



Thank you for taking time out of your busy day to meet with us. Let's first take a moment to introduce ourselves... My name is Paige and I am the Food Scraps and Recycling Program Manager for El Dorado County at BREATHE.

We'll begin by providing an overview of BREATHE and our Food Scraps program, followed by an introduction to SB 1383 and the County of El Dorados commitment to supporting this initiative. Next, we'll dive into the key steps for a successful program launch, concluding with an opportunity for any questions you might have..



What We Do

Since 1917, Breathe California Sacramento Region has advocated for clean air and healthy lungs through education, community involvement, and creative solutions to impact policy.

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Breathe California Sacramento Region has been advocating for clean air and healthy lungs through education, community engagement, and innovative policy-driven solutions since 1917.



ABOUT

The Food Scraps and Recycling Program, funded by the County of El Dorado, is designed to reduce the amount of compostable and recyclable trash in landfills. Senate Bill 1383 aims to reduce emissions by requiring schools, businesses, and residential housing to recycle organic waste. To aid in this effort, BREATHE teams up with local K-12 schools to educate students and staff on the environmental impacts of landfills and the benefits of composting.

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The Food Scraps and Recycling Program in El Dorado County, backed by Senate Bill 1383, aims to reduce landfill waste through the promotion of organic recycling in schools. BREATHE partners with local K-12 schools to inform students and staff about the environmental consequences of landfills and the benefits associated with composting.



WHAT IS SB 1383

California is a leader in putting a focus on food recovery. CA SB-1383 is a state-mandated effort to reduce organic waste in California landfills by 75% and to increase excess edible food recovery by 20% by 2025. The bill aims to address greenhouse gas emissions, primarily methane gasses, while focusing on food insecurity throughout California (aboundfoodcare.org/sb1383).

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In the context of schools, SB 1383 requires educational institutions, like your district, to implement organic waste recycling programs. These programs focus on educating students and staff about proper waste separation and disposal. The overarching goals are to reduce overall organic waste in landfills, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, address food insecurity, and promote sustainable waste management practices. When we don't separate our waste, our food ends up going to the landfill. Landfills are very compact and airtight, which means that there isn't enough oxygen for our food to break down fast enough. This causes food to slowly rot, which releases methane gas, which traps heat in the atmosphere and contributes to climate change. If we separate our food waste, it can be made into nutrient rich compost that can be used for gardens and farms to grow our food.

Organics Recycling

- Recycling and organics recycling, such as food scraps, is a quickly growing component of waste management throughout schools in California.
- Under California state law, wherever recycling and organic waste is generated, schools are required to provide an appropriate container adjacent to the trash container



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With SB 1383—recycling and organics recycling, including food scraps, are rapidly expanding practices in California schools. State laws mandate schools to place dedicated containers for recycling and organic waste alongside trash bins wherever such waste is generated.

For schools, as you'll see in the photos on the slide here, there should be a green can next to each gray can wherever food waste is generated.

In our program launches, we do address recycling. But since students don't have the resources or capacity to clean and dry recyclables in the cafeteria, there is not much recyclable material at lunch time. Therefore, your recycling can should be available in the cafeteria for clean cardboard, but it doesn't need to be right next to the waste station.

Food Recovery

- Under SB 1383, by 2025 California will recover 20% of edible food to feed those in need
- Edible food waste generators, like schools, must arrange to recover the maximum amount of edible food
- Food can go to food banks, soup kitchens, or other food recovery organizations

(Calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/foodrecovery/)



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As previously mentioned, SB 1383 also has a food recovery component, which requires that California recovers 20% of edible food by 2025 to feed those in need. This requires that edible food waste generators work with local food banks, soup kitchens, or food recovery organizations to recover the maximum amount of edible food. To combat food waste, Calrecycle and The County of El Dorado recommend implementing share carts for students to share any unopened, uneaten food items with their fellow students. Breathe can assist in establishing food share carts in your school/district and providing connections with local organizations that can help recover your edible food.

Funding

The Food Scraps and Recycling program in your district is funded through a partnership with the County of El Dorado to help support K-12 schools in implementing a food scraps recycling program.



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The district incurs no costs for this program, as it is fully funded by the County of El Dorado. With that being said, I do want to take a moment to highlight that since this funding is offered through grants, the funding is limited. So if (for whatever reason) your district/school chooses not to participate, I can not guarantee that funding will be available beyond the 2024-25 school year.

At this time, I also do want to really highlight that BREATHE is not at all an authoritative figure. We are not at school sites to issue fines, or write citations. We come in to schools to provide our support and assistance to help schools and staff in the transition to becoming SB 1383 compliant because we do understand that it is a lot handle on your own. Our hope is that our support can help alleviate that stress and pressure off of your district, your schools, and your staff.

Steps to a Successful Food Scraps Program



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Now, let's discuss the key steps for a successful food scraps recycling program.

