Waste No More Virtual Town Hall

Discussing Task Force Recommendations & How to Participate in the August Public Comment Period

August 17, 2023
This session is available in both English and Spanish audio. Click on the “Interpretation” icon at the bottom of the Zoom window and choose either "English" or “Spanish”.

Esta sesión está disponible en inglés y español audio. Escoja el icono "Interpretación" en la parte inferior de la ventana de Zoom y elija "Inglés" o "Español".
This session has presentations available in both English & Spanish. On the top of your screen, you’ll see a drop down that says, “View Options”. Click which screen you would like to view.

Esta sesión tendrá presentaciones disponibles en inglés y español. En la parte superior de la pantalla, verá un menú desplegable que dice “View Options”. Haga clic en la pantalla que desea ver.
We’ll be using the Q&A function to take questions.

Usaremos la función de preguntas y respuestas para responder a sus preguntas.
Tonight’s Agenda

• Origin of the Waste No More Ordinance
• What the Waste No More Ordinance Requires
• Waste No More Task Force: Purpose and Process
• Discussion: Recommended Supports & Changes
• Open Q&A
• How To Participate in Public Comment
Origin of the Ordinance

- Denver has had a low rate of diverting waste from landfill for many years
- Denver has never had a citywide requirement for recycling or composting
- The Waste No More coalition was formed to gather signatures to put this measure on the ballot in 2021
- Did not get enough signatures for 2021 but did for the 2022 ballot
- 70% of voters approved!
Ordinance Requirements
What is Required?

• Residential and Non-Residential buildings and permitted special events must provide access to on-site recycling & composting in addition to trash (landfill).
  • Access means in basic terms: Container, Signage, & Service.
  • Recycling must include paper, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, corrugated cardboard, cartons, glass bottles & jars
  • Compost must include organics (food waste)
• Buildings must provide education to employees, customers, tenants
• Entities must submit annual recycling plan to the City
• Include recycling and compost in janitorial contracts
Where is it Required?

- Multi-family residential 8+ units
- All non-residential buildings
- Permitted special events
- Construction & demolition over 500 SF
- Food Waste Producers

Food Waste Producers
Including but not limited to:
- Grocery stores
- Food wholesalers, distributors, and manufacturers
- Food trucks
- Hotels
- Hospitals
- Sports venues
- Event centers
- Caterers
- Nursing & residential care facilities
- Office buildings with dining services
- Farmers markets
- Food shelves and food banks
- Colleges & universities with dining services
- Shopping centers
- Airports
- Golf clubs & country clubs
- Rental kitchens or shared commercial kitchens
- Restaurants

Single family homes, small apartment buildings up to 7 units, city facilities, and public schools are serviced by the City and are not covered by this ordinance. The City already provides recycling and organics collection to its customers.
## When is it Required?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compliance Date in the ballot language</th>
<th>Covered entities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 6/1/2022                               | Multi-family 75+ units
                                                Food trucks
                                                Special events |
| 6/1/2023                               | Multi-family 25-75 units
                                                Commercial 25,000+ SF
                                                Food waste producers 15,000+ SF
                                                All C&D         |
| 6/1/2024                               | Multi-family 8-24 units
                                                Commercial 5,000-25,000 SF
                                                Food waste producers 5,000-15,000 SF |
| 6/1/2025                               | All other commercial
                                                All other food waste producers |
Task Force & Outreach
Task Force: Purpose

- Ballot language not fully enforceable
- Compliance dates are back-dated due to being on the 2022 ballot
- Any changes to voter-approved ordinances must be approved by a super-majority of City Council (9 of 13 members)
- Task force collaborations are crucial and have been successful:
  - Green Building Ordinance
  - Climate Action Task Force
  - Energize Denver Ordinance
  - Accessory Dwelling Units
Task Force: Process

- Open application for 26 members
- Supported by City staff + facilitator
- Monthly meetings March-July
- Working groups between meetings
  - Equity
  - C&D
  - Organics
  - Licensees
  - Education & Outreach
- August: Public Engagement
- September: Revise & finalize report
- October+: Ordinance drafting & Council process

- Ballot sponsors
- City Council members
- Commercial & multi-family buildings
- Food service providers (restaurants, schools, entertainment venues)
- Special events (organizers, vendors, planners)
- Waste haulers & processors
- Small businesses
- Construction industry
- Labor
- Environmental advocates
- Multi-family building residents (8+ units)
Purpose of this Outreach

- Explain the requirements
- Review the proposed changes
- Discuss how to make it successful
  - What are the barriers to success?
  - What supports are needed?

