



North Central Texas Council of Governments Organics Document Library

FINAL PRESENTATION

8.19.2025



40+ Years Experience – 1500+ Project



National leader with global outreach



Interdisciplinary team



Circular economy and organics experts- 190 organics and food scrap management projects



Unique knowledge and experience in crafting sustainable, responsible, and impactful strategies



Agenda

01. Welcome and Introduction

02. Project Overview and Objective

03. Report Overview

Library Navigation Guide

Procurement Process Guidance

Sample Documents

Templates

Resource Papers

04. Q&A and Close Out

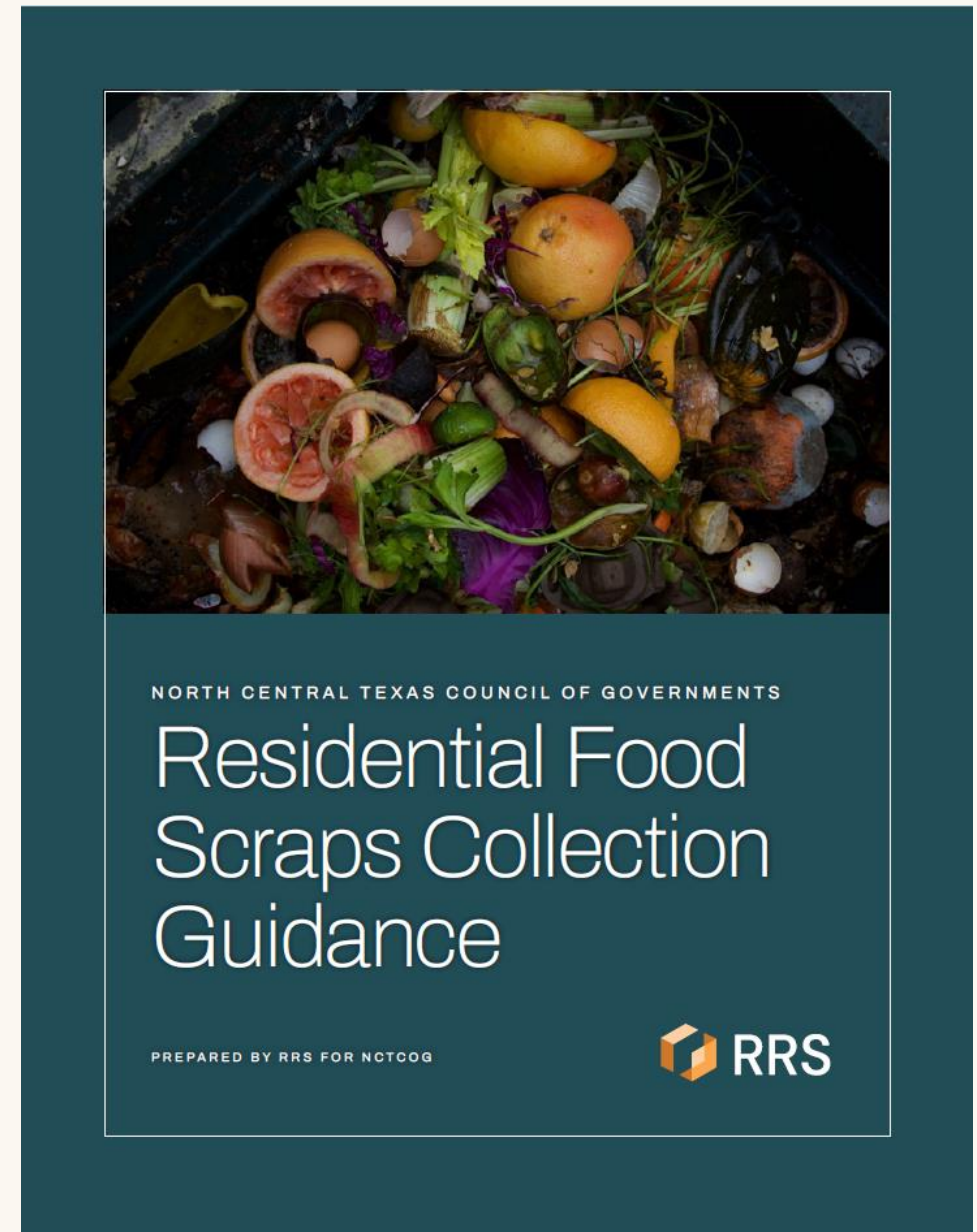


Project Objective

Develop a library of documents including but not limited to template requests for proposals (RFPs), template contracts, model ordinances, and other resources that communities may need when establishing or modifying collection and hauling services that accommodate organic materials management.

