

# Alameda County Compost for Agriculture Program

The Alameda County Compost for Agriculture Program (ACCAP) provides technical and financial assistance to increase the use of compost for producers who manage land for agricultural purposes in Alameda County.

After a short online application to determine eligibility, the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) will help you consider your objectives, select a compliant compost product best suited to your needs, and identify any additional funding programs that may be available.

## Why is ACCAP being offered?

California's SB 1383 strives to reduce organic waste from decomposing in landfills and producing methane, a potent greenhouse gas, by diverting organics to composting facilities. Cities and counties are required to purchase a target amount of compost from those facilities each year, based on population. The state allows jurisdictions, such as the County of Alameda, to provide financial support to farmers and ranchers to use compost.

The County of Alameda is partnering with ACRCD to operate the ACCAP by adding new funding to defray the cost of compost and to take advantage of the available agricultural technical assistance. Compost purchased with assistance from the program will count toward the County's state-mandated procurement targets.

## GET STARTED!

To apply, simply fill out the online application and a representative from ACCAP will contact you shortly:

[Apply Now](#)



SCAN FOR MOBILE

## Program details & eligibility:

	SUBSIDY MODEL	DONATION MODEL
Eligibility	Commercial agriculture operations, natural and working lands	Community gardens, non-profits, historically underserved farmers and ranchers*
Program Incentive	Up to 60% of product and delivery costs, or \$19 per yard	Up to 100% of product and delivery costs, or \$31.55 per yard
Program Assistance	Technical assistance with planning compost use, selecting material, etc.	

- Recipients must manage land for agricultural purposes in Alameda County.
- Compost must be purchased from a licensed compost facility in California. See [regional](#) and [statewide](#) sources.
- Participants must sign agreement with ACRCD before any compost is purchased.
- \* Definitions for historically underserved farmers and ranchers [available here](#).

## Why use compost?

- Increase soil organic matter, provide nutrients, and increase soil microorganism biodiversity
- Amend soils to improve tilth, structure, moisture retention, and infiltration
- May increase vegetation productivity
- Reduce soil carbon emissions and results in increased soil carbon concentrations
- Reduce the need for chemical fertilizer and applied water

# Frequently Asked Questions:

## How much does compost cost?

Compost products have a broad range of costs and can be purchased per unit volume (cubic yards) or by weight (tons). Generally, 1 cubic yard of compost ranges from about 0.3 to 0.6 tons of compost. Compost in the region may be available for as little as \$7 per cubic yard (~\$16 per ton) to greater than \$45 (~\$100 per ton). Delivery fees can be significant, depending largely on the distance that material must be transported. Trucking fees may be modest for a nearby location or may exceed the cost of the compost itself for longer hauls.

## Is there a limit on how much compost I can get?

Current subsidy model annual maximums are set at the lesser of 6,000 yards or 2,700 tons of product. Current donation model annual maximums are set at the lesser of 325 yards or 146 tons of product.

## What are “natural and working lands”?

Natural and working lands include rangeland, forests, woodlands, wetlands and coastal areas, grasslands, shrubland, farmland, riparian areas, and urban green space. These lands provide food, fiber, clean water, clean air, wildlife and pollinator habitat, recreation, and carbon sequestration. Adapted from the California 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan.

## Is compost the same as manure? What about biosolids?

No. Compost can be made from many different source materials including manure, biosolids, food waste, and green waste. The compost process eliminates pathogens present in source materials and stabilizes the nutrients, reducing the risk of leaching. [Learn more here.](#)

## Will there be funding for this program in the future?

Highly likely. The funding for this program is intended to come from jurisdictions that are obligated to comply with SB 1383 procurement requirements. These requirements currently do not have a sunset date.

## Does this program cover the costs of spreading the compost?

Not at this time. However, additional funding from state and federal programs such as CDFA's Healthy Soils Program and NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program may be available for compost application.

## Can I add this funding to other grants or cost share programs?

Yes. The ACRCD will provide technical assistance to program participants to apply for and implement funding from other programs that, if awarded, will further reduce the cost of using compost.

## I'm worried about plastic and contamination in compost. How can I avoid it?

Contaminants in compost come from the source material. Composters remove as much inert (plastic, glass, metal) contamination up front as they can, but some can slip through even with the best technologies. The compost with the greatest potential of contamination from plastic and glass is that made from commercial food waste. The cleanest composts tend to be green waste and manure composts, which have minimal contamination in the source material. When ordering compost, request a test data sheet and make sure you know what it's made from. All compost facilities must test their material regularly, and all compost sold is required to have less than 0.5% inert contamination, with 0.1% as film plastic.

PFAS, or “forever chemicals,” are not eliminated through composting and will be present in the final product if they were present in the source materials. PFAS can be found in some biosolids and, until 2021 when a new State law banned their use in certain products in California, in foodware. While testing for PFAS in compost is not yet routine, knowing the source materials can help. Green waste and manure composts have the lowest risk of PFAS-containing source materials. [Learn more about PFAS and compost here.](#)