

# Did You Know?

Organic waste is any material that is biodegradable and comes from either a plant or an animal. Biodegradable waste is organic material that can be broken into carbon dioxide, methane or simple organic molecules. Examples of organic waste include green waste, food waste, food-soiled paper, non-hazardous wood waste, and landscape and pruning waste.

Did you know that methane gas generated from food waste is **20 to 25 times stronger** than Carbon Dioxide? Carbon Dioxide, or CO<sub>2</sub> is created by the burning of fossil fuels like coal, natural gas and oil, including gasoline.

Did you know that soil with compost is more nutritious and holds water better, and has more microbes, which makes for healthier soil and protects plants from disease?

Did you know that organic waste accounts for about **40 percent** of all the materials California sends to landfills each year? Out of the 40 percent of organic material that sits in landfills, **30 percent could be used for compost or mulch.**

Did you know that every ton of paper that is recycled saves about 17 trees?

Did you know that Approximately **1 billion trees** worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.?

Did you know that nearly half of the food in the U.S. goes to waste—approximately **3,000 pounds** per second?

Did you know that currently only about **5% of food** is diverted from landfill?

Did you know **2.5 million** plastic bottles are thrown away every hour in America?

Did you know enough plastic is thrown away each year to circle the earth **four times**?

