

1 **BY AUTHORITY**

2 ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB 25-0628

3 SERIES OF 2025

COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:

4 **AMENDED 9-15-2025**

**Business, Arts, Workforce, Climate, and Aviation Services**

5  
6 **A BILL**

7 **For an ordinance concerning recycling and organic material diversion and, in**  
8 **connection therewith, repealing and re-enacting article X, chapter 48, adding a**  
9 **new article XI, chapter 48, adding a new article XV, chapter 10, and amending**  
10 **article I, chapter 24, of the Code.**

11  
12 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

13  
14 **Section 1.** That chapter 10, article XV is hereby added to read as follows:

15  
16 **ARTICLE XV. RECYCLING AND REUSE OF CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION**  
17 **MATERIALS**

18 **Sec. 10-412 – Purpose.**

19 The purpose of this section is to outline the requirements for construction, demolition  
20 recycling, and reuse requirements to divert as many materials as possible from the landfill to  
21 be reused or recycled.

22 **Sec. 10-413. – Definitions.**

23 Except as otherwise provided in this article, the following words and phrases have the  
24 following meanings:

25 (1) *Building official* means the person authorized to act on behalf of the building  
26 permitting and inspections services agency (agency) in the interpretation and enforcement of  
27 the Denver Building Code and appointed by the manager of community planning and  
28 development.

29 (2) *Contractor* means the person issued a demolition permit, a residential construction  
30 permit, or a commercial construction permit, which could include a homeowner or tenant if  
31 expressly allowed by the building official.

32 (3) *Covered material* means the following material resulting from the construction,  
33 remodeling, repair, and demolition of utilities, structures, and buildings: concrete, asphalt,  
34 masonry, untreated wood, metal, or corrugated cardboard. Covered material also includes items

1 that can be reused, as defined herein. The manager of community planning and development  
2 is authorized to promulgate rules establishing additional covered materials.

3 (4) *Gross Floor Area* means the floor area within the outside perimeter of the exterior  
4 walls of the building. The floor area of a building, or portion thereof, not provided with  
5 surrounding exterior walls shall be the usable area under the horizontal projection of the roof or  
6 floor above. The floor area of a tenant space shall be measured to the middle of interior walls.

7 (5) *Qualifying project* means any construction, demolition, addition, alteration,  
8 remodel, or tenant improvement project that requires a demolition permit or a residential or  
9 commercial construction permit.

10 (6) *Recycle* means to collect, sort, cleanse, treat, and reconstitute construction and  
11 demolition debris that would otherwise become solid waste and return the materials to the market  
12 in the form of raw material for new, reused, or reconstituted products which meet the quality  
13 standards necessary to be used in the marketplace.

14 (7) *Reuse* means to recover or reapply construction or demolition debris for uses  
15 similar or identical to its originally intended application, without manufacturing or preparation  
16 processes that significantly alters the material. The manager of community planning and  
17 development is authorized to promulgate rules which may establish volumetric weight  
18 conversions for common reuse items.

19 (8) *Total demolition* means the complete removal of a structure that requires a  
20 demolition permit from the agency.

21 **Sec. 10-414. – Recycle and reuse requirements.**

22 (a) *In general.* For permit applications submitted on or after September 1, 2026, the  
23 contractor for a qualifying project must divert at least fifty (50) percent of the total amount by  
24 weight of construction and/or demolition debris produced on the site of a qualifying project by  
25 recycling, reusing, or recycling and reusing, at minimum three of the covered materials. For  
26 permit applications submitted on or after September 1, 2036, the contractor for a qualifying  
27 project must divert at least sixty-five (65) percent of the total amount of weight of construction  
28 and/or demolition debris produced on site of a qualifying project by recycling, reusing, or  
29 recycling and reusing, at a minimum three of the covered materials.

30 (b) *Prohibited materials.* The total amount of construction and demolition debris does  
31 not include material containing asbestos or lead, or material that is considered hazardous as  
32 defined either by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Colorado Department of Public  
33 Health and Environment, or Denver department of public health and environment.

