

Assemblymember Steve Bennett

38th Assembly District



AB 337: Edible Food Recovery Grants

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill 337 adds an additional criteria to the current list for which CalRecycle can award grants through their edible food recovery program.

BACKGROUND

Billions of meals go to waste every year in California, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis and rates of food insecurity for Californians across the state. This wasted food is referred to as “edible food”. Types of edible food include fresh produce, pre-packaged food, and pre-prepared food.

California introduced SB 1383 in 2016, a landmark legislation that required CalRecycle to create regulations that would lead to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills in two major ways: the reduction of organic waste disposal and the recovery of edible food.

Edible food recovery requires enormous effort from commercial edible food generators and food recovery organizations and services. CalRecycle provides grants as appropriated by the legislature for projects targeting food waste prevention and edible food recovery. Since 2018, CalRecycle has awarded \$20 million to 68 edible food recovery projects, resulting in 86 million meals, 103 million pounds of food redirected from landfills, and GHG reductions equal to over 21,000 cars off the road.

THIS BILL

AB 337 will allow a recipient of a CalRecycle grant for an edible food recovery project to be eligible for offset credits. Any credits received by the grant recipient may only be transferred to offset greenhouse gas emission sources in California.

The bill builds on an existing grant program administered by CalRecycle to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the State by expanding or creating new projects to reduce, recycle, or reuse recyclable materials, including organic material.

Specifically, it will make the transportation of recovered edible food and the purchase or subscription to technology or software that improves the efficiency and tracking of edible food recovery, eligible for grant funding.

SUPPORT

California Association of Food Banks

OPPOSITION

None

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