Structure of Resource Library

1. Library Navigation Guide
2. Procurement Process Guidance Document
3. Sample Document Library
 1. Notable Programs Library (with example contracts)
 2. Notable Ordinances Library
4. Templates and Example Documents Library
 1. Model Example RFP, Winning Proposal, and Contract
 2. Customizable RFP, Contract, and Ordinances Templates
5. Resource Papers
 1. Securing Buy-In
 2. Contamination Mitigation
 3. Drop-Off Programs



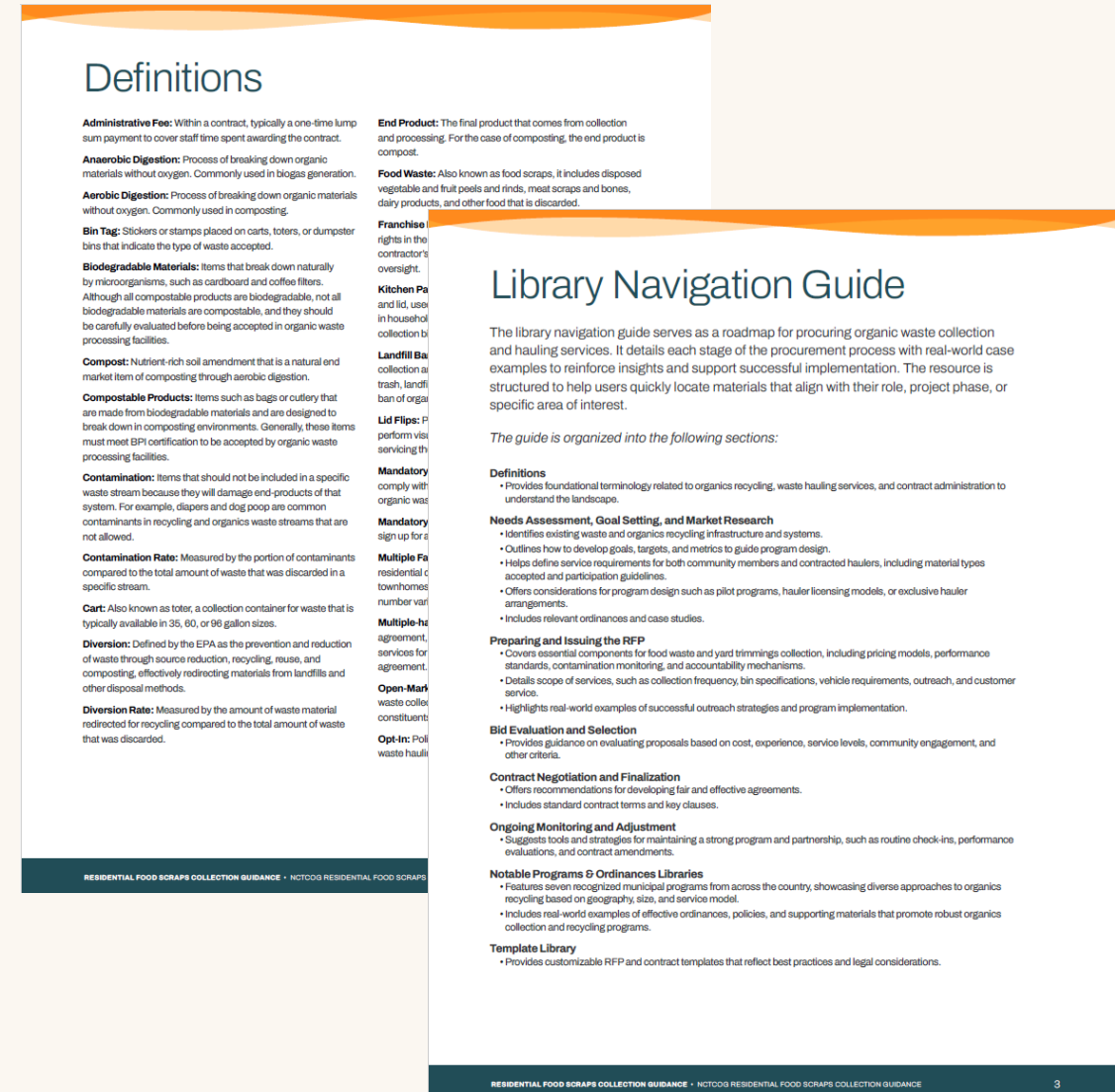
Library Navigation Guide

Contents:

- Roadmap for the Resource Library, providing an overview of each component and outlining how the materials are organized and intended to be used.
- Background & Purpose to provide context.
- Definitions of commonly used organics recycling terms promote clarity and consistency throughout the report.

How to Use by Communities:

- Review to develop a baseline understanding of the Resource Library, purpose of organics recycling, common terminology, and the report's different components.



Procurement Process Guidance Document

Contents:

- Needs Assessment, Goal Setting, and Market Research.
- Preparing and Issuing the Request for Proposal.
- Bid Evaluation and Selection.
- Contract Negotiation and Finalization.
- Ongoing Monitoring and Adjustment.

How to Use by Communities:

- Understand organics recycling landscape in your community through stakeholder engagement.
- Identify and incorporate key components of an organics recycling program that fit your community's unique needs and goals.
- Develop a strong, working partnership through a well-designed RFP, bid selection, and contract.

Landfill Ban of Organics

A Landfill Ban on Organics prohibits the inclusion of organic waste in trash collection and prevents it from entering local transfer stations for trash, landfills, and incinerators. Implementation is enforced regionally, following the expansion of organics recycling programs as necessary. This approach does not require specific methods for diverting organic waste and should be accompanied by additional resources to help residents comply, including ensuring capacity for adequate markets.

Mandatory Subscription

This ordinance requires all households that dispose of organic waste within municipal boundaries to sign up for organics collection service. This approach can achieve the greatest impact on waste diversion, but it may face resistance from residents who are required to pay for the service but do not wish to participate. Additionally, there must be sufficient capacity amongst haulers to service the entire community.

Mandatory Composting

This ordinance mandates that households comply with composting or organics recycling requirements and properly separate organic waste from trash. This can be achieved through curbside collection, at-home composting, organic drop-off sites, or other methods as long as organic waste is included in landfill-bound waste. This allows residents to decide how to participate in organics recycling on their own terms but does require additional overhead to manage and keep track of different programs.

Policy in Action

- ✓ The City of Boulder, CO adopted a **Universal Provision of Service** ordinance requiring that haulers collecting trash must provide recycling and composting to single-family residents and recycling to multi-family complexes.
- ✓ King County, WA requires all single-family and multi-family residences in the unincorporated service area have access to recyclable materials collection in a **Universal Access to Service** ordinance.
- ✓ The City of Minneapolis, MN offers residents and businesses the option to **Opt-In** to organics recycling collection, which the City attests to achieving low contamination rates.
- ✓ The City of Lafayette, CO allows residents to **Opt-Out** of organics collection but must still pay monthly program fees.
- ✓ The City of Seattle, WA complements a **Landfill Ban of Organics** through **Mandatory Composting** and **Mandatory Subscription** of organics collection services.

CONTRACTING FOR SERVICES

Before developing an RFP for organics collection and processing, it is important to assess how organics collection will be integrated into existing waste systems for trash, recycling, and yard waste. Total waste services may be consolidated.

