

Date

Name

Business Name

Address

City, State, Zip

NEW WASHINGTON STATE LAWS THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS

Dear Auburn Businesses,

This letter is to inform you of new Washington State Laws that may affect your business. Please see the important information below. To view this letter online, visit www.auburnwa.gov/BusinessOutreach.

Washington State Organics Management Law

In June 2022, the Washington State Legislature passed the 2022 Organics Management Law. The Organics Management Law was enacted to reduce the emissions of methane created when organic materials, such as food and yard waste, decompose in a landfill. When processed, organic materials become a reusable resource known as compost.

What is considered organic waste?

Materials from living sources like plants, animals, and microorganisms that are biodegradable and can be broken down into simple organic molecules. Examples include:

- Food waste: Fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy products, fish, shellfish, nuts, seeds, grains; food processing waste.
- Organic material waste: Manure; untreated wood waste; waste from gardening and landscape work.



What does this new law mean?

Businesses that have organic material waste or food waste will be required to remove these materials from their garbage and provide reporting data to the Department of Ecology. There are several ways a business can remove these organic materials from their garbage. They can be collected on-site by an approved organics collector or composting facility; they can be composted on site at the business, or these materials may be sent to another business for reuse (edible food for example may be donated to charity or a local food bank). Some businesses may be exempt from organic materials waste collection. For more information on food recovery and reducing food waste, visit www.ecology.wa.gov and search for Use Food Well Washington Plan.



This new law will be staggered in over the next 3 years:

- January 1, 2024: Businesses generating at least 8 cubic yards of organic waste weekly must arrange for organic management services or compost these materials on site at their business.
- January 1, 2025: Businesses generating at least 4 cubic yards of organic waste weekly must arrange for organic management services or compost these materials on site.
- January 1, 2026: All businesses generating at least 4 cubic yards of solid waste (garbage) weekly must arrange for organic management services or compost these materials on site.

Organics Material Service Providers:

In Auburn and King County there are service providers that can help you set up an organics collection program.

The businesses below offer organics collection services for Auburn businesses.

- WM (Waste Management): Call Customer Service at 253-939-9792 (M-F 7am-7pm, SAT 8am-5pm) or visit their website at: www.wmnrthwest.com/auburn
- Cedar Grove Commercial Composting Services: Call Customer Service at 1-877-994-4466 or visit: <https://cedar-grove.com/food-yard-waste-collection>
- Republic Services: Call Customer service at 253-872-7220 or visit: <https://www.republicservices.com/municipality/unincorporated-sk-c-wa>



There are more requirements under the Organics Law that may affect your business. For more information, see the attached flyer “**2022 Organics Management Law, Focus on Business Collection Requirements**” or the Department of Ecology’s website www.ecology.wa.gov search **2022 Organics Management Law**.

For assistance, helpful tips and information on the new business organic law, contact the Organics Management Team at organics@ecy.wa.gov or call 509-960-1290.

WA State Plastics Law - Ban on Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)

In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed the **2021 Plastics Laws**. Effective June 1, 2023, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) was banned.

What is expanded polystyrene (EPS)?

EPS foam is a lightweight cellular plastic material consisting of small hollow spherical balls that are expanded and processed through a variety of techniques. These materials are often used for packing, shipping, and food service such as take-out containers.



This ban applies to all manufacturers and distributors of EPS in or into Washington.

- Beginning June 1, 2023, the sale and distribution of expanded polystyrene packing peanuts and loose fill packaging material in or into Washington state is prohibited.
- Beginning June 1, 2024, the sale and distribution of expanded polystyrene food service products and portable coolers in or into Washington state is prohibited. Examples of EPS food service products are: food containers, plates, clamshell-style containers, hot and cold beverage cups, and portable coolers.

EPS materials are not accepted in Auburn's Recycling Program and are instead considered a contaminant (garbage) because they cause processing problems at the recycling center. There are alternatives to EPS! In January 2022, New York State enacted a similar ban. To help businesses find alternative solutions New York created this informative tool kit:

https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/SWM/EPS/EPSAlternativesList_NYStatePub.pdf

The Washington State Department of Ecology (WSDOE) provides technical assistance to manufacturers of these prohibited products. WSDOE is currently working with stakeholders to develop education and outreach materials to support producers, manufacturers, retailers, non-profits and businesses through this change.

For more information visit the WSDOE website www.ecology.wa.gov/epsban, email epsban@ecy.wa.gov or call 360-407-6000.

Commercial Recycling may help reduce your garbage costs!

Auburn businesses receive unlimited curbside recycling with garbage service at no additional charge. WM also provides free educational assistance to help your business recycle right!

Recycling containers are offered in a range of sizes to suit your business.

- **No additional cost:** Container sizes include 35-gallon, 64-gallon, and 96-gallon, and/or 1 yard to 8-yard dumpsters (collected up to 3 times per week).
- **For a fee:** Roll-off containers (10, 20, 30, or 40-yard).



Materials accepted for recycling: paper, cardboard, glass, metal (size limit 2' x 2' x 2', 35 lbs.) and plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs.

Sign Up for Recycling or Education Assistance:

- Start or change service: Call WM Customer Service at 253-939-9792.
- To request educational assistance or helpful tips on this recycling, or reducing waste, contact the WM Outreach Specialist at recyclenw@wm.com or 253-939-9792 or visit www.wmnorthwest.com/auburn.

Proper Disposal of Commercial Hazardous Waste

Disposing of your business's hazardous waste properly is important for the environment and required by law. Auburn businesses can receive educational assistance, incentives, and grants from the King County Hazardous Waste Management Program.



Visit www.kingcountyhazwastewa.gov for information or call 206-296-4691.



**Hazardous
waste**

Thank you for your attention to these new Washington State Laws and for doing your part to reduce waste and help our environment.

For more helpful information, visit our new Business Outreach & Education webpage at www.auburnwa.gov/solidwaste (see menu on left).

Best regards,

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