1 (c) *Demolition and construction.* When work at a location determined to be a  
2 Qualifying project includes both total demolition and construction, the total demolition portion of  
3 the work is considered one qualifying project, and the construction portion of the work is  
4 considered another separate qualifying project. A qualifying project in an existing building which  
5 includes interior demolition and construction shall be treated as one qualifying project.

6 (d) *Application to modify or reduce recycling and reuse requirements.* If a contractor  
7 believes it cannot meet the requirements of this article due to site-specific conditions or material  
8 recyclability present in a qualifying project, the contractor may apply to reduce or modify the  
9 recycling and reuse requirements when submitting their construction and/or demolition  
10 application to the building official. The building official shall have the sole authority and discretion  
11 to award or deny modifications to this article. The manager is authorized to promulgate rules  
12 and regulations which may establish additional requirements for contractors to prove that  
13 compliance with this article is impossible, impractical, or otherwise overly burdensome.

14 (1) *Achievable diversion rate.* If the building official approves modifying or reducing  
15 the fifty (50) percent diversion rate requirement for a specific qualifying project, the building  
16 official shall provide the contractor with an alternative achievable diversion rate. When an  
17 alternative achievable diversion rate is awarded, such rate shall be the amount required for that  
18 specific project in order for the project to be eligible for a full refund of the security deposit  
19 described in section 10-416. The contractor shall not be entitled to a partial refund pursuant to  
20 section 10-417 of this article.

21 (2) *Minimum covered materials requirement.* If the building official approves modifying  
22 or reducing the three covered materials requirement for a specific qualifying project, the building  
23 official will set a new minimum covered materials requirement for that specific project to be  
24 eligible for a full refund of the security deposit described in section 10-416. The contractor will  
25 not be entitled to a partial refund pursuant to section 10-417 of this article.

26 **Sec. 10-415. – Exemptions.**

27 ~~(a) The~~ From the effective date through December 31, 2035, the following projects are  
28 exempt from the recycling and reuse requirements set forth in section 10-414:

29 (1) The construction or demolition of a building five hundred (500) square feet or less  
30 in gross floor area.

31 (2) The interior improvement, repair, remodeling, tenant finish, or any other interior  
32 modification where the area of modification totals no more than two thousand five hundred  
33 (2,500) square feet of gross floor area.

1 (3) Construction that does not require or have an associated demolition, residential  
2 construction, or commercial construction permit.

3 (4) The construction or demolition of a building due to an emergency order from the  
4 city.

5 (5) A residential or commercial construction permit where no construction is required  
6 and is only issued to document a change in occupancy.

7 (b) The manager of community planning and development may adjust these  
8 exemptions, based on market conditions and the availability and cost of recycling services,  
9 through an update to the rules and regulations promulgated under authority of this article.

10 **Sec. 10-416. – Waste diversion plan and performance security deposit.**

11 (a) In order to be issued a permit for a qualifying project, a contractor must submit a  
12 waste diversion plan as required by the building official.

13 (b) On or after September 1, 2026, prior to issuance of a demolition permit, a  
14 residential construction permit, or a commercial construction permit for a qualifying project a  
15 contractor shall submit a performance security deposit based on construction type and square  
16 footage in accordance with and subject to the maximum limits identified in ~~Table 1 – Performance~~  
17 ~~Security Deposit~~ Table 1a – Performance Security Deposit (Through December 31, 2035 or  
18 Table 1b – Performance Security Deposit (On or After January 1, 2036). The manager of  
19 community planning and development is authorized to adjust the amounts in ~~Table 4~~ Table 1a  
20 and Table 1b, provided that any such adjustment shall be adopted in rules and regulations  
21 promulgated by the manager, and no adjustment may occur within one (1) year of the prior  
22 adjustment.

