



# 2024 Organics Management Laws

## Focus on Business Management Requirements

### Overview

Methane is a greenhouse gas that is, over 20 years, at least 75 times more potent than carbon dioxide. The primary goal of the [2024 Organics Management Laws](#)<sup>1</sup> is to reduce the emissions of methane created when organic materials, like food and yard waste, decompose in a landfill. To achieve this reduction, the bill established milestones based on 2015 disposal levels:

- Rescue 20% of previously disposed edible food for human consumption by 2025
- Divert 75% of previously disposed organic materials from landfills by 2030

To help meet the state's organic management goals, the new laws added to and amended many different RCWs.

### State requirements

This focus sheet examines a portion of the new law, [RCW 70A.205.545](#)<sup>[2]</sup>, which has near-term requirements for Ecology and businesses. By July 1, 2023, and each following year, Ecology must post a determination of where the following apply:

- Curbside collection of food waste and organic materials is provided to businesses, and these materials are delivered to an organics management facility such as a compost facility or anaerobic digester.
- Adequate capacity exists at these facilities to accept increased volumes of organic materials from businesses.

<sup>1</sup><https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2407025.pdf>

### Businesses requirements

Based on available service and volumes of organic material and solid waste produced, businesses must arrange for organic materials management services following the schedule below:

- **Jan. 1, 2024** -Businesses generating at least eight cubic yards of organic material waste per week must arrange for organic materials management service.
- **Jan. 1, 2025** -Businesses generating at least four cubic yards of organic material waste per week must arrange for organic materials management service.
- **Jan. 1, 2026** - Businesses generating at least 96 gallons of organic waste per week must arrange for organic materials management service.

These requirements also apply to businesses arranging for gardening and landscape work. Following the schedule above, they must ensure that an organics management facility will process the organic materials taken off site.

More details on these requirements can be found at [Organics management for businesses - Washington State Department of Ecology](#).



## Organics Management

(continued)

<sup>2</sup><https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70A.205.545>

## Business exemptions may apply

Ecology and local jurisdictions will work together to determine primary exemptions for businesses from the organic material management requirements.

- Businesses will not be required to arrange for organics management services if there are no haulers in a jurisdiction to collect and deliver organic materials to a management facility, or the existing organic management facilities have no capacity for additional deliveries, or it is not economically feasible to collect and deliver organic materials to them.
- A jurisdiction may provide written notice to Ecology that, based on the criteria above, the organic material management requirements do not apply to businesses in their jurisdiction. Guidance on how to request an exemption can be requested at [organics@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:organics@ecy.wa.gov).

Businesses may also be exempt from arranging for organic material management services if one of the following conditions apply:

- Organic materials are managed onsite.
- Organic materials from growing or harvesting food or fiber are used offsite by a business for growing food or fiber.
- Organic materials are sold or donated to another business for offsite use.
- Organic materials are generated from a natural disaster.
- Organic materials are self-hauled to an organic materials management facility.

## How to learn more

Subscribe to the Organics Management email news to stay up to date. To sign up, follow the [email news<sup>1</sup>](#) link:

- Submit your email address
- Choose the Solid Waste Management Program
- Choose Organic Materials

### DEFINITIONS

“**Business**” means a commercial or public entity including, but not limited to, a firm, partnership, proprietorship, joint stock company, corporation, or association that is organized as a for-profit or nonprofit entity. [Note: This definition includes public and nonprofit entities such as schools, churches, and hospitals.]

“**Business**” does not include a multifamily residential entity.

“**Food waste**” means waste from fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy products, fish, shellfish, nuts, seeds, grains, and similar materials that results from the storage, preparation, cooking, handling, selling, or serving of food for human consumption.

<sup>1</sup>[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/news?topic\\_id=WAECY\\_244%22%3eClick%20to%20subscribe%3c/a](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/news?topic_id=WAECY_244%22%3eClick%20to%20subscribe%3c/a)



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