through presentations, and provided outdoor signage to be posted on enclosures or mailboxes, and newer materials for the residents. Updated material will be sent to multifamily homes to be distributed to residents annually, along with a “move-in kit” for each new resident

¹ <https://www.delmar.ca.us/680/Go-Green-Del-Mar>

² <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/>

³ <https://www.delmar.ca.us/675/Zero-Waste>

upon their arrival. Additionally, landlords are required to train their staff on the topic and provide educational materials to residents annually.

EDCO has several options to organize green waste collection to accommodate the needs and limitations of each residential property. The possibilities range from 35-, 64- or 96-gallon carts, and two- or three-cubic yard bins. The large three-cubic yard bins can be split into two and customized to handle any combination of trash, recyclables and organics. Interestingly, each compartment can be emptied separately up to seven times per week by designated trash, recycling or organics collection trucks.

The best way to collect food scraps continues to be whatever works best for each family. Maybe the kitchen caddy works best for one family, but another prefers a different type of container, or prefers to store the scraps in the refrigerator, in the freezer, or to wrap them in newspaper until collection day. “Bioplastic” bags should be avoided, as they are not compatible with EDCO’s anaerobic digester⁴. Diverting food scraps away from landfills is expected to reduce the organic waste that is sent to landfills⁵ by 75%, making a meaningful contribution to reducing methane emissions.

To learn more about organics recycling, check out EDCO’s [Del Mar-specific website](#).

⁴ <https://del-mar.edcodisposal.com/residential-waste-services/curbside-pickup/organic-recycling/>

⁵ <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/>