

Pierce County Schools

Food Waste Composting

Washington Organics Law

The Washington State Legislature passed [organics management laws in 2022 and 2024](#). These laws aim to divert organic materials, including food waste, away from landfills through prevention, food rescue, and composting facilities. Many businesses in Washington—**which by definition includes public and nonprofit entities such as schools, churches and hospitals**—must now arrange for organic materials collection.

Steps for Schools:

- ① **Assess** when requirements apply, based on amount of waste generated (see state requirements on back page).
- ② **Divert** edible food waste by establishing a [Food Share Table](#).
- ③ Arrange for food waste **collection service** with a service provider (LeMay, Murrey's, Cedar Grove).
- ④ Coordinate **training** for custodial and cafeteria staff with your service provider.
- ⑤ **Request cafeteria waste sorting materials** from Pierce County. We provide one set of the following:
 - Liquids dump bucket and strainer
 - 32-gallon green food waste bin with dolly
 - 32-gallon blue recycling bin with dolly
 - Waste picker
 - Table (optional)
 - Food Waste, Recycling, and Garbage signage for the cafeteria
- ⑥ **Request kitchen waste sorting materials** from Pierce County. We provide one of the following:
 - 23-gallon green food waste slim jim
 - 7-gallon can for kitchen prep
- ⑦ Arrange for school staff to initially **monitor** the cafeteria waste stations. Students can also be trained to support this work.



Washington State Requirements

Only businesses/schools located in a BOMA (Business Organics Management Area) that dispose of a certain volume of organic materials will be impacted. You can see the BOMA here: [Business Organics Management Areas \(BOMA\) \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/business-organics-management-areas)

Businesses/Schools are required to comply with the following timeline:

Businesses/Schools generating at least...

2024
JANUARY
1 8 cubic yards

2025
JANUARY
1 4 cubic yards

2026
JANUARY
1 96 gallons

of organic material waste per week must arrange for organic materials management service.

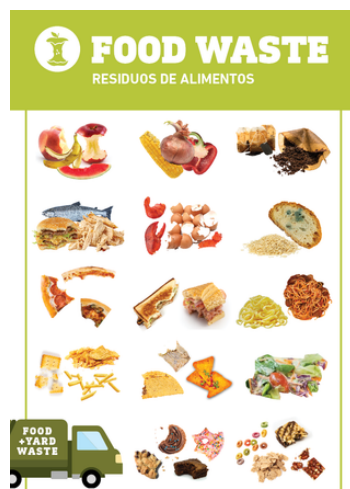
Waste Station Set Up



Kitchen Bins



Waste Sort Station



Pierce County PLANNING & PUBLIC WORKS

Request materials and program assistance from us!

Materials are available to schools, public and private, outside the City of Tacoma. Connect with us using the information below.

Contact Us:



253-798-2234



PCRecycle@PierceCountyWa.gov