Table 1: Organic Waste Haulers & Processors

Organization	Description
Champion Waste	Dallas-based hauler and processor expanding residential food waste drop-off services since a 2023 pilot.
Compost Carpool	Dallas/Fort Worth composter offering curbside pickup and drop-off for food scraps.
Cowboy Compost	Service provider offering drop-off and curbside food waste collection via a public-private partnership with the City of Fort Worth.
Fusion Waste & Recycling	Dallas-based hauler providing custom organics recycling programs to the region.
Living Earth	Composter in Dallas/Fort Worth that partners with cities to process yard waste.
Mesquite Municipal Composting Facility	City-run facility composting residential yard waste in Mesquite.
Moonshot Compost	Dallas-based company offering weekly residential and commercial food waste pickups.
North Texas Municipal Water District	Operates a Regional Composting Facility in partnership with the cities of Allen, Frisco, and Richardson.
Recycle Revolution	Dallas-based service offering residential and commercial food waste collection.
Silver Creek Materials	Yard waste processor based in Fort Worth.
Texas Disposal Systems	Statewide hauler and processor with curbside organics collection and composting facilities.
The Organic Recycler	Statewide composting company with multiple facilities that accept food scraps from haulers and businesses and provides finished compost.

ALIGNMENT WITH LOCAL, COUNTY AND STATE REGULATIONS

Understand the current regulations that mandate organic waste recycling or outline disposal responsibilities. While there are no statewide organic waste bans or recycling laws for organic waste in Texas, individual counties or regions may adopt their own ordinances.

Senate Bill 1376 (SB 1376) in the Texas 89th Legislature (2025-2026) requires government entities in Texas to establish a recycling program for the separation and collection of recyclable materials, provide procedures for collecting and storing recyclable materials, evaluate and modify the program as necessary, and establish education and incentive programs to ensure participation. Additionally, the bill mandates that government entities shall implement a purchasing program which must give preference to products made with recycled materials, so long as the products meet applicable specifications. Insight from SB 1376's program policies for recycling can be adopted to organics collection, especially in education and incentive programs. NCTCOG has developed a [toolkit](#) to assist member governments in implementing SB 1376.



Notable Programs and Ordinances

Contents:

- 7 key case studies that reflect wide range of program types, community sizes, and implementation strategies.
- 13 key ordinances & policies paired with a real-life example, context description, and link to access the example.

How to Use by Communities:

- Review programs and policies holistically and determine which align with your community.
- Contact communities to gather additional information and build a relationship.
- Refer to the Guidance Document for how the examples fits into the greater program context.

Appendix B: Notable Ordinances Library

The table below highlights key policies and associated ordinances from municipalities with strong organics recycling programs.

Policy	Policy Description	Resource	Resource Description	Resource Link
Universal Provision of Service	Require haulers to <i>provide</i> curbside recycling and/or compostable collection along with trash service for their customers within jurisdictional boundaries.	City of Boulder, Colorado's Universal Zero Waste Ordinance	The city requires all properties in Boulder to have waste services that provide separate compost, recycling and trash. Businesses must provide collection containers, signage, and training for employees. Renters must be provided with information on where bins are located. The ordinance also establishes an enforcement process, including fines, for noncompliance.	Ordinance No. 8045
Universal Access to Service	Require haulers to <i>offer</i> curbside recycling	City of Austin, Texas'	Requires commercial business owners and multifamily properties have	Ordinance No.

Appendix

Appendix A: Notable Programs Library

The table below highlights notable food scraps collection programs from across the country. Each program is presented with key criteria outlined in the guide, including contract details, program terms, municipal policies and goals, education and outreach strategies, and distinguishable characteristics. Programs should be reviewed comprehensively with attention to their unique components to draw insights that best align with the specific needs and goals of your community. For additional information, visit city websites, request copies of contracts and RFPs from the individual communities, and visit [Time to Recycle](#) for additional resources on identifying waste disposal options in North Central Texas.

