



SB 1383 Requires MWELO – What is MWELO?

SB 1383 Article 8 requires the implementation of the [Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance \(MWELO\)](#). MWELO sets standards for new development and retrofitted landscape projects.

MWELO as written in [State Statute](#) requires:

“(C) For landscape installations, **compost at a rate of a minimum of four cubic yards per 1,000 square feet of permeable area** shall be incorporated to a depth of six inches into the soil. Soils with greater than 6% organic matter in the top 6 inches of soil are exempt from adding compost and tilling.”

“(D) **A minimum three-inch (3”) layer of mulch** shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces of planting areas except in turf areas, creeping or rooting groundcovers, or direct seeding applications where mulch is contraindicated. To provide habitat for beneficial insects and other wildlife, up to 5% of the landscape area may be left without mulch. Designated insect habitat must be included in the landscape design plan as such.”

Currently, Land Use Authorities are responsible for enforcing the ordinance. All California water agencies are also required to ensure MWELO compliance or greater.

For more information on MWELO, see [Fast Facts on MWELO](#).

What do composters need to do?

Make MWELO compliance a key part of your compost marketing program:

- Jurisdictions must adopt an ordinance or other enforceable requirement that requires compliance of MWELO
- Educate your local jurisdiction on SB 1383 MWELO Requirements
- Support your local jurisdiction on SB 1383 Procurement Requirements
 - *For example, does your jurisdiction know that MWELO requires a minimum of roughly 175 cubic yards of compost OR 400 cubic yards of mulch per acre?*

**Compost Producers can satisfy both SB 1383 MWELO
and Product Procurement!**

Contact ACP at danwyldernoble@gmail.com for any MWELO-related questions.