



2024 Organics Management Laws

Focus on Washington's Organics Management Laws - Updated

Purpose and Goals

In 2022, the first [Organics Management Law \("OML 1.0"\)](#) was passed as [HB1799](#): in 2024, a second Organics Management Law, [HB 2301](#) ("OML 2.0") passed. These laws support the Washington Legislature's 2021 Climate Commitment Act (CCA), which sets carbon emission limits and requires the state to reduce its carbon output 45% by 2030, 70% by 2040, and 95% by 2050.

Washington's organic management laws will reduce methane by diverting organic materials from municipal landfills. Instead, we can rescue food to feed people, feed livestock and make compost to enhance our soils and stormwater retention.

Washington's organics management goal, relative to 2015 levels:

- By 2025, 20% of previously disposed edible food must be recovered for consumption
- By 2030, 75% of previously disposed organic materials must be diverted from landfills

The Organics Management Law affects everyone in the state. Successful implementation of the law will require coordination across public and private industry stakeholders.

A general overview follows, addressing updated requirements established by the OML 2.0.

Grant Funding

To help public and private stakeholders meet the organics management requirements, this bill created five different grant programs. Funded activities will include investing in business food donation, improving donated food transportation infrastructure, establishing food waste reduction

programs, investing in food waste tracking and analytics, and supporting stakeholders implementing the organics management laws. Work to develop these grant programs will begin in January 2025.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) will operate a related grant program, the "Washington Commodities Donation Grant Program." This program will ensure Washington-grown produce at risk of landfilling will instead be distributed to hunger relief organizations. Contact [WSDA](#) for more information.

Starting in 2026, Waste Not Washington awards will increase from \$5,000 to a max award of \$10,000 to support waste reduction in public schools.

Organics Management & Collection

Critical to meeting Washington's organics diversion goals is expanding access to organics collection for businesses and residents. OML 2.0 made the following changes to these requirements established in the first OML.

Business Organics Management

HB 2301 made the following changes to business organics management requirements:

- Local governments must provide supporting evidence for their exclusion from the Business Organic Management Area (BOMA); Ecology must confirm evidence to grant exclusion.
- 2026 threshold for mandatory collection from businesses changed for 4 cubic yards of **solid** waste to **96 gallons of organic waste**.

Updated BOMA maps are available each year by July 1st.

Residential Collection Requirements

Beginning April 1, 2027 jurisdictions* must make year round organics collection service available to:

- All residential customers except multifamily residences
- Nonresidential customers that generate more than .25 cubic yards of organic waste per week

Cities and counties that provided organics collection service as of Jan. 1, 2024, are not required to provide year-round service if they provide service at least 26 weeks annually.

By **April 1, 2030**, all customers (except multifamily residences) in these cities and counties will receive organics and food waste collection service.

*Local jurisdictions do not have to provide curbside organics and food waste collection service if:

- Their population is less than 25,000, or
- Their jurisdiction disposes less than 5,000 tons of solid waste
- Additional exemptions apply in counties that do not plan under [36.70A RCW](#). Please [see OML 1.0](#) for details.

Research

Plastic produce stickers contaminate finished compost. In partnership with WSDA, Ecology will work with a consultant to research produce sticker technologies that meet the needs of the produce and compost industry. A summary report of the research is due to the legislature by Sep. 1, 2025.

Processing

To minimize customer confusion and compost facility contamination, the OML 1.0 established labeling requirements for compostable products and gave joint enforcement authority to cities, counties and Ecology in chapter [70A.455 RCW](#).

OML 2.0 amended some of these requirements, including:

- Expanded the definition of compostable product
- Clarified the definition and related restrictions on film tinting and color schemes used for plastic film bags
- Requires cities and counties to notify Ecology with a letter of their enforcement intent

Markets

OML 1.0 required a compost procurement ordinance (CPO) for cities and counties greater than 25,000 residents. More market demand for compost will be critical to processing more organics. OML 2.0 says cities and counties with a CPO must report each year on total compost procured, starting March 31st, 2025.

OML 2.0 also allows municipalities to purchase compost from both permitted and conditionally permit-exempt facilities. A list of eligible facilities to purchase compost under this program can be found [here](#).

Prevention

Preventing food waste is the best approach to curb methane emissions and address food insecurity. This is also a complex challenge. OML 2.0 established a workgroup to better understand preventing wasted food, food rescue, material recovery and food donation by businesses. The legislation identifies the research topics and the workgroup member affiliations. Ecology will deliver a report to the legislature by Sep. 1, 2025.

Related Information

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