

MODULE 3

Burning Alternatives



Green waste disposal, composting and chipping are a few of the alternatives to burning available to El Dorado County Residents.

Green Waste Disposal

Throughout the County, green waste pick-up is available through the disposal companies at low or no cost to residents.

Cities and Community Service Districts

El Dorado Hills: Residents may have 3 carts in addition to their trash cart. The service allows for one recycle cart, one yard waste cart, then an additional cart of either recycle or yard waste, depending on the customer needs, at no additional charge. Any additional carts will be charged an additional cart rate. The [El Dorado Disposal recycling center](#) at 4421 Latrobe Road accepts green waste for free from El Dorado Disposal **residential** customers. Service is provided by [El Dorado Disposal/Waste Connections](#) (916-985-1162).

Cameron Park: Residents may have 3 carts in addition to their trash cart. The service allows for one recycle cart, one yard waste cart, then an additional cart of either recycle or yard waste, depending on the customer needs, at no additional charge. Any additional carts will be charged an additional cart rate. Cameron Park residents may also have two 32 gallon bags of yard waste picked up in addition to their green waste cart. Any bag after that is charged an extra yard waste fee per bag. The Cameron Park Fire Station at 3200 Country Club Drive, accepts green waste for free from El Dorado Disposal **residential** customers. Service is provided by [El Dorado Disposal/Waste Connections](#) (530-626-4141).

Placerville: Residents may have 3 carts in addition to their trash cart. The service allows for one recycle cart, one yard waste cart, then an additional cart of either recycle or yard waste, depending on the customer needs, at no additional charge. Any additional carts will be charged an additional cart rate. Service is provided by [El Dorado Disposal/Waste Connections](#) (530-626-4141).

City of South Lake Tahoe: Residents of the City of South Lake Tahoe receive unlimited curbside green waste collection weekly. Green waste is to be placed in bags at the curb on the regular green waste service day. Service is provided by [South Tahoe Refuse](#) (530-541-5105).

Unincorporated Areas of El Dorado County

Residential El Dorado Disposal customers in areas A, B, & C get a one time annual voucher for curbside pick-up of green waste (2.5 cubic yards) and a one time annual voucher for a green waste load (2.5 cubic yards) to be accepted for free at the [El Dorado Disposal Material Recovery Facility](#) in Placerville. Vouchers are one time use per year only. Vouchers are mailed out each year.

Additionally, El Dorado Disposal hosts an unlimited green waste specific collection event at a specified drop off location once per year and two unlimited curbside green waste collection events, one in the spring and one in the fall of each year. These events are for El Dorado Disposal **residential customers only**. They will not service curbside bags that do not have addresses on them that identify with a residential account. Contact [El Dorado Disposal](#) for event dates as they vary by collection area (530-626-4141).

Service Area specific details are provided below.

El Dorado Disposal Area A (Camino, Cold Springs, El Dorado, Diamond Springs, French Town, Newtown, Pleasant Valley, Pollock Pines, Rescue, Shingle Springs): Residents may have 3 carts in addition to their trash cart. The service allows for one recycle cart, one yard waste cart, then an additional cart of either recycle or yard waste, depending on the customer needs, at no additional charge. Any additional carts will be charged an additional cart rate. See above for unincorporated area green waste collection events and curbside collection information. Service is provided by [El Dorado Disposal](#) (530-626-4141). Links to composting resources are provided below.

El Dorado Disposal Area B (Coyoteville, Fair Play, Grizzly Flat, Mount Aukum, Nashville, Omo Ranch, Outingdale, Somerset): Amador Disposal no longer services this area and their customers are now serviced by [El Dorado Disposal](#) (530-626-4141). There is no green waste cart service in this area. Residential customers may get up to two recycling carts with trash service. See above for unincorporated area green waste collection events and curbside collection information. Links to composting resources are provided below.

El Dorado Disposal Area C (Coloma, Cool, Garden Valley, Greenwood, Georgetown, Kelsey, Lotus, Mosquito, Pilot Hill, Quintette, Spanish Flat, and Volcanoville): Sierra Disposal is no longer in service and their customers are now serviced by [El Dorado Disposal](#) (530-626-4141). There is no green waste cart service in this area. Residential customers may get up to two recycling carts with trash service. See above for unincorporated area green waste collection events and curbside collection information. Links to composting resources are provided below.

South Tahoe Refuse, South Lake Tahoe Unincorporated El Dorado County: Residents of the unincorporated area of South Lake Tahoe receive unlimited curbside green waste collection weekly. Green waste is to be placed in bags at the curb on the regular green waste service day. Service is provided by [South Tahoe Refuse](#) (530-541-5105). Links to composting resources are provided below.

