



Chelan-Douglas Health District

200 Valley Mall Parkway, East Wenatchee, WA 98802

8/11/25

Subject: Requirements for Temporary Food Service Establishments (TFSE) Regarding Washington's Organics Management Law

Dear Temporary Food Establishment Operator,

Thank you for your participation in our local event within Chelan or Douglas County. As part of our shared commitment to environmental sustainability and public health, we want to inform you of your responsibilities under **Washington State's Organics Management Law** (RCW 70A.205), which affects how food waste and compostable materials are managed during temporary food service events in our area.

Washington law requires businesses that generate organic waste — including food scraps and compostable service ware — to properly separate and divert this material from the landfill. On January 1st of 2026, businesses that generate at least 96 gallons of organic waste per week (or event in the case of a TFSE) must arrange for organic materials management service if available in your area.

Business Organic Management Area (BOMA). If your event is in the following areas, which includes most of Chelan county and most of Douglas county, you must arrange for food scrap/compostable service ware pickup:

- Wenatchee valley (East Wenatchee and Wenatchee up to the Leavenworth area)
- Plain area
- Rock Island area
- Waterville area
- Orondo area
- Entiat area
- Chelan and Manson areas

As an Event Coordinator, you are responsible for arranging for organic materials management services at the event. Winton Composting can help you with proper compostable bags to compost signs and bins, and scheduled pickup.

As a TFSE, you are required to:

- **Sort Food Waste:** Separate pre-consumer and post-consumer food scraps from garbage and recycle them through composting or an approved organics diversion method.
- **Use Approved Compostables:** If offering single-use service ware (plates, utensils, containers), use items that are certified compostable where collection for composting is provided.

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Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Community

- **Labeling & Signage:** Clearly label all waste receptacles (garbage, recycling, compost) and provide signage to help customers and staff properly sort their waste.
- **Work with Event Organizers:** Coordinate with your event planner to ensure that appropriate waste collection services are in place for compostables and recyclables. Event coordinators are responsible for ensuring that waste diversion and organic waste collection is easy for TFSE vendors.

Failure to comply may result in enforcement action, including warnings, educational outreach, or citations as allowed by RCW 70A.205.

For more information about the Organics Management Law, please visit:

- Washington State Department of Ecology – Organics Management <https://ecology.wa.gov/waste-toxics/reducing-recycling-waste/organics-and-food-waste>
- Winton Composting in Leavenworth: <https://www.wintonmfg.com> (509) 763-0000 who are the local organic materials management service.

If you have any questions regarding your responsibilities or need help finding compostable products or disposal options, please contact me at (509) 886-6418 or Winton Composting. We appreciate your cooperation in protecting our environment and supporting sustainable food service practices in Washington State!

Sincerely,



Brian Dickey, R.S.
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Encl: 2024 Organics Management Law – Dept of Ecology Focus Sheet handout



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](#)¹ 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](#)^[2], 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.

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)

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

²<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.

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 news¹](#) 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.

¹https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_244%22%3eClick%20to%20subscribe%3c/a



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To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6381 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877- 833-6341.