



# CITY OF OCEANSIDE FOOD SCRAPS RECYCLING PROGRAM

## Frequently Asked Question and Answers

Effective January 1, 2020, Waste Management and the City of Oceanside will partner together to launch a food scraps recycling program for all businesses in the City of Oceanside.

This Food Scrap Recycling Program will help our city meet current state diversion laws and provide a comprehensive program for organics (food scraps) management. In January and February 2020, all businesses will receive information about the project, food rescue and recovery resources, a personal visit and help to participate in the program. In March, delivery of new brown bins to collect the food waste will begin. The technical assistance and training is provided free of charge by Waste Management and the City of Oceanside.

To understand more about this program, please review the following commonly asked questions and answers.

### **WHAT IS THE NEW COMMERCIAL FOOD SCRAPS RECYCLING PROGRAM?**

The City of Oceanside (City) and Waste Management (WM) recently amended their agreement to comply with State law and to provide organics programming to Oceanside customers. The amendment and rates will become effective January 1, 2020. This means businesses must recycle food waste, referred to as organics, into bins separate from waste and landscape cuttings. Organics are food scraps and some food-soiled paper waste. A new brown bin will be provided to all businesses specifically for this organic waste.

As part of this program commercial customers will receive technical assistance and training, food rescue and food recovery resources, and food scrap/food soiled paper recycling services. Residential customers will receive enhanced food waste reduction programming, backyard composting opportunities, and other zero waste community based programming. Even though this program does not provide curbside residential food scrap recycling services, it does provide for initial planning and infrastructure development for future residential organics management.

### **WHY IS THE CITY STARTING A FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING PROGRAM?**

Californians throw away nearly 6 million tons of food scraps or food waste each year. This represents about 18 percent of all the material that goes to landfill. There is new state regulations that requires each City and its businesses to divert food scraps and other organic material. The goal of this program is to reduce the amount of organics materials sent to our landfill to minimize greenhouse gas emissions. Landfills are the second largest source of methane generation in California. Specifically, food scraps produce methane gas as they decompose in landfills. This new regulation requires municipalities to implement programs to reduce the amount of organics disposed of in landfills 50% by 2020 and 75% by 2025.



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This program supports the City of Oceanside's Climate Action Plan and Zero Waste Strategic Management Plan goals of reaching 75-90% diversion by 2020. The food scrap recycling program is anticipated to increase the City's diversion rate from 67% to over 80% within one year of implementation. Additionally, these efforts will further the support sustainability efforts related to the Green Oceanside campaign.

## **WHAT IS ORGANIC MATERIAL?**

Organics material includes food scraps, compostable paper and greenwaste. Commercial food scrap recycling will keep food scraps/food soiled paper out of the landfill and processed as reusable material or renewable energy.

## **WHAT TYPE OF ORGANICS IS ACCEPTED IN THE COMMERCIAL FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING PROGRAM?**

Oceanside's commercial food scrap recycling program accepts all food scraps (including meat, bones, dairy, bread, fruits, vegetables, peels, pits, cobs, coffee grounds) and food soiled paper (food-soiled paper, paper towels, napkins, paper cups, paper egg cartons and pizzeria boxes). WM will continue to collect and recycle commercial greenwaste and commingled recyclables (rigid plastics, bottles, glass, office paper, and cardboard) separately.

## **IS IT OKAY TO PLACE FOG (FATS, OILS AND GREASE) INTO MY FOOD SCRAP CONTAINER?**

No, if you have fats, oils and grease, you are still required to collect and dispose of separately through your third party haulers.

## **WHEN WILL COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS RECEIVE SERVICE?**

The City will begin reaching out to all commercial customers in winter of 2019. January through March all commercial customers will receive technical assistance, education, service evaluations to help with right-sizing, and be able to pre-order food scrap recycling services. All commercial customers will receive food scrap recycling carts and bins between March and May 2020.

## **DO ALL COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS NEED TO PARTICPATE?**

Yes. State and local laws require the diversion of food scrap/food soiled paper from the landfill. All commercial customers are required to establish minimum service levels for landfill, recycling and food scraps. Generators cannot waive or exempt recycling requirements.

## **IS THIS PROGRAM COSTING OR SAVING THE CITY MONEY?**

The collection, processing, recycling and disposal of all material (landfill, recycling, and food scraps) has a cost. By implementing programs for recyclables and food scraps the City is helping to stabilize rates by mitigating landfill transportation and disposal costs.



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Customers will see a rate increase effective **January 1, 2020**. Organics services will cost approximately 75% of the trash rates.

