

# Los Angeles Unified School District Recycling & Waste Newsletter



Sustainability in Action



WINTER 2025

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## Beaudry Cafeteria Embraces Sustainability

The LAUSD has launched a food waste collection program at its downtown headquarters at 333 S. Beaudry Avenue. With a cafeteria serving approximately 3,500 employees, the program focuses on diverting organic waste, such as food scraps and food-soiled paper, into designated compost bins. Most of the discarded materials consist of compostable

containers and napkins, which are included with the rest of the organic material sent to an off-site facility for composting. This program supports LAUSD's sustainability goals and aligns with the requirements of SB 1383. Through ongoing training and engagement, the District remains dedicated to ensuring the program's long-term success.



## Emergency Relief Fund Established

In response to the catastrophic January 2025 fires, the Los Angeles Unified School District Education Foundation established an Emergency Relief Fund. This initiative aims to deliver critical support to impacted families and employees.

While the extent of the impact is still in flux, donations to the LAEF Emergency Relief Fund will:

- Create direct cash assistance and support to families and employees affected by the wildfires, particularly those that are facing financial need;
- Support teachers and in-class resources for students at impacted schools, ensuring continuity of learning to the greatest extent possible;
- Provide flexible assistance for mental health support, reestablishment of affected classrooms, and meet other immediate and long-term needs that support students, families and teachers.



Credit: pixdeluxe | E+ | Getty Images

These disasters leave many without homes and disrupt countless lives, our Fund is dedicated to helping them recover and rebuild their futures. To learn more or make a donation, visit [Lausedfoundation.org/emergency-relief-fund](https://Lausedfoundation.org/emergency-relief-fund).



Credit: kzenon | iStock | Getty Images Plus

## Unlock Recycling Success with Training

Maintaining successful recycling programs in schools can be challenging due to logistical issues, staff turnover and the need for ongoing training. Republic Services trainers are available to help schools overcome these challenges and enhance their recycling efforts. Refresher training sessions can re-engage staff and ensure new team members understand how to properly sort and dispose of recyclables and organic waste. Trainers offer practical solutions, like demonstrating correct cart usage, providing clear signage, and advising on optimal placement of containers and posters in classrooms. Schools interested in starting or improving their recycling programs can contact OEHS to schedule training and boost participation.

## What SB 1383 Means for LAUSD Schools



Senate Bill (SB) 1383 is a California state law aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by targeting short-lived climate pollutants, such as methane gas. The law places significant regulations on organic waste, including food and yard waste, and mandates that these materials be diverted from landfills through composting and other sustainable practices. The law also establishes a goal of

reducing the volume of organic waste disposed of in California landfills by 75% by 2025.

All schools are provided with green bins specifically for collecting organic waste. These bins are used for items such as grass clippings, leaves, floral trimmings, branches, tree trimmings, and food and food-soiled paper.

To ensure compliance with SB 1383, administrators and staff must:

- Educate employees and students about recycling and organics collection programs.
- Instruct employees on how to properly sort material into the correct containers.
- Inspect recycling and organics bins, carts and dumpsters for contamination.
- Inform employees if containers are contaminated.

Clear signage and properly labeled containers help encourage correct sorting and reduce contamination.

For more information about SB 1383, visit [CalRecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/schools](https://CalRecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp/schools).

## Proper Handling for Bulk Waste Items

Certain materials, such as bulk furniture, electronics, construction and demolition (C&D) debris and liquids, require special handling and should not be placed in regular recycling or waste carts and dumpsters. These items can disrupt waste processing systems and pose safety hazards. To ensure proper disposal, please contact the salvage team with Procurement. They can assist in arranging appropriate collection bins and services tailored to the specific needs of your site.

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