South Tahoe Refuse Area B (Echo Summit, Fresh Pond, Kyburz, Silver Fork, Strawberry, and Twin Bridges): American River Disposal is no longer the service provider for this area. Customers are now serviced by [South Tahoe Refuse](#) (530-541-5105). There is a nominal charge per bin/bag for green waste collection. Links to composting resources are provided below. Residential customers whose tract uses dumpsters can place yard waste in bags next to the dumpster and it is picked up without charge. Links to composting resources are provided below.

Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (Meeks Bay, Tahoma): El Dorado County Residents in this area are serviced by [Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal](#) (530-583-7800). Residents of El Dorado County will be provided 1 green waste coupon twice per spring/summer season which will allow up to 3 yards per coupon (6 yards total) of green waste to be taken to [Eastern Regional Landfill](#) (dump/transfer station) for free through October 31st. If material is transported in bags, the bags must be emptied on site by the hauler. Curbside collection is offered for a nominal fee per can.

Please contact [Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal](#) for information.

Community Clean-up Days: In most areas of El Dorado County, the disposal companies are required by contract to provide annual community clean up days. These days are usually held in the Spring and Fall. Check with your disposal company to find out about clean up days in your area.

Disposal Sites:

El Dorado Disposal Materials Recovery Facility (MRF):

4100 Throwita Way

Diamond Springs, CA

530-626-4141 or 530-642-0731

<https://www.eldoradodisposal.com/services/mrf-and-recycling-centers/materials-recovery-facility-or-mrf/>

South Tahoe Refuse Transfer Station:

2140 Ruth Avenue South Lake Tahoe

(530) 541-5105

<http://www.southtahoerefuse.com/>

Composting

Composting is the process of turning organic waste into a rich soil amendment called humus. You can compost green yard waste. Lawn clippings, leaves, hedge clippings and chipped wood all make good additions to a compost bin or pile. Some things that should not be included in compost are meat, dairy products and weed seeds. Guidelines for making an effective compost pile include:

Food: A perfect mixture of material consists of ½ brown (carbon-based material) and ½ green (nitrogen-based) materials by weight.

Air: The organisms that live inside your compost bin need air to survive. Mix or turn the pile three to five times per season using a pitchfork, garden hoe or shovel. Proper aeration can make a big difference. You will know if your bin is not getting enough oxygen if the pile smells of ammonia.

Water: The bacteria organisms need the right amount of water to survive. Moisture level of your compost pile should be like that of a wrung out sponge.

Surface Area: Increasing the surface area by cutting or shredding yard waste before placing it into a compost bin will speed up decomposition. You can also store your kitchen scraps (except meat and dairy) in your freezer to speed up decomposition, as materials break down at the cell level when frozen.

Bin Size: A bin should be between 3' x 3' x 3' and 5' x 5' x 5'. A bin that is too small cannot retain enough heat. A bin that is too large won't get enough air to the center of the pile. It is also easier to manage two or three medium bins than one large one. You can build a compost bin or you can buy one at a home or garden center.

You can learn more about composting from the following websites:

- El Dorado County Master Gardeners: http://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/files/154200.pdf
- CalRecycle webpage: <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/CompostMulch/>
- Environmental Management Home Composting webpage: https://www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/solidwaste/pages/home_composting.aspx
- El Dorado Disposal' Home Composting web page: <https://www.eldoradodisposal.com/services/residential/residential-yard-and-food-waste/>

Chipping

Chipping vegetation is an excellent alternative to burning and the chips can be used in mulch or compost. As mulch, chips provide moisture retention, temperature moderation and weed control. As compost, the chips return nutrients to the soil. Although some pollution will be generated by the chipper, the emissions are far less than if the material had been burned. Free or reduced cost residential chipping is available through various agencies in El Dorado County when funding is available.

El Dorado County Fire Safe Council: The [El Dorado County Fire Safe Council](#), (530-647-1700) in partnership with [El Dorado Disposal](#), and [South Tahoe Refuse](#) provides a Chipping Program and a Green Waste Dumpster Program along with many other valuable fire fuel reduction resources. Please see the web sites linked below for the details of their programs:

- Chipping Program: <https://www.edcfiresafe.org/chipper-program/>
- Green Waste Dumpster Program: <http://www.edcfiresafe.org/programs-grants-2/green-waste-programs/>
- Senior Assistance Program: Vegetation Removal Assistance for Seniors: <http://www.edcfiresafe.org/programs-grants-2/free-vegetation-removal-for-seniors-or-disabled-citizens/>

Meeks Bay Fire Protection District and Lake Valley Fire Protection District periodically operate chipper programs. They can be reached at: Meeks Bay FPD (530) 525-7548, Lake Valley FPD (530) 577-CHIP (2447).