

## **Ordinance No.**

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

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

**WHEREAS,** \_\_\_\_\_ 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,** \_\_\_\_\_ hereby adopts the following Expanded Municipal Collection of Organic Waste Ordinance.

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#### **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.

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#### **Section 2. Definitions**

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

- **“Composting”** means a controlled aerobic process of decomposing Organic Waste into nutrient-rich soil amendments.
- **“Food Scraps”** means all food such as, but not limited to, fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, seafood, shellfish, bones, rice, beans, pasta, bread, cheese, and eggshells. Food Scraps excludes fats, oils, and grease.
- **“Food-Soiled Paper”** means compostable paper material that has come in contact with food or liquid, such as, but not limited to, compostable paper plates, paper coffee cups, napkins, pizza boxes, and milk cartons.
- **“Hauler”** means a private company that provides residential curbside collection services of discarded materials (e.g. garbage, recyclables, compostables) on behalf of the Municipality.
- **“Refuse”** means all nonhazardous solid waste, excluding Organic Waste and Recyclable Materials, generated at a Residence determined to be landfilled as designated by the Municipality.
- **“Municipality”** refers to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- **“Organics Waste”** means biodegradable waste, including Food Scraps, Yard Trimmings, Food-Soiled Paper, and other organic materials that are suitable for composting or other diversion methods approved by local regulations.
- **“Pay-As-You-Throw”** means a pricing policy that charges a fee based on the amount of solid waste discarded and set out for collection.
- **“Recyclable Materials”** means those materials deemed as single-stream recyclables by the Municipality or Municipality’s Hauler.
- **“Residence”** refers to services performed at and for residential premises, which include single family dwelling units of \_\_\_\_\_ or less dwelling units.
- **“Source Separation”** means the act of keeping Organic Waste separate from other types of waste at the point of generation.
- **“Yard Trimmings”** means leaves, grass clippings, brush, branches, and other forms of Organics Materials generated from landscapes or gardens.

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## Section 3. Requirements

### (a) General Responsibility

1. Hauler shall provide residential waste collection services for Refuse, Recyclable Materials, and Organic Waste, as provided in this chapter, for all Residences within the Municipality, except for those specifically excluded from such services.
2. Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit any person from contracting for or hauling one’s own Refuse, Recyclable Materials, or Organic Materials, provided it is collected and disposed of in conformity with all applicable regulations set by the Municipality.

3. Residences subject to the Municipality's residential waste collection services shall be responsible for placing Refuse, Recyclable Materials, and Organic Waste in the manner prescribed by this ordinance.

**(b) Residential Refuse Collection**

1. Residences subject to the Municipality's residential waste collection services program are provided with a \_\_\_\_\_ container in which to place specified items defined as Refuse.
2. Acceptable Refuse shall be designated by the Municipality.
3. All Refuse shall be placed in the designated collection container only.
4. Containers must be placed at the curb with lids closed on the designated collection schedule established by the Municipality.

**(c) Residential Recyclable Materials Collection**

1. Residences subject to the Municipality's residential waste collection services program are provided with a \_\_\_\_\_ container in which to place specified items defined as Recyclable Materials.
2. Acceptable Recyclable Materials shall be designated by the Municipality.
3. All Recyclable Materials shall be placed in the designated collection container only.
4. Containers must be placed at the curb with lids closed on the designated collection schedule established by the Municipality.

**(d) Residential Organic Waste Collection**

1. Residents subject to the Municipality's residential waste collection services program are provided with a \_\_\_\_\_ container in which to place specified items defined as Organic Waste.
2. Acceptable Organic Waste shall be designated by the Municipality and include the following:
  - a. Food Scraps, including fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, seafood, shellfish, bones, rice, beans, pasta, bread, cheese, and eggshells
  - b. Food-Soiled Paper, including compostable paper plates, paper coffee cups, napkins, pizza boxes, and milk cartons
  - c. Yard Trimmings, including leaves, grass clippings, brush, and branches
3. All Organic Waste shall be placed in the designated collection container only.
4. Containers must be placed at the curb with lids closed on the designated collection schedule established by the Municipality.

**(e) Collection Standards**

1. Hauler shall furnish a minimum of one (1) collection container for each service type (Refuse, Recyclable Materials, Organic Waste) for those Residences subject to the Municipality's residential waste collection program.

1. Containers shall be durable, clearly labeled with instructions for use, and follow the design standards of the refuse and recycling containers.
2. Hauler shall be responsible for the maintenance and replacement of containers due to normal wear, but residents must cover the cost for damage caused by misuse.
2. Containers for Refuse, Recyclable Materials, and Organic Waste shall be provided in three (3) sizes: small (32 gallons), medium (64 gallons), and large (96 gallons).
3. Residents may switch between container sizes upon request.

**(a) Service Costs**

1. Hauler shall institute a collective Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) system for the collection and hauling of Refuse, Recyclable Materials, and Organic Waste.
2. Fees for collection service shall be assessed in accordance with the collection container sizes.
3. Monthly fees for household Refuse, Recyclable Materials, and Organic Waste collection shall be as follows:

Container Size	Charge per Month
<b>Small</b> Refuse, Recyclable Materials, and Organic Waste containers	
<b>Medium</b> Refuse, Recyclable Materials, and Organic Waste containers	
<b>Large</b> Refuse, Recyclable Materials, and Organic Waste containers	

**(c) Processing Standards**

1. Hauler must deliver collected recyclable materials to properly permitted material recovery facilities or transfer stations.
  1. Recyclable Materials must not be landfilled or incinerated, except in emergencies as determined by the Municipality.
2. Hauler must deliver collected Organic Waste to properly permitted composting or anaerobic digestion facilities.
  1. Organic waste must not be landfilled or incinerated, except in emergencies as determined by the Municipality.

**(d) Education and Outreach**

1. Hauler shall provide educational materials on waste collection services to customers. Materials may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Internet web pages
  - b. Brochures
  - c. Mailings
  - d. Advertisements
  - e. Radio and television commercials or public service announcements

2. Hauler shall provide, at a minimum, notifications to new customers that include:
  - a. Program overview, including how to participate, accepted materials, collection schedule, and contact information
  - b. Material preparation guidelines detailing the required process for ensuring the collection and processing of Organic Waste
  - c. Recommendations and tips to reduce total waste production

#### **(e) Reporting Requirements**

1. Hauler shall provide a quarterly report to the Municipality that includes:
    - a. Total number of serviced Residence accounts
    - b. Monthly tonnage of Organic Waste collected
    - c. Location of delivery and processing facilities of Organic Waste
    - d. Summary of educational services conducted
    - e. Contamination notices or warnings provided to Residences
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#### **Section 4. Severability**

If any part of this ordinance is held invalid, the remainder shall remain in effect.

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#### **Section 5. Effective Date**

This ordinance shall take effect on .