Step 1: Scheduling a Program Launch



Obtain Approval

- School districts, admin, and key staff
- Discuss logistics
 - Waste management
 - Outdoor waste bin
 - Contamination regulations
 - Types of liners

Meet with School Admin

- Schedule key staff training
- Discuss a date for assembly and five (5) consecutive dates for lunch monitoring



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The initial step is to secure approval from both the district and the school principals where the program will be implemented- this is the step that we are currently working on. Agreement from all parties is crucial for the program's success. In this phase, we meet with your district, to discuss the program overview and address any logistical issues or questions. Some logistical items we can talk about at the end include ensuring that we can get your schools a 2 yd outdoor organic waste bin. We can also go over the contamination regulations for El Dorado County and the types of liners that are required for food waste. From there, we meet with the school principal to provide a program overview, and coordinate a meeting with cafeteria key staff, informing them about the program and seeking their input. Simultaneously, we schedule a school-wide assembly and plan five consecutive days of lunch monitoring.

Step 2: Prepare for Launch



Procure Program Supplies

- Green cans
 - Up to four (4) at each site
- Trash can dollies
 - Up to four (2) at each site if desired
- Green BPI certified biodegradable liners for cans
 - Start-up Supply
- Signage
- Incentives for students and staff



Train Key Staff

- Meet with custodians, yard supervisors, kitchen staff, etc.
- Answer questions and concerns
- Get input on waste station location

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Step 2 involves preparing for our program launch. BREATHE will then obtain essential items such as green waste bins, trash can dollies, a start up supply of liners, suitable signage, and positive incentives for students. Training sessions on SB 1383 regulations will be conducted for key staff, seeking their input on optimal waste station placement. We really emphasize and focus on close collaboration with your plant managers and custodial team. Throughout our launch we will focus on building a positive relationship with your staff as we understand that this is a huge adjustment and your staff play a crucial role in the program's success. In the photos here, you can see some students helping out at the waste stations. We call those students our super sorters, and I'll talk a little bit about them in the next slide.

Step 3: Launch Program



Assembly

- Interactive assembly with a visual presentation
 - Open-ended questions
 - Followed by a short game to help students retain the information



Monitor on Site

- Monitor waste stations for five (5) consecutive days
- Guide students on waste sorting and food sharing
- Answer questions from students and staff
- Encourage students to be a “Super Sorter” in their cafeteria!



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Step 3 is the launch; on this day we have the school wide assembly, which is typically 15-20 minutes long, where we engage with the students and introduce them to the waste sorting process in their cafeteria. We encourage them to participate by asking open-ended questions. And we follow up our presentation with a short game to help them retain the information.

On this same day will be the first day of lunch monitoring, where BREATHE staff will be on site during lunch time to guide the students as they learn this new concept. During this time we engage with the students and ask them open ended questions, give out stickers, and also encourage them to participate in lunch monitoring. As I mentioned before, we strongly encourage schools to help us implement a “super sorter” system in their cafeteria! This is a great way to alleviate pressure off lunch staff and it is a great way for student leaders to get involved in the cafeteria to help their peers learn how to sort their waste. We can work closely with students so they can help lead the program once BREATHE is gone.

High School Launches



Education

- School-wide assembly or individual class presentations
- Presentations may be led by a student or school club/group who wants to lead the program going forward
- Tabling events during lunch



Monitor on Site

- Monitor waste stations for five (5) consecutive days
- Guide students on waste sorting and food sharing
- Answer questions from students and staff
- Train students to maintain program following launch



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We understand that High school launches may look a little different depending on the wants and needs of your individual school. We can offer education in the form of a school-wide assembly or in smaller group or class presentations. Presentations may be led by a student or school club who wants to lead the program going forward, and breathe can provide support and materials. In the past, Breathe has worked with seniors that take on the program as a part of a senior project or a green team initiative. Breathe can assist these schools by hosting tabling events during lunch or at school events with interactive games and prizes. We can also provide support and resources for students that would like to host their own tabling events.

Step 4: Program Sustainability



Check-in

- Monthly check-ins after launch
- Site visits and re-education the following year
- Address concerns and questions from key staff
- Available to attend your school and community events

Connect

- Stay connected through quarterly newsletters
- Access our online toolkit through our website:
 - <https://sacbreathe.org/what-we-do/air-quality/food-waste-recycling-2/>



You can reach us at:

Paige Arnett parnett@sacbreathe.org -
Program Manager

Melissa Hill mhill@sacbreathe.org -
Senior Supervisor

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Step 4 is where we get into program sustainability. Following our visit, BREATHE will continue to check in and if needed we can come back to do extended lunch monitoring for an additional 3-5 days. In the case that our contract is renewed, we will also offer re-education the following year and revisit any concerns the school staff may have.

Additionally, we ask that you keep us in mind if there are any upcoming school or community events that we can participate in. In the past, we have attended National Night Out Events and Earth Day Events. We love to get out in the community to provide resources and information on Air Quality and Food Scraps Recycling.

We also provide updated educational material through our online toolkit and quarterly newsletters, and of course we are always available to discuss any further concerns or questions.



Thank you again for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with us.
Does anyone have any questions, concerns, or suggestions?