City	Population	Diversion Rate	Contract & Program	Policies & Ordinances	Education & Outreach	Program Highlights
City of Dubuque, IA	58,877 (2023)	24.1% (2023)	Dubuque was the first city in Iowa to implement curbside food scrap recycling. Since 2013, the city has offered opt-in, weekly curbside collection of commingled food scraps and yard waste on regular trash days. Materials are composted at the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) facility under contract. Collection runs seasonally from April to November, with residents able to use a 13-gallon cart, 64-gallon cart, or personal containers with an annual cart decal or yard waste sticker. The program operates under a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) system.	"Sustainable Dubuque" was launched in 2006, and the city was named a "Climate Action Champion" by the White House in 2014. Guided by the 50% by 2030 Community Climate Action & Resiliency Plan, Dubuque aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions 60% below 2003 levels by 2030. The food scraps program supports this goal by reducing waste disposal tonnage, increasing diversion rates, and lowering emissions. The city monitors waste generation, composition, and diversion through annual waste minimization reports and community surveys to inform program development.	The city utilizes digital tools such as the Waste Wizard and the ReThink Waste Dubuque app and webpage to educate residents. Collection staff use onboard technology to identify curbside issues like contamination and send email notifications with photos and corrective guidance directly to customers. The city's contracted composting facility also supports community engagement through free educational programs, presentations, and facility tours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opt-in• Free compost self-loading• City-run• Universal Access to Service• Small Community• Residential & commercial• PAYT• Seasonal collection• Commingled food scraps & yard waste