## **HOW CAN WE SAVE MONEY?**

The City and Waste Management are dedicated to zero waste and providing exceptional recycling, and food scrap recycling services and programs that incentivize waste reduction, reuse and recycling first, before landfilling. In Oceanside, recycling and food scrap services are more affordable than landfill services, thus creating added savings when you minimize your landfill services. By taking measures to reduce the amount of waste your business generates you can keep your solid waste costs down.

## **HOW OFTEN IS MY COMMERCIAL FOOD SCRAP CONTAINER GOING TO BE PICKED UP?**

The amount of food scraps generated at commercial businesses varies, and is dependent on operation, type of business, food donation, and source reduction efforts. Technical assistance will be provided to all commercial customers to help determine the appropriate level of service for your business. Zero Waste technical assistance staff will discuss opportunities for food waste reduction and food scrap recycling service levels on the first site visit (January 6 to March 15, 2020). Please note City Code Chapter 13 establishes minimum service levels for commercial customers.

## **WILL MY FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING CONTAINER SMELL?**

Remember that with food scrap recycling, you are simply moving the food scraps/food soiled paper from your landfill bin into your food scraps (brown) bin. Food scrap recycling will not smell any differently than your current landfill and recycling services.

## **SHOULD I USE A BAG FOR MY FOOD SCRAPS?**

You are not required to bag your organics, but if you choose to you are required to use clear plastic bags prior to placing food scraps into the container. To keep your bin/cart clean, be sure to tie-off bags before placing them in the food scraps container. The plastic will be screened out during the pre-processing of the food scraps.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE SIZE OF MY ORGANICS CART?**

Commercial customers will receive 65-gallon carts or 2 cubic yard containers. Due to the weight of the organics, these will be the only sizes available. The size and frequency of collection will depend upon how much food scraps materials your business is generating. The Zero Waste Technical Assistance team will work closely with you on an ongoing basis to help you determine the appropriate size containers and service levels to meet your needs.



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## **WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FOOD SCRAP/FOOD SOILED PAPER MATERIALS ONCE IT HAS BEEN COLLECTED?**

Waste Management is committed to finding innovative solutions for food scrap recycling. Waste Management utilizes its CORE technology that will use the food waste and food soiled paper collected in Oceanside to create an EBS organic slurry that will be used to generate renewable, green energy through co-digestion at municipal wastewater treatment plants.

## **I DON'T GENERATE MUCH FOOD SCRAPS; WHY DO I NEED TO PARTICIPATE?**

State and local laws require the diversion of food scrap/food soiled paper from the landfill. All commercial customers are required to establish minimum service levels for landfill, recycling and food scraps. Generators cannot waive or exempt recycling requirements. In Oceanside food scraps/food soiled paper represent roughly 30% of the waste going to landfills. Participation by all generators of all sizes allow the City to ensure compliance as well as meet our zero waste goals.

## **CAN COMMERCIAL CUSTEOMERS GET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FOR THIS PROGRAM?**

Yes. To ensure a successful food scrap recycling program the City and Waste Management have partnered together to guarantee all commercial customers have an opportunity for on-site technical assistance and training. This includes service evaluations to help with right-sizing, staff training and on-going as needed support. This assistance is free to all commercial customers.

## **WILL FOOD SCRAPS SERVICES BE AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS?**

Not at this time. Residential customers will receive enhanced food waste reduction programing, backyard composting opportunities, and other zero waste community based programming. Even though this program does not provide curbside residential food scrap recycling services, it does provide for initial planning and infrastructure development for future residential organics management.

## **WHY CAN'T I PUT FOOD SCRAPS IN MY YARD TRIMMINGS CONTAINER?**

Waste Management collects commercial greenwaste service separately from food scraps/food soiled paper due to the processing needs for both material streams.

Oceanside's residential greenwaste program also recycles yard trimmings into high quality compost and mulch at the El Corazon Compost Facility operated by Agri Service Inc. Even though this program does not provide curbside residential food scrap recycling services, the City is currently in initial planning and infrastructure development for future residential organics management.



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### **CAN RESIDENTS RECYCLE FOOD SCRAPS ON THEIR OWN?**

Absolutely. The City and its partners offer multiple opportunities and resources to support home composting, sustainability and zero waste. These resources include but are not limited to zero waste cooking classes, home sustainability workshops, subsidized compost bin programs and more. For more information regarding these programs and resources please visit the Green Oceanside website at [www.GreenOceanside.org](http://www.GreenOceanside.org) or call (760) 435-4500.

### **WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON OCEANSIDE'S ORGANICS PROGRAM?**

Please visit the City of Oceanside's website at [www.greenoceanside.org](http://www.greenoceanside.org). If you would like to speak with staff, please email [oceansiderecycles@oceansideca.org](mailto:oceansiderecycles@oceansideca.org) or call (760) 435-4500.