

Business Food Waste Requirement

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Department of Health and Human Services

Review: Why food waste?

- ❑ Food is largest portion of recoverable material left in waste stream, when landfilled food emits methane a potent greenhouse gas
- ❑ Businesses in Washington County throw away over 20,000 tons of food each year, enough to fill 1,000 long-haul trucks
- ❑ Businesses represent an opportunity to collect large amounts of food from fewer collection points (compared to residential)
- ❑ Voluntary programs have been in place for some time and recovery not increasing quickly enough
- ❑ Region lacks stable processing capacity and wants to attract a processor but needs to guarantee more food to make it worth substantial investment



Metro Action

- Metro Council adopted business food waste requirement in July 2018.
 - Ordinance establishes that local governments must:
 - Through ordinance or **rule**, require certain businesses to separate and recover food waste (due July 31, 2019)
 - Notify affected businesses
 - Provide education and technical assistance to affected businesses
 - Enforce the requirement
 - Ensure property managers provide opportunity to tenants to comply
 - Metro Council also adopted a resolution on July 19, 2018, requiring Metro staff to develop a policy, ordinance or rule that prohibits the landfill disposal of commercially-derived food waste generated within the region.



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Washington County Code 8.04

- Washington County Code Chapter 8.04.055 authorizes the development of **rules** requiring businesses to compost food scraps.

*8.04.055 All businesses within the county shall comply with waste prevention, recycling and **composting requirements** as set forth in the county's solid waste and recycling program administrative rules.....*



Overview of requirements/rules

- Approximately 130 businesses and schools in unincorporated Washington County covered.
- Applies to “back-of-house” waste that is controlled by employees.
- Phased in over four years, followed by a potential Metro disposal ban on food waste.



Phased in approach

- March 2020 – March 2021: Business Group 1
 - Businesses that generate over 1,000 pounds of food scraps per week (~24 businesses)
- March 2021 – September 2022: Business Group 2
 - Businesses that generate over 500 pounds of food scraps per week (~43 businesses)
- September 2022 – September 2023: Business Group 3
 - Businesses that generate over 250 pounds of food scraps per week and K-12 schools (~68 businesses & schools)



Education and outreach

- If adopted, Metro will provide funding for notification, technical assistance and resources.
 - Staff plan 25 hours of assistance and coordination per business.
- Resources for businesses include internal collection containers, decals, and posters.
- Assistance includes staff training, coordination with waste haulers and troubleshooting any issues.



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Next steps

- Following the Committee's recommendation, staff will present the proposed Administrative Rule changes to the Board at work session on May 14 and at a Board meeting on June 25.
- Staff will evaluate food scraps collection costs and return to the Committee with more information about commercial food scraps collection rates at a later date.



Questions

