



## New Recycling and Food Waste Collection Requirements for Businesses and Organizations

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In November 2019, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners adopted a revised [Ordinance 110, Solid Waste Management](#), ([www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *Ordinance 110*) to implement strategies in the 2018-2030 Solid Waste Master Plan to reduce waste going to landfills, improve the quality of materials recycled, and make progress toward the state's goal to recycle 75 percent of waste by 2030. Changes to the ordinance include new recycling requirements for businesses and new organics collection requirements for large generators of food waste.

Below is a summary of the new requirements that impact businesses and organizations:

### 1. Recycling Requirements for All Businesses and Organizations

Business/organization owners and managers must recycle a [designated list of recyclables](#) and follow best waste management practices, including:

- a. All recycling and trash containers are properly labeled. Labels must be consistent with County waste abatement messaging guidelines and:
  - Indicate the material type collected, and use the term “Trash”, “Recycle” or “Recycling” and “Organics” (if collected). Other waste types must be labeled with the materials accepted.
  - Show images of materials accepted in recycling and organics (if collected) containers.
  - Be color-coded (blue for recycling, green for organics, gray or black for trash).
  - Be visible and legible to users.
  - Include preparation requirements, where applicable.
- b. The collection schedule and container capacity are sufficient to collect all the recyclables from the building spaces and to prevent overflowing containers.
- c. Co-locate recycling containers within 10 feet of trash containers.
- d. Ensure recyclables and organics (if collected) are separated and delivered to a recycling or organics facility.
- e. Provide standardized waste abatement messages in print or electronic form to each employee and housekeeping and custodial contractor within 30 days of hire, and annually thereafter<sup>1</sup>.
- f. Annually report to the County to demonstrate program effectiveness on County forms<sup>2</sup>.
- g. Do not put any of the items on the [designated list of contaminants](#) in the recycling container.

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<sup>1</sup> The County is developing a repository of waste abatement messages that includes recycling educational information and images that can be downloaded for use at no cost. Messages will be available in Q1 of 2020.

<sup>2</sup> County staff is currently working with stakeholders on all components of implementation, including to develop County forms for annual reporting. Businesses/organizations will not have to report until forms are provided by County staff.

***When do businesses and organizations need to comply?***

Phase 1 – by July 1, 2020: Businesses and organizations that are already required to recycle per the state’s commercial recycling law ([Minnesota Statute 115A.151](#)). This state law currently requires most businesses and organizations in the County to recycle at least three materials (paper, metal, glass, plastic).

Phase 2 – by January 1, 2021: All other businesses and organizations (e.g., manufacturers, small businesses/churches).

*See Ordinance 110, Sections: 3.01 Generator Requirements; 16.02 Commercial Generators; 16.05 Trash, Recycling and Organics Requirements; and 16.06 Labeling (pages 12, 111-113) for a full list of requirements.*

**2. Requirements for Some Large Organics Generators to Collect Food Waste**

Business/organization owners and managers that generate large amounts of organics (food waste) must separate and collect a [designated list of organics](#) (food waste) from back-of-house<sup>3</sup> areas for appropriate management (donation, food-for-animals, commercial composting) and implement best waste management practices for collection, including:

- a. All organics containers are properly labeled. Labels must be consistent with County waste abatement messaging guidelines and:
  - Indicate the material type collected - use the term “Organics”. Other waste types must be labeled with the materials accepted.
  - Show images of materials accepted (food waste types) in organics containers.
  - Be color-coded (green for organics).
  - Be visible and legible to users.
  - Include preparation requirement, where applicable.
- b. The collection schedule and container capacity are sufficient to collect all the back-of-house organics to prevent overflowing containers.
- c. Ensure back-of-house food waste is separated and delivered for food recovery or to an organics facility.
- d. Provide standardized waste abatement messages in print or electronic form to each employee and housekeeping and custodial contractor within 30 days of hire and annually thereafter<sup>4</sup>.
- e. Annually report to the County to demonstrate program effectiveness on County forms<sup>5</sup>.

***When do businesses and organizations need to comply?***

Back-of-house organics collection is a phased requirement that applies to businesses and organizations identified below that:

- *generate at least one ton (eight cubic yards) of trash per week and*
- *generate back-of-house organics*

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<sup>3</sup> Back-of-house means pre-consumption food waste from the kitchen, food preparation, dishwashing, and storage areas. It does not include food waste generated from food that has been served to customers, residents/tenants or the public.

<sup>4</sup> The County is developing a repository of waste abatement messages that includes recycling educational information and images that can be downloaded for use at no cost. Messages will be available in Q1 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Businesses/organizations will not have to report until forms are provided by County staff.

Phase 1 - by January 1, 2022:

- Food wholesalers, distributors, and manufacturers
- Grocery stores

Phase 2 – by January 1, 2023:

- Hospitals
- Schools, colleges and universities with dining services

Phase 3 - by January 1, 2024:

- Office buildings with dining services
- Hotels
- Farmers markets
- Food shelves and food banks
- Restaurants
- Shopping centers
- Golf clubs and country clubs
- Public/rentable commissaries or kitchens
- Nursing and residential care facilities
- Sports venues, event centers and caterers
- Large event venues with organics

See [\*Ordinance 110, Sections: 3.01 Generator Requirements; 16.04 Organics; 16.05 Trash, Recycling and Organics Requirements; and 16.06 Labeling \(pages 12, 112-113\) for a full list of the requirements.\*](#)

### Resources to Help

Dakota County is developing resources to help businesses start or improve an existing recycling program and become compliant with new requirements. Resources that are currently available include:

- a. Free bin labels and educational resources
- b. Funding for recycling and food waste collection improvements (limited, no match required)
- c. On-site consulting assistance (non-regulatory)
- d. Business e-news. Sign up at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *e-news*

To learn more or to order free labels and educational handouts, visit [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *business recycling* or contact:

- Renee Burman, Environmental Resources Department
- [renee.burman@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:renee.burman@co.dakota.mn.us)
- 952-891-7042

### Become Engaged

The new requirements may have just passed in November 2019, but County staff are actively engaging business representatives on implementation approaches. If you would like more information about the new requirements or wish to provide feedback on implementation, contact:

- Dave Magnuson, Waste Regulation Unit Supervisor
- [dave.magnuson@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:dave.magnuson@co.dakota.mn.us)
- 952-891-7551
- [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *Ordinance 110*