This is not a debate for or against the ordinance. Voters have already approved of it. The fundamental requirements and timeline to full implementation are not going to change.
Recommended Supports
## Supportive Recommendations

### Education
- Develop a Compliance Guidebook and/or online Resource Hub
- Education campaigns emphasizing the “WHY?”
- Creating consistency among language, pictures, signage, and symbols
  - Standardize symbols for recycling and organics
  - Reframe “compost collection” as “organics collection”
  - Reframe recycling and organics away from “waste”
  - Color-coding
  - Create consistency among City operations
- Provide Culturally Specific and Competent Education and Outreach

### Financial Support Programs
**Grants and Incentive Programs**
- Subsidizing service costs
- Hiring new staff, employee training, including janitorial staff and event staff or volunteers, peer educators, language access
- Producing educational materials, funding challenge campaigns
- Purchasing equipment and containers

**Household Affordability Program:** A reimbursement fund should be created for under-resourced households that pay for waste directly

Programs should prioritize under-resourced people, communities, and businesses

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Supportive Recommendations

City Purchasing Requirements

- Require City agencies to procure and use finished end-products such as
  - Compost, digestate, and other approved blended soil amendments
  - Recycled concrete aggregate (concrete, asphalt) and steel

City Zoning & Permit Policies

- Identify and remedy barriers to site small and large-scale solid waste processing facilities
- Streamline/clarify permitting rules for zero waste businesses
- Develop a solid waste facility permitting structure for organics recycling, C&D recycling, and reusable “wash hubs”
- Establish more local options for organics recycling
- Remove barriers for businesses to have on-site composting and anaerobic digestion
- Expand community-level composting programs and initiatives to reduce the environmental and economic burden of hauling long distances
Recommended Changes
Compliance Timelines: Buildings

**Recommendation**

Large: 75+ units or 25,000+ square feet
- 12 months from adoption of rules, but no later than January 1, 2025

Medium: 25-74 units or 5,000-24,999 SF
- 18 months from adoption of rules, but no later than June 1, 2025

Small: 8-24 units and all other non-residential buildings
- 24 months from adoption of rules, but no later than January 1, 2026

**Notes**

- Waste hauling for single family homes and apartments with up to 7 units, Denver Public Schools, and City facilities is provided by the City (trash, recycling, and organics). The City is prohibited by state law from providing waste hauling to any other entities.
- All regulated entities regulated will have the opportunity to demonstrate a good faith effort to comply if they are unable to secure the required services by their compliance date.
Compliance Timelines: C&D

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• By January 1, 2025: 50% Solid Waste Diversion Goal</td>
<td>• The percent diverted calculation is based on total tons of waste per project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• By January 1, 2028: 65% Solid Waste Diversion Goal</td>
<td>• There will be exemptions for buildings deemed a safety hazard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• By January 1, 2030: 80% Solid Waste Diversion Goal</td>
<td>• June 1, 2023 - required C&amp;D Plan and Compliance Form documentation component already in place</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Notes:
- The percent diverted calculation is based on total tons of waste per project.
- There will be exemptions for buildings deemed a safety hazard.
- June 1, 2023 - required C&D Plan and Compliance Form documentation component already in place.
C&D Refundable Deposit

**Recommendation**

- Charge a deposit at the time of permit issuance based on size of project (Sq Ft)
- Deposit is fully refundable when the contractor confirms that the required diversion rate was achieved at the end of the project
  - Partial refunds possible for meeting some but not all of the diversion requirement
- Objective is to incentivize a high compliance rate without resorting to fees for non-compliance
  - After a construction or demolition project is complete, it is too late to recover any recyclable materials

**Notes**

- To ensure this requirement does not place additional burdens on affordable housing projects or under-resourced businesses, the City should consider opportunities to waive the deposit and/or provide additional support to these sectors.
- The amount of the deposit must be determined through a fee study, it cannot be set arbitrarily.

**Notes (continued)**

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Compliance Timelines: Events

**Option 1**
Large events first, three phases
- Events **over 10,000** attendees comply within 12 months from adoption of rules, but no later than **January 1, 2025**.
- Events **over 3,000** attendees comply within 24 months from adoption of rules, but no later than **January 1, 2026**.
- Events **over 350** attendees comply within 36 months from adoption of rules, but no later than **January 1, 2027**.

**Option 2**
Large events first, two phases
- Events **over 3,000** attendees comply within 12 months from adoption of rules, but no later than **January 1, 2025**.
- Events **over 350** attendees comply within 24 months from adoption of rules, but no later than **January 1, 2026**.

**Option 3**
Small events first, two phases
- Events **350-3,000** attendees comply within 12 months from adoption of rules, but no later than **January 1, 2025**.
- Events **over 3,000** attendees comply within 24 months from adoption of rules, but no later than **January 1, 2026**.

**Option 4**
All events, no phasing
- All events regardless of size must comply within 24 months from adoption of rules but no later than **January 1, 2026**.

- Events with less than 350 attendees are assumed to fall into the “de minimus” exemption category.
- Block parties are exempt because their permit does not require a waste hauling plan or service (residents use their own carts).
- Events permitted by Parks & Rec may or may not require a waste hauling plan and service, separate from the waste receptacles already in the parks, depending on the size of the event and type of permit issued.
Recommended Supports & Changes

**Recommended Supports**
1. Financial Supports
2. Education – Best Practices
3. City Purchasing Requirements
4. City Zoning & Permit Policies

**Recommended Changes**
1. Compliance Timeline: Buildings
2. Compliance Timeline: C&D
3. C&D Refundable Deposit
4. Compliance Timeline: Events

Thoughts or comments?
Public Comment: How To Participate

Visit us online at www.denvergov.org/wastenomore to learn more and to access the Waste No More Task Force Recommendation Feedback Survey.

Help us spread the word! Share the public comment opportunity with friends, family, neighbors, and throughout your community.

Submit questions, comments, and concerns via email at wastenomore@denvergov.org
THANK YOU!!

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City and County of Denver
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PRONOUNS: He | Him | His