23

Scope of Work	Amount required	Maximum amount of the performance security deposit
New construction of 501 – 2,500 square feet	\$0.50/square foot	\$1,250
New construction more than 2,500 square feet	\$1.00/square foot	\$200,000
Demolition of a structure 501 – 2,500 square feet	\$0.50/square foot	\$1,250
Demolition of a structure more than 2,500 square feet	\$1.00/square foot	\$200,000
Existing building renovation/tenant finish more than 2,500 square feet	\$1.00/square foot	\$100,000

**Table 1 – Performance Security Deposit Table 1a – Performance Security Deposit (Through December 31, 2035)**

(c) From January 1, 2036 onward, the following projects are exempt from the recycling and reuse requirements set forth in section 10-414:

(1) The construction or demolition of a building three hundred (300) square feet or less in gross floor area.

(2) The interior improvement, repair, remodeling, tenant finish, or any other interior modification where the area of modification totals no more than one thousand (1,000) square feet of gross floor area.

<u>Scope of Work</u>	<u>Amount Required</u>	<u>Maximum amount of the performance security deposit</u>
<u>New construction of 300 – 1,000 square feet</u>	<u>\$0.50/square foot</u>	<u>\$1,250</u>
<u>New construction more than 1,000 square feet</u>	<u>\$1.00/square foot</u>	<u>\$200,000</u>
<u>Demolition of a structure 301-1000 square feet</u>	<u>\$0.50/square foot</u>	<u>\$1,250</u>
<u>Demolition of a structure more than 1000 square feet</u>	<u>\$1.00/square foot</u>	<u>\$200,000</u>
<u>Existing building renovation/tenant finish more than 1000 square feet</u>	<u>\$1.00/square foot</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>

**Table 1b – Performance Security Deposit (On or After January 1, 2036)**

(d) Prior to the issuance of a demolition, residential construction, or commercial construction permit for a qualifying project, a contractor may request from the building official a reduction or exemption from the performance security deposit due to an economic hardship if the amount of the performance security deposit exceeds ten (10) percent of the valuation of the project. The building official shall have the sole discretion to reduce the amount of the performance security deposit.

**Sec. 10-417. – Compliance documentation and refunding of performance security deposit.**

(a) No later than sixty (60) days from the date of the final inspection of a qualifying project, the contractor shall submit documentation to the agency showing compliance with

1 section 10-414 in a manner established by the building official.

2 (b) The contractor shall include original weight receipts or other itemized waste  
3 documentation as adopted through rules and regulations, showing the types and amounts of  
4 covered materials recycled or reused, and total amount of construction and demolition debris,  
5 by weight.

6 (c) A contractor shall include the cubic yards for covered materials recycled or reused  
7 when that material cannot be weighed due to size, lack of scales at a facility, or other  
8 considerations.

9 (d) *Deposit Refund Amount Determination*

10 (1) If a contractor complies with the recycle and reuse requirements set forth in section  
11 10-414, then the building official shall authorize a refund of one hundred (100) percent of the  
12 performance security deposit to the contractor.

13 (2) Subject to other limitations of this article, if a contractor recycles, reuses, or  
14 recycles and reuses between forty (40) percent and forty-nine and nine-tenths (49.9) percent of  
15 the construction and/or demolition debris produced on the site of a qualifying project, then the  
16 building official shall authorize the refund of seventy-five (75) percent of the performance security  
17 deposit.

18 (3) Subject to other limitations in this article, if a contractor recycles, reuses, or  
19 recycles and reuses between thirty (30) percent and thirty-nine and nine-tenths (39.9) percent  
20 of the construction and/or demolition debris produced on the site of a qualifying project, then the  
21 building official shall authorize the refund of fifty (50) percent of the performance security deposit.

22 (4) There shall be no refund of any percentage of the performance security deposit to  
23 a contractor that recycles, reuses, or recycles and reuses less than thirty (30) percent of the  
24 construction and/or demolition debris produced on the site of a qualifying project.