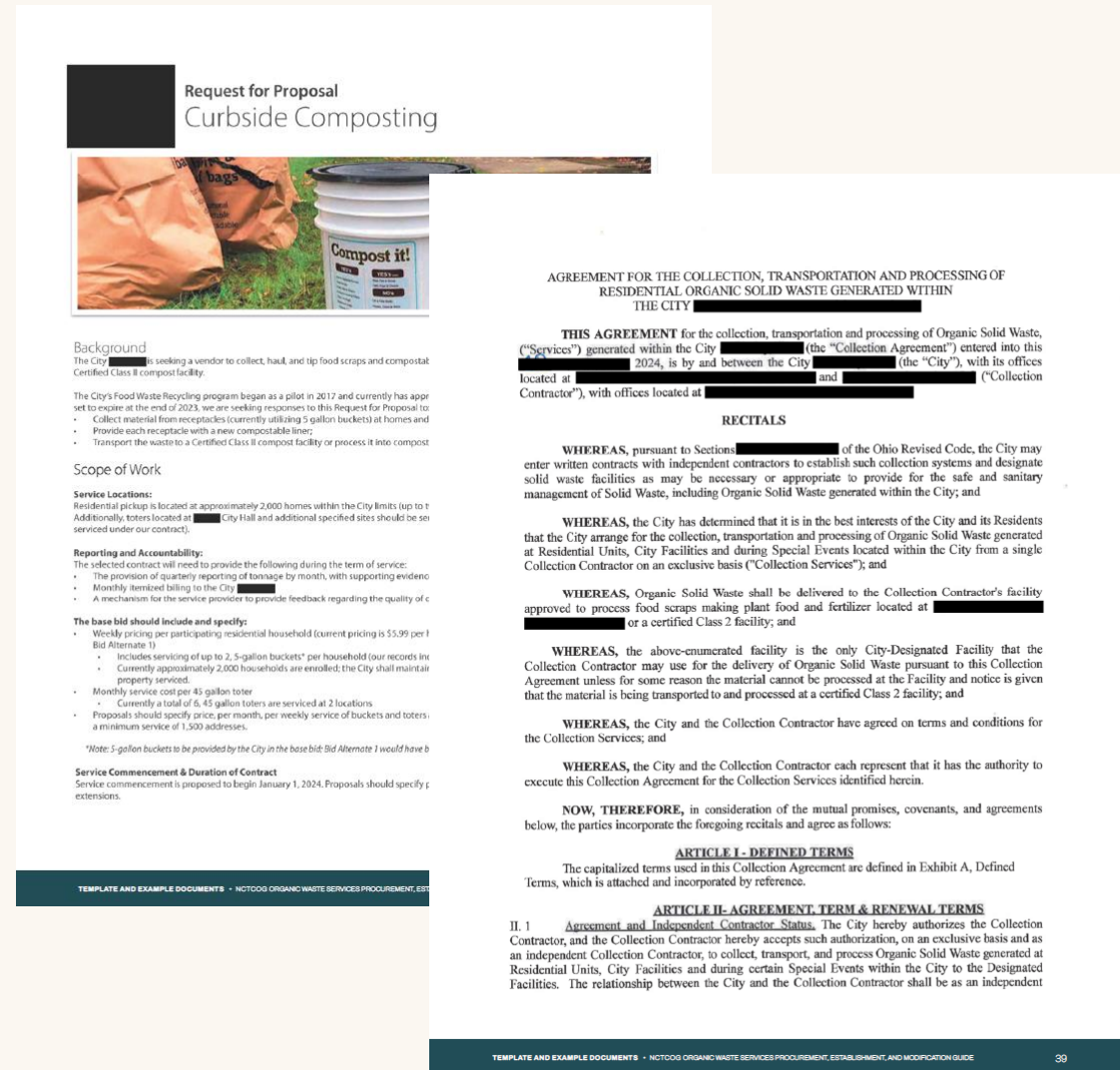
Model Examples

Contents:

- RFP, Winning Proposal, and Contract for curbside composting by notable community.
- Practical, real-world example of how a municipality can procure organics collection services.

How to Use by Communities:

- Review in sequence to gain insight into structure, language, and considerations involved in a successful procurement process.
- Adopt similar strategies in your own procurement strategy.



Template RFP, Contract, and Ordinances

Contents:

- The RFP & Contract are designed to assist municipalities in procuring residential curbside organics collection and processing services as a standalone program.
- The Universal Access to Service ordinance and Expanded Municipal Collection ordinance support the development and success of an organics recycling program.

How to Use by Communities:

- Download as a PDF or Word document from NCTCOG's webpage and adjust accordingly to what best fits your community's goals.

Note: This Template Contract is intended for procuring curbside organics collection services separate from existing trash and recycling services. It applies only to residential single-family homes and excludes multifamily properties, assumes a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) pricing system, and assumes contracted hauler will provide collection containers. The template may serve as a starting point for contract negotiations and be adjusted to align local definitions and service requirements.

Visit our website to download a PDF with fillable forms or a fully editable Word file.

(Municipality) CURBSIDE ORGANICS COLLECTION AGREEMENT

This Curbside Organics Collection Agreement ("Agreement")
(Date) , by and between the (Municipality)
(Contractor) ("Contractor").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) reported that in the North Central Texas region alone, 11.8 million tons of waste were disposed of in landfills in 2023, making it the highest out of 24 different regions, and accounting for almost 30% of the state's total waste.

