



## New Recycling and Food Waste Collection Requirements for Multi-Unit Residential Properties

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.

Below is a summary of the new requirements that impact multi-unit residential properties with four or more residential units (e.g., apartments, condominiums, townhomes, independent senior living):

### 1. Recycling Requirements for Multi-Unit Residential Properties

Building owners and managers who manage municipal solid waste through a common contract 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. 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. Provide recycling containers with a weekly service capacity of at least 0.1 cubic yards per dwelling unit.
- e. Ensure recyclables and organics (if collected) are separated and delivered to a recycling or organics facility.
- f. Provide standardized waste abatement messages to employees, residents/tenants, housekeeping, and custodial contractors within 30 days of hire or new tenant, and annually thereafter<sup>1</sup>.
- g. Annually report to the County to demonstrate program effectiveness on County forms<sup>2</sup>.

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

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

- h. Do not put any of the items on the [designated list of contaminants](#) in the recycling container.

**When do multi-unit residential properties need to comply?** January 1, 2020

See [Ordinance 110](#), Sections: 3.01 Generator Requirements; 16.03 Multi-Unit Buildings; 16.05 Trash, Recycling and Organics Requirements; and 16.06 Labeling (pages 12, 112-113) for a full list of requirements.

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

By January 1, 2024, residential care building owners and managers that generate at least one ton (eight cubic yards) of trash per week and generate back-of-house<sup>3</sup> organics (food waste) must separate and collect a [designated list of organics](#) from back-of-house 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>.

See [Ordinance 110](#), Sections: 3.01 Generator Requirements; 16.03 Multi-Unit Buildings; 16.04 Organics; 16.05 Trash, Recycling and Organics Requirements; and 16.06 Labeling (pages 12, 112-113) for a full list of requirements.

<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.

### Resources to Help

Dakota County is developing resources to help multi-unit residential property owners and managers start or improve an existing recycling program and to become compliant with new ordinance 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. Multifamily property manager and residential 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 *multifamily recycling* or contact:

- Gena Gerard, Multifamily Recycling Program Coordinator
- [gena.gerard@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:gena.gerard@co.dakota.mn.us)
- 952-891-7021

### 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*