25

<b>Compliance Percentage Amount</b>	<b>Diversion Percentage Amount</b>	<b>Deposit Refund Percentage Amount</b>
100% Compliance	50% or more	100%
80% - 99% Compliance	40% - 49.9%	75%
60% - 79%	30% - 39.9%	50%
Less than 60%	Less than 30%	0%

26

27

***Table 2 - Deposit Refund Amount Determination***

(e) Performance security deposit amounts that are forfeited by the contractor due to partial compliance or non-compliance shall be transferred to the general fund

(f) *Trust Fund*

(1) There shall be one or more trust funds established to administer the performance security deposit amounts (collectively, "security deposit funds") received by the city pursuant to this article.

a. Revenue for projects complying with section 10-417(d) shall be returned to the contractor in accordance with subsection (d), above; or

b. Revenue generated from forfeited security deposits shall be treated as a fine transferred from a trust fund to the general fund.

(2) The manager of community planning and development shall manage the security deposit funds.

**Sec. 10-418. – Administrative fee.**

The building official is authorized to impose an administrative fee in the amount of one hundred and five dollars (\$105.00) per application for the issuance of a permit to a qualifying project. The building official may adjust the fee annually in an amount equal to the percentage change from the previous calendar year in the United States Department of Labor (Bureau of Labor Statistics) consumer price index for Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, all items, all urban consumers, or its successor index. Any such adjustment, if made in the sole discretion of the building official, shall take effect on July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter. The building official shall issue a publicly available fee schedule reflecting the change prior to any such adjustment taking effect. The annual inflation adjustment shall apply to and be collected in conjunction with the issuance of any demolition, residential construction, or commercial construction permit on or after July of the year in which the adjustment is made, regardless of when the application for the permit was made.

**Sec. 10-419. – Enforcement.**

It shall be unlawful for a contractor to violate any requirement of this article. In addition to any other penalty authorized under the Code, any contractor that violates the requirements of this article shall be subject to the disciplinary actions and penalties set forth in section 10-420 of this article.

**Sec. 10-420. – Disciplinary actions and penalties.**

(a) *Notice.* The building official may issue notices for violations of this article. The building official shall serve any notice of violation by personal service or first-class mail addressed to the last known address of a contractor, or contained in the records of any municipal, state, or federal agency, including, but not limited to, the Colorado Secretary of State. The notice is deemed served on the

1 date of receipt by the contractor if personally served or upon the date of mailing.

2 (b) *Disciplinary actions.* In addition to the grounds provided in chapter 32 of this code and  
3 in the Denver Building Code, a contractor's license or registration may be suspended or revoked in  
4 the following manner:

5 (1) A suspension of up to three (3) months after four (4) violations of section 10-414 of  
6 within a consecutive one (1) year period;

7 (2) Additional suspensions of up to three (3) years or revocations of up to five (5) years  
8 may be administered in accordance with section 127 of the Denver Building Code.

9 **Sec. 10-421. – Appeals.**

10 Except for appeals of license or registration suspensions or revocations that must follow the  
11 process set forth in the Denver Building Code, and notwithstanding the provisions in section 2-286,  
12 any determination of the building official related to this article is reviewable by the board of appeals  
13 in accordance with its procedures for administrative review as set forth in the Denver Building Code.  
14 Any person may petition the board of appeals for a hearing concerning the determination of a  
15 violation pursuant to this article. Such petition must be submitted in writing to the board of appeals  
16 for a hearing no later than thirty (30) days after notice of any such determination. Compliance with  
17 the provisions of this section is a jurisdictional prerequisite to appeal any determination made by the  
18 building official pursuant to this article, and failure to comply bars any such appeal. Appeals to the  
19 building official from any notice stays all administrative enforcement proceedings. Following a  
20 hearing, if any, the board of appeals shall make a final determination, which may be reviewed  
21 pursuant to the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure.

