

Each year, families spend about \$15-hundred dollars on groceries they'll throw away.

To fight climate pollution caused by landfilled food, California is working to:

- minimize the waste we create.
- redirect surplus food to hungry Californians.
- and recycle inedible leftovers into compost – or fuel.

These plants typically produce electricity, but they can also produce low-carbon transportation fuel, or renewable natural gas for the pipeline.

California is cutting food waste - polluting our land, water, and air and overheating our climate - by reducing what we toss into landfills.

This wastewater treatment facility in the Central Valley – is using a process known as co-digestion.

[Scott Beckner – Senior Environmental Scientist, Renewable Energy & Climate Change]
Co-digestion in our waste recycling world, usually refers to recycling of food waste through anaerobic digestion at wastewater treatment plants.

Food waste from grocery stores, restaurants, even your bin at home - is collected, processed, and trucked into the facility.

It's then blended with household sewage into a sludge.
and much like a cow's digestive system - uses bacteria inside large tanks to transform the mix into a potent gas.

The methane is captured, cleaned, and carried through a series of pipes to nearby pumping stations to fuel the city's fleet of garbage and sewer-cleaning trucks.

Beckner: Co-digestion has the potential to serve a huge role in meeting 1383 goals.

A recent report from the state water board found California's wastewater treatment plants have enough space to recycle millions of tons of food waste.

Adding to California's compost and biogas facilities to keep organic waste out of landfills where it currently rots and releases methane – a climate-heating gas 84-times more potent than carbon dioxide and a major contributor to the climate change causing extreme fires and droughts.

Beckner: To do this will need some major investments and upgrades to the wastewater plants. The good news is that CalRecycle was allocated \$20 million dollars specifically for this purpose.

Grants to help fund a variety of infrastructure projects including equipment to process food waste, upgrade existing digestors, convert what's called biosolids into fertilizer for soil, and use the renewable energy produced from these facilities to power homes and businesses.

Beckner: Each wastewater treatment plant has different needs in order to enable co-digestion. So we're casting a wide net of eligible costs.

New support for California communities to recycle more food waste. and curb this pollution overheating our planet to protect the people we love.