



New Recycling and Food Waste Collection Requirements for Events and Event Venues

In November 2019, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners adopted a revised [Ordinance 110: Solid Waste Management](#), (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 and requirements for large events/event venues to collect food waste.

Below is a summary of the new requirements that impact events/event venues:

1. Recycling Requirements for Events and Event Venues

Property owners and event sponsors 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 labeling requirements](#), including:
 - 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. Co-locate recycling containers within 10 feet of trash containers.
- c. The collection schedule and container capacity are sufficient to collect all the recyclables from the building spaces and to prevent overflowing containers.
- d. Ensure recyclables and organics (if collected) are separated and delivered to a recycling or organics facility.
- e. Provide standardized messages consistent with [County education requirements](#) to event employees, volunteers, housekeeping, and custodial contractors within 30 days of hire, and annually thereafter¹.
- f. Annually report to the County to demonstrate program effectiveness on County forms².
- g. Do not put any of the items on the [designated list of contaminants](#) in the recycling container.

When do events and event venues need to comply?

Phase 1 – by July 1, 2020: Events/event venues that are already required to recycle per the state’s commercial recycling law ([Minnesota Statute 115A.151](#)). This state law currently requires some event venues in the County to recycle at least three materials (e.g., paper, metal, glass, plastic).

Phase 2 – by January 1, 2021: All other events/event venues (e.g., small events).

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.

¹ 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 charge. Messages will be available in Q1 of 2020.

² County staff is currently working with stakeholders on all components of implementation, including development of County forms for annual reporting. Events/event venues will not have to report until forms are provided by County staff.

2. Requirements for Large Events and Event Venues to Collect Food Waste

Event property owners and event sponsors of large event venues with organics³ must separate and collect a [designated list of organics](#) in back-of-house⁴ areas and follow best waste management practices, including:

- a. All organics containers are properly labeled. Labels must be consistent with [County labeling requirements](#) including:
 - 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 messages consistent with [County education requirements](#) to event volunteers and employees, housekeeping, and custodial contractors within 30 days of hire, and annually thereafter¹.
- e. Annually report to the County to demonstrate program effectiveness on County forms⁵.

When do large event venues with organics³ need to comply? By January 1, 2024

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 requirements.

Resources to Help

Dakota County is developing resources to help event property managers and event sponsors 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. Technical assistance (non-regulatory)
- c. Rental space agreement language

To learn more, visit www.dakotacounty.us and search, *event recycling* or contact:

- Ali Vandercook, Event Recycling Coordinator
- ali.vandercook@co.dakota.mn.us
- 952-891-7552

³ Large event venues with organics are defined as a gathering of at least 300 people (e.g., concerts, fairs, festivals, community events, athletic tournaments) that generates at least one ton (eight cubic yards) of trash per location and that generates back-of-house-organics.

⁴ Back-of-house means pre-consumer food waste from the kitchen, food preparation, dishwashing, and storage areas that are not accessed by customers or the public. It does not include food waste generated from food that has been served to customers or the public.

⁵ Events/event venues will not have to report until forms are provided by County staff.

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
- 952-891-7551
- www.dakotacounty.us, search *Ordinance 110*