22 **Sec. 10-422. – Rules and regulations**

23 The manager of community planning and development may adopt such reasonable rules and  
24 regulations as may be necessary for the purpose of administering and enforcing the provisions of  
25 this article and any other ordinances or laws relating to recycling and reuse of construction and  
26 demolition materials.

27 **Sec. 10-423 – Reporting.**

28 No later than September 1, 2028, ~~and at least every five years after,~~and at least every three  
29 years thereafter until September 1, 2034, after which, at least every five years, the manager of  
30 community planning and development shall provide a written report to city council which shall  
31 include, but is not limited to, deposit amounts, compliance rates, market conditions, exemptions, and  
32 other information ~~collected pursuant~~ related to this article.



1 **Section 2.** That chapter 24, article I, division 1 is hereby amended by adding the language  
2 underlined to read as follows:

3  
4 **Sec. 24-2. - Variance on appeal.**

5 The board of public health and environment may authorize, upon appeal in specific cases, such  
6 variances from the terms of any ordinance enforced by the department of public health and  
7 environment or any rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, subject to terms and conditions  
8 fixed by the board, as will not adversely affect public health where, owing to exceptional and  
9 extraordinary circumstances, literal enforcement of the applicable provision will result in unnecessary  
10 hardship. The burden of proof is upon the applicant to show by clear and convincing evidence that:

- 11 (1) The applicant will suffer undue hardship if the variance is not granted; and  
12 (2) The variance will be in harmony with the spirit and purposes of the applicable portions  
13 of the Code from which the variance is being requested.

14 The board shall not have such authority regarding the requirements of article X of chapter 48.  
15

16 **Section 3.** That chapter 48, article X, is hereby repealed and re-enacted to read as follows:  
17

18 **ARTICLE X. – RECYCLING AND ORGANIC MATERIAL DIVERSION FOR MULTI-FAMILY AND**  
19 **NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND FOOD HANDLER BUSINESSES**

20 **Sec. 48-130. – Multi-family residential premises requirements.**

21 (a) For purposes of this article, the term “multi-family residential premises” means any  
22 building, or part thereof, that is, as defined in the Denver Zoning Code, a “Dwelling, Multi-Unit” use  
23 type with eight or more dwelling units; a “Manufactured Home Community”; or a “Congregate Living”  
24 use type. Multi-family residential premises do not include “Residential Care” use types under the  
25 Denver Zoning Code.

26 (b) The responsible party for a multi-family residential premises shall be the building  
27 owner. However, if the building, or a part thereof, is licensed as a residential rental property under  
28 chapter 27, a boarding home or personal care boarding home under chapter 26, or a trailer park  
29 under chapter 35, the responsible party for such property or part thereof shall be the license holder.  
30 If the property is a condominium or cooperative, each as defined in the Colorado Common Interest  
31 Ownership Act, C.R.S. § 38-33.3-101 *et seq.*, as amended, the responsible party shall be the  
32 Association, as defined in the act. In all cases, the responsible party shall also include any entity or

1 person acting as an agent for, or in any other legal capacity on behalf of, the building owner, license  
2 holder, or Association, with respect to the premises, including, without limitation, a property manager.

3 (c) On or after September 1, 2026, the responsible party for a multi-family residential  
4 premises shall ensure that tenants, residents, employees, and contractors have access to on-site  
5 recycling and organic material diversion described under this article and shall further (1) post an  
6 informational notice, to be developed by the office of climate action, sustainability, and resiliency,  
7 about how to recycle and compost and (2) give a copy of such notice to every new tenant. The  
8 responsible party must retain records of the requirements of this subsection (c).

9 **Sec. 48-131. – Non-residential premises requirements.**

10 (a) For purposes of this article, the term “non-residential premises” means any building, or  
11 part thereof, not used for residential purposes, as well as any “Residential Care” use types under  
12 the Denver Zoning Code. Non-residential premises does not include parking garages, parking  
13 structures, parking lots, vehicle depots, vacant lots, condemned properties, undeveloped land, or  
14 other non-residential building use-types that are found to generate de minimis volumes of recyclable  
15 materials, as identified in rules and regulations promulgated by any department, office, or board  
16 identified in section 48-136.

