

Frequently Asked Questions for City of Chula Vista's Food and Yard Waste Collection Program

1. What is the Food Waste Collection program?

- a. Residential: In compliance with new statewide regulation, Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), the City's trash hauler, Republic Services will be required to include food waste and food-soiled paper products with current yard waste collection services starting January 1, 2022.
- b. Commercial: In compliance with new statewide regulation (SB 1383), Republic Services will be required to collect food waste and food-soiled paper products from businesses and multi-family properties with bin service. Yard waste will be collected separately from food waste.

2. Why is a Food Waste Collection program being implemented?

- a. This program is anticipated to increase the City's waste diversion rate and will achieve the goals of the City's Climate Action Plan for GHG reductions.
- b. In Chula Vista, nearly 30% of all waste sent to the landfill is food waste. Food waste that is allowed to decompose in a landfill creates methane, a super-pollutant 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- c. SB 1383 mandates the reduction of methane emissions from landfills and requires municipalities to implement programs to reduce the amount of food and yard waste disposed in landfills to 75% by 2025.

3. When will the program begin?

- a. Residential food and yard waste collection is scheduled to begin January 1, 2022, pending City Council approval.
- b. Commercial food waste collection is anticipated to begin in late spring of 2022.

4. How do we participate?

- a. Residential: Beginning January 1, 2022, begin placing food waste, food-soiled paper, food-soiled cardboard, and yard waste into your green food and yard waste cart.
 - i. If you do NOT have a Republic Services yard waste cart: Republic Services will deliver a green food and yard waste cart to you. Starting January 1, 2022, place food waste and food-soiled paper products in your green food and yard waste cart.
 - ii. NOTE: After January 1, 2022, Republic Services will no longer service customer-owned yard waste containers.
- b. Commercial: Education and outreach will be provided prior to program implementation. Businesses will have food waste collection bins or carts delivered and notified of program service start date (anticipated to begin in late spring of 2022). Businesses are urged to contact Environmental Services staff to "right size" service levels to minimize cost. After food waste collection service has begun, businesses will be provided with further educational support.

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5. What items are accepted in the residential Food and Yard Waste Collection program?

- a. All food including vegetables, fruits, breads, grains, meat, fish, dairy, food-soiled paper and food-soiled cardboard, and yard waste. Liquid fats, oils, and grease (FOG) will not be accepted in your green food and yard waste cart. See FAQ 8 for more information.

6. What items are accepted in the commercial Food Waste Collection program?

- a. All food including vegetables, fruits, breads, grains, meat, fish, dairy, food-soiled paper and food-soiled cardboard. A separate service is required for liquid fats, oils, and grease (FOG) as they are not accepted in the program.

Note: Yard waste will be collected separately for commercial customers.

7. What items are NOT accepted in both food waste collection programs?

- a. Plastic or compostable bags, food wrappers, film plastic, plastic/Styrofoam plates, cups, take out containers, utensils, plastic produce baskets, twist ties, rubber bands for produce, metal, glass, as well as, liquid fats, oils, and grease.

8. How should residents dispose of liquid fats, oil, and grease (FOG)?

- a. Liquid fats, oils, and grease, are not accepted in your green food and yard waste cart. You are still required to collect and dispose of it properly.
 - i. Put FOG in a bottle/container with a watertight lid. Call Republic Services at (619) 421-9400 two days before your regular collection day to request curbside pick-up. Then put your FOG at the curb.

OR

 - ii. Take FOG to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located at 1800 Maxwell Road, Chula Vista, CA 91911 on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. -1 p.m.

9. What about odors?

- a. Collecting food waste should not create any more odors than when it is placed in your black trash cart. The same materials are being collected, however, they will now be placed in your green food and yard waste cart. Food waste in a plastic bag should never be placed in your green cart. Paper bags **ARE** accepted in the program and can be used to collect food waste to place in your green cart.

10. What about rats, racoons, coyotes, or other pests?

- a. If you've never had an issue with pests getting into your black trash cart, you should not experience any issues placing food waste in your green cart. Always remember to keep your lid closed and cover your food waste with yard waste, if possible. Doing so will further reduce any possible odors.

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11. How much more will residential food and yard waste collection service cost?

- a. The proposed rate increase for the addition of food waste collection service has not been approved by the City Council. The new rates for residential food and yard waste collection service will be based on the level of service for your black trash cart. Contact Environmental Services staff if you have questions regarding the proposed rate increase at (619) 691-5122 or e-mail environmentalservices@chulavistaca.gov.

12. How much more will commercial food waste collection service cost?

- a. The proposed rate increase for the addition of food waste collection service has not been approved by the City Council. Contact Environmental Services staff if you have questions regarding the proposed rate increase at (619) 691-5122 or e-mail environmentalservices@chulavistaca.gov.

13. Do all residents and businesses need to participate in the Food Waste Collection program?

- a. Yes. All residents and businesses will be required to participate. State law requires the diversion of food waste, food soiled-paper and food-soiled cardboard from the landfill. Environmental Services and Republic Services staff will be available to work with you to right-size your service for potential cost savings and optimal collection.

14. Where can I get more information on the City's Food Waste Collection program?

- a. Questions regarding the food waste collection program should be directed by email to the Environmental Services Division at environmentalservices@chulavistaca.gov or by phone at (619) 691-5122.