



Organics Management Law

A Side-by-Side of BOMA and ORCA Requirements

The [Business Organics Management Area \(BOMA\)](#) and [Organics Recycling Collection Area \(ORCA\)](#) requirements impact businesses and residents in Washington State. Both requirements aim to take organics out of the landfill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but they use different strategies.



Business Organics Management Area (BOMA)

Requirement: In these areas, businesses use existing services or manage organics in another way outlined in the law.

See [RCW 70A.205.545](#)



Organics Recycling Collection Area (ORCA)

Requirement: In these areas, 1) local governments must provide organics collections services for business and single-family residential customers; and 2) business and single-family residential customers must use their service.

See [RCW 70A.205.540](#)

The Basics

These requirements depend on the business or customer location and are rolling out over time.

The state updates two maps, one specific to BOMA and another to ORCA, every year to show which areas are required to comply. Some businesses are already impacted, while others have until 2030 to meet these new requirements.

Businesses are required to separate and manage organic waste, while local governments are responsible for making sure collection services exist. Together, this helps reduce methane, create compost for healthy soils, and support organics recycling markets.

If a business or residential customer generates organics, they will likely be impacted. Most businesses, and eventually many residents, in a BOMA or in an ORCA must set up organics collection or manage it using an alternative method instead of putting it in the trash.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-995-3980 or by email at organics@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

Contact us

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www.ecy.wa.gov/OM-law-businesses



Frequently Asked Questions	 Business Organics Management Area (BOMA)	 Organics Recycling Collection Area (ORCA)
Who has to have their organic materials collected?	All business customers producing 96 gallons of organic material waste per week that are in a BOMA.	All single-family residences and business customers producing 0.25 cubic yards (approximately 50 gallons) of organic waste per week that are in an ORCA.
Who do the maps apply to?	Applies to businesses located in designated BOMAs, as determined annually by Ecology. Link to BOMA map.	Applies to cities and counties in designated ORCAs, based on population size (>25,000 residents) and density. Link to ORCA map.
How are maps the drawn?	Ecology updates the map every year by July 1. The map is based on where there is sufficient collection service and processing capacity for the organic materials.	Ecology updates the map every year by September 1. The map is based on population estimates from the WA State Office of Financial Management (OFM) and US Census Bureau .
When do these requirements go into effect?	Service is already available. Requirements began January 1, 2024, for large organic waste generators. As of January 1, 2026, nearly all businesses in a BOMA are required to comply.	For local governments: By April 2027, local governments must make organics service available to impacted customers. For business and residential customers: By April 2030, impacted customers will be required to have organics collection service.
I'm impacted, what do I need to do?	Businesses must arrange for organics management service or have an alternative plan to manage their organic waste (i.e. self-hauling, on-site management).	Local governments must provide organics collection services separate from trash/recycling. Customers must arrange for organics management service or have an alternative plan to manage their organic waste (i.e. self-hauling, on-site management). Customers must have this service starting April 1, 2030.
Are there waivers or exclusions for local governments?	There is a jurisdictional process for exclusion from BOMA. Link to focus sheet.	Local governments may apply for a Service or Frequency waiver to extend the timeline to meeting the requirements or provide an alternative collection method that reduces the collection frequency. Link to webpage for details.
Are there exemptions for businesses and residential customers?	Businesses may have some exemptions depending on the volume of organics they generate or if they are using an alternative plan for organics management. Visit Ecology's webpage for details on business exemptions.	Local governments must use Ecology's guidance available in 2026 and offer customer exemptions for organics collection by 2030.

If you are a local government with questions, please reach out to Ecology's Organics team at organics@ecy.wa.gov. If you are a business customer or single-family resident with questions, please visit your local city or county's website.