17 (b) The responsible party for a non-residential premises shall be the building owner. If the  
18 property is a Condominium or Cooperative, each as defined in the Colorado Common Interest  
19 Ownership Act, C.R.S. § 38-33.3-101 *et seq.*, as amended, the responsible party shall be the  
20 Association, as defined in the act. In all cases, the responsible party shall also include any entity or  
21 person acting as an agent for, or in any other legal capacity on behalf of, the building owner or  
22 Association with respect to the premises, including, without limitation, a property manager.

23 (c) On or after September 1, 2026, the responsible party for a non-residential premises  
24 shall ensure that tenants, customers, employees, and contractors have access to on-site recycling  
25 services described under this article.

26 **Sec. 48-132. – Food waste producer requirements.**

27 (a) For the purposes of this article, the term “food waste producer” means a commissary;  
28 food processing, wholesale, and warehouse establishment; or retail food establishment; as those  
29 terms are defined in chapter 23. Food waste producer does not include mobile retail food  
30 establishments, pushcarts, food peddlers, or temporary retail food establishments, all as defined in  
31 chapter 23, or food shelves, or food banks.

32 (b) The responsible party for a food waste producer shall be the holder of the license under  
33 chapter 23 for the ~~commissary; food processing, wholesale, and warehouse establishment; or retail~~

~~food establishment~~ food waste producer. In addition, for any area over which the license holder does not have exclusive use or in instances where there is no applicable license holder, the responsible party shall also include the building owner and any entity or person acting as an agent for, or in any other legal capacity on behalf of, the license holder or building owner with respect to the premises, including, without limitation, a property manager.

(c) On or after September 1, 2026, the responsible party for a food waste producer shall ensure that employees, contractors, and customers have access to on-site recycling described in this article and must ensure training is provided to employees and contractors on organic material diversion and keep records reflecting such training.

(d) On or after September 1, 2026, the responsible party for a food waste producer shall ensure that employees and contractors have access to on-site organic material diversion described under this article and must ensure training is provided to employees and contractors on organic material diversion and keep records reflecting such training.

(e) Any department, office, or board identified in section 48-136 may adopt rules and regulations to require responsible parties for food waste producers to ensure that customers also have access to on-site organic material diversion when the ability to reduce or address contamination from non-organic waste is improved.

~~(f) In addition to any exemptions pursuant to section 48-133(c), any retail food establishment, as defined in section 23-2, that in the prior year had less than \$2 million in revenues and fewer than 25 employees is exempt from the requirements of this article. Any department, office, or board identified in section 48-136 may adjust this exemption by increasing or decreasing the revenue and/or employee thresholds, based on market conditions and the availability and cost of recycling and organic waste diversion services, through an update to the rules and regulations promulgated under authority of this section.~~

**Sec. 48-133. – General provisions regarding diversion requirements.**

(a) On-site recycling and organic material diversion services required under this article shall:

(1) For recycling, collect at least the materials required to be recycled pursuant to the Producer Responsibility Program for Statewide Recycling Act, C.R.S. § 25-17-701 *et seq.*, as amended;

(2) For organic material diversion, collect at least all back of house decontaminated food waste;

(3) Provide sufficient receptacles, collection capacity, and service frequency, in accordance with applicable rules and regulations; and

(4) Remove recyclables and organic materials as described herein, or as described in rules and regulations adopted for the purposes hereof, by either:

a. Contracting with a solid waste hauler licensed under chapter 48 to transport the recyclables and/or organic materials to a materials recovery facility or composting facility, as applicable and both as authorized by law; or

b. Transporting the recyclables and/or organic materials, as permitted under applicable law, to a materials recovery facility, composting facility, food bank or shelf, urban farm, community garden, other legally permissible recipient of food for human or animal consumption, or designated transfer station for recyclables or organic materials, as applicable and all as authorized by law; provided that where a responsible party chooses this option, they shall retain documentation to demonstrate this method of compliance, such as invoices from the receiving facility, including as may be required under rules and regulations.

