

Media Alert

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Grand Opening of the Shafter-Wasco Compost Facility

A facility built for a greener future – designed to produce 40,000 tons of finished compost annually



What: Kern County Public Works celebrates the grand opening of its Shafter-Wasco Compost Facility.

When: **Tuesday, October 14, 2025**
10 a.m.

Where: **Ceremony**
Shafter-Wasco Recycling & Sanitary Landfill: 17621 Scofield Avenue, Shafter, CA 93263

Who: **Grand Opening Remarks and Attendees:**

- Kern County Public Works Director, Joshua Champlin – *Master of Ceremonies*
- Kern County Public Works Manager, Dave Lee & Staff
- CalRecycle Director, Zoe Heller
- Clark Bros Inc. Vice President, Rex Jorn
- Sustainable Generation Founder and CEO, Scott Woods
- Edgar & Associates Principal Engineer and President, Evan Edgar
- SCS Engineers Senior Professional Engineer, Michael Bradford

Background: Join Kern County Public Works and our partners as we proudly unveil the brand-new Shafter-Wasco Compost Facility – a major step forward in sustainable waste management and environmental stewardship.

This state-of-the-art facility is designed to divert 100,000 tons of organic waste from landfills every year, helping Kern County and its incorporated cities meet their SB 1383 organic waste recovery and procurement goals. By transforming organic materials into high-quality compost, the facility will support County properties, local agriculture, enrich community landscapes, and reduce landfill use – all while improving regional air quality.

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What We Compost

The facility accepts a wide range of compostable materials, including residential and commercial feedstocks such as green waste (grass clippings, leaves, tree trimmings, brush), agricultural materials, manure, food waste, food-soiled paper, and vegetative food.

Big Impact, Smart Design

Each year, the facility will produce 40,000 tons of nutrient-rich compost, support soil health, and reduce groundwater use across the region. The operation will also:

- Save valuable landfill space and preserve capacity by diverting organic material
- Reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), methane, and other air pollutants

At the heart of the facility, there are 32 composting bunkers, each capable of holding up to 600 tons of material. These bunkers use Sustainable Generation's Covered Aerated Static Pile (CASP) technology with GORE® covers – an advanced membrane fabric – with a forced aeration system that significantly reduces odors and emissions throughout the composting process. The facility is designed to maintain moisture levels by reducing evaporative losses, retain heat in smaller piles, and reduce the attraction of vectors and odors.

How the Composting System & Process Works

The composting process is carefully managed in three phases:

Phase 1 – Active Composting: Feedstock is placed in covered bunkers for three to four weeks, where the integrated environmental system monitors temperature and oxygen.

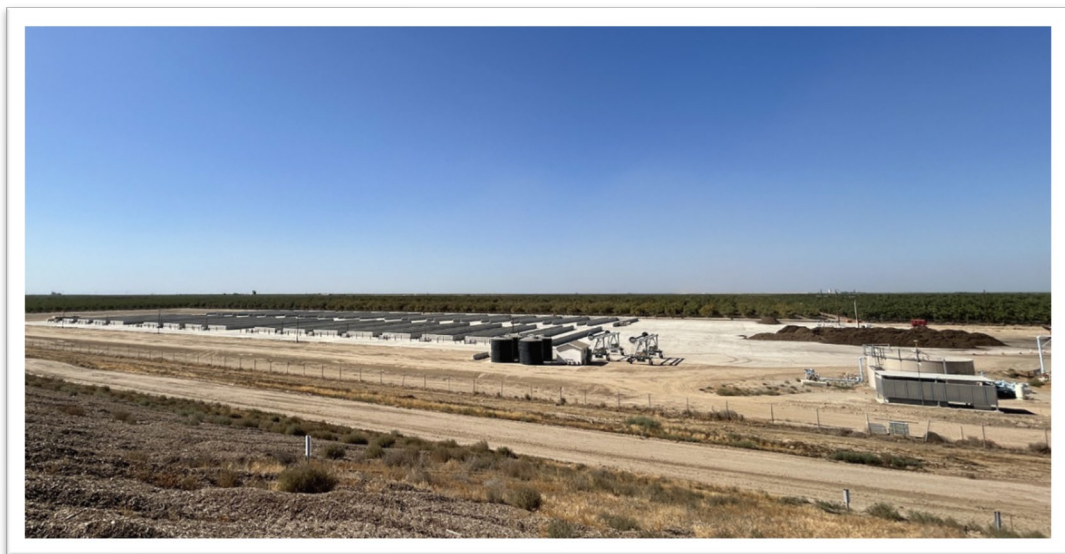
Phase 2 – Curing Process: The partially composted material is moved to another covered bunker for two to three weeks to further the composting process and stabilize the material.

Phase 3 – Finishing: The material is moved one final time to uncovered bunkers for two weeks where it will mature into finished product ready for use.

Powered by a Grant and Partnerships

Kern County Public Works was awarded a \$10 million grant from CalRecycle's Organics Grant Program in March 2024 to offset the construction of the composting facility. CalRecycle, Clark Bros. Inc., SCS Engineers, Edgar & Associates, Sustainable Generation, and AECOM partnered with Kern County Public Works for the development of this compost facility.

Construction began in April 2024 and was completed in September 2025.



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