WHEREAS, the Municipality desires to implement a curbside reduce landfill waste, promote sustainability, and divert Organics (yard waste) from municipal solid waste streams; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor is engaged in the business of providing organics recycling services and has the expertise, equipment, and resources to perform such services for the Municipality; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises of the parties, they agree as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

- "Compost" means the product resulting from the controlled decomposition of organic materials.
- "Compostable Plastics" means plastic materials, including but not limited to, cutlery made from biodegradable materials, that meet the requirements for compostability.
- "Contamination" refers to materials outside of the curbside organics collection program due to the presence of non-organics materials.
- "Diversion" refers to the amount of waste material reduced from the total amount of waste that was discarded.
- "Food Scraps" means all food such as, but not limited to, poultry, seafood, shellfish, bones, rice, beans, pasta, bread, and other food items. Food Scraps excludes fats, oils, and grease.
- "Food-Soiled Paper" means compostable paper material, including but not limited to, food or liquid, such as, but not limited to, compostable napkins, pizza boxes, and milk cartons.

Note: This ordinance assumes the municipality already has contracted waste services for garbage and/or recyclables, and that these agreements will be expanded to include the separation and collection of organic waste. It should be integrated with existing ordinances governing trash and/or recycling collection. If waste collection is provided directly by the City, the term "Hauler" may be substituted with "City."

Visit our website to download a PDF with fillable forms or a fully editable Word file.

Ordinance No. (Ordinance No.)

An Ordinance Requiring the Expansion of Existing Solid Waste Collection Services to Organic Waste.

WHEREAS, (Municipality) recognizes the significant environmental impact of organic waste disposed of in landfills, including its contribution to methane emissions, waste diversion challenges, and the depletion of natural resources;

WHEREAS, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) reported that in the North Central Texas region alone, 11.8 million tons of waste were disposed of in landfills in 2023, making it the highest out of 24 different regions, and accounting for almost 30% of the state's total waste.

WHEREAS, (Municipality) currently administers contracted solid waste collection services for its residents, which include the organized and systematic separation of household refuse and recyclable materials.

WHEREAS, (Municipality) is committed to promoting sustainability, resource conservation, and the reduction of solid waste, and believes that curbside residential organics collection is a critical component of achieving these goals;

WHEREAS, studies and pilot programs have shown that curbside organic waste collection programs can significantly reduce landfill waste, contribute to local composting efforts, and provide residents with an opportunity to divert organic waste from landfills, thereby supporting a circular economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, (Municipality) hereby adopts the following Expanded Municipal Collection of Organic Waste Ordinance.

Section 1. Title and Purpose

This ordinance shall be known as the **Expanded Municipal Collection of Organic Waste Ordinance**. Its purpose is to reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfills or incinerators, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote the reuse of valuable organic materials through composting and related processes.

Section 2. Definitions

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

Resource Papers

Contents:

- **Securing Buy-In** covers methods for generating momentum prior to program launch, increasing participation during implementation, and identifying the primary drivers of sustained community involvement, referencing notable programs nationwide.
- **Drop-Off Programs** gives advantages and disadvantages, implementation steps, and notable case studies from successful programs for effective drop-off program implementation.
- **Contamination Monitoring** examines the causes and impacts of contamination, presents proven mitigation strategies, and highlights successful programs from communities that have achieved substantial reductions in contamination levels.

Case Studies

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling Division operates a voluntary opt-in food scraps curbside collection program and attributes a contamination rate of less than 1% to ongoing education, cart monitoring, and waste audits. Collection staff review all cart contents before collection and leave bin tags with information about misplaced items if contaminated. In 2024, 1,760 carts were tagged, including 955 for contamination, and back-of-truck hand sorts consistently found 1% or less contamination. By comparison, without bin tagging and collection staff intervention, the contamination rate in 2022 for the city was 9.8%.¹ Organic waste sorts conducted by the city in 2021 and 2024 reaffirm these statistics and helped the city identify common contaminants, including recyclables and poly-lined paper.

For cases of multiple infractions, collection staff remove carts and require an additional fee and completion of an online training course to receive the container back. However, an emphasis on education and community outreach help reduce the need for this measure. Starter kits include a welcome letter, magnet, home setup tips, and biodegradable bag starter kit to get residents started. Consistent engagement through tabling and door-to-door outreach is conducted in multiple languages to reach a large scale of residents and encourage greater opt-in participation rates.

Additional information on the City's contamination mitigation strategies is available at the [City of Minneapolis' Organics Recycling webpage](#).



CASE STUDIES • NCTCOG RESOURCE PAPER: CONTAMINATION MITIGATION

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

The City of Seattle began curbside food waste collection in 2005 and required all residential properties to participate in the program or compost at home by 2009. Through a commitment to extensive education, the city's organics contamination rate is 2.1% as of 2024.

The city's including waste-wi "Friends educate i The city d LENZ En standard goals by Cedar Gr created ti complete Additional mitigation Compost

Watch on

Sources for Contamination

There are several common contaminants identified nationally. According to the Composting Consortium's "Don't Spoil the Soil" report, the most prevalent contaminants in decreasing order of magnitude include rigid plastics, plastic film (e.g., garbage bags, wraps, films, and pouches), paper products with plastic linings, glass, and metal.² To best address contamination, education and outreach should focus on these common offenders.

The scale and type of contaminants may also vary by region or facility, influenced by local knowledge of organics recycling and the specific items accepted by the haulers and processors. For example, compostable packaging and serveware (products made from plant-based materials with the intention of breaking down in certain environments) are not accepted at all facilities and are dependent on the processing capabilities and infrastructure of the processing facility. It is critical to engage in discussions with the hauler and processor to clearly identify and agree upon which items will and will not be accepted. If the facility does accept compostable packaging, it is important to educate the public and emphasize the importance of only accepting items with the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) or Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA) certification marks, as shown in the images below.



SOURCES FOR CONTAMINATION • NCTCOG RESOURCE PAPER: CONTAMINATION MITIGATION

Questions, Comments, Concerns?



Thank you!

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