(b) Any department, office, or board identified in section 48-136 may add to or remove items from the list of recyclable materials and compostable materials required under subsection (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section, through rules or regulations.

(c) Any department, office, or board identified in section 48-136 may adopt rules or regulations that establish a process by which the responsible party for an affected premises can request:

(1) Exemption from the requirements of this article for reasons including, but not limited to, economic hardship, de minimis volumes of materials, inadequacy of hauling service providers, and space constraints;

(2) Approval to comply with this article through alternative means such as food donation, animal feed, on-site organic material diversion, or other innovative processes; or

(3) Approval to comply with this article by sharing recycling or organic material diversion services.

(d) A responsible party for an affected premises to which an effective date in sections 48-130, 48-131, or 48-132 of this article applies and who begins operations after an applicable effective date shall comply with this article on the date that is 30 days after the affected premises is issued a city license. If the premises does not require a city license, the responsible party shall comply within 30 days of taking possession of the premises or beginning regular operations, as applicable.

**Sec. 48-134. – Education.**

(a) The responsible party shall provide recycling and organic material diversion (where applicable) information and instructions in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

(b) All information and documentation, including signage, required to be provided to persons or posted as public information under this article shall be written in English and Spanish, or picture-only, and include universal symbols in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

**Sec. 48-135. – Waste diversion plans.**

(a) The responsible party for an affected premises shall create a waste diversion plan by the date on which the requirements of this article apply to the premises and shall continually update and maintain such plan to ensure compliance with this article and any applicable rules and regulations.

(b) A plan must:

(1) be consistent with the requirements of this article and any rules and regulations developed pursuant to this article, including as to format and any submission requirements; and

(2) include information or documentation as required by any agency authorized to develop rules or regulations under this article to verify compliance with this article.

(c) All responsible parties must maintain a copy of the waste diversion plan on-site and produce it upon request of any official with enforcement authority under section 48-137.

**Sec. 48-136. – Rules and regulations.**

The director of excise and licenses, the board of public health and environment, the manager of community planning and development, the manager of transportation and infrastructure, the manager of aviation, and/or the executive director of the office of climate action, sustainability, and resiliency may adopt such reasonable rules and regulations as may be necessary for the purpose of administering and enforcing the provisions of this article and any other ordinances or laws relating to and affecting non-residential waste requirements in the city, which may include a responsible party's duty to demonstrate commitment and/or compliance with this article.

**Sec. 48-137. – Compliance and enforcement.**

(a) The director of excise and licenses, the manager of public health and environment, the manager of community planning and development, the manager of transportation and infrastructure, the manager of aviation, and/or the executive director of the office of climate action, sustainability, and resiliency are hereby empowered to enforce the provisions of this article and any rules or regulations issued pursuant to it.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision of this article or any rule or regulation issued pursuant to it.

1 (c) The director of excise and licenses, the manager of community planning and  
2 development, the manager of transportation and infrastructure, and the executive director of the  
3 office of climate action, sustainability, and resiliency are "enforcement officials" who may enforce this  
4 article, any rule or regulation issued pursuant to this article, or any order issued pursuant to this  
5 article, in accordance with article XII of chapter 2 of the Code and any implementing regulations.

6 (d) The manager of public health and environment may enforce this article, any rule or  
7 regulation issued pursuant to this article, or any order issued pursuant to this article, in accordance  
8 with subsections 24-5(b) through (h) of the Code and any implementing regulations, except that any  
9 penalty amounts shall be consistent with section 2-293.

10 (e) Any person who disputes a violation for which a civil penalty is assessed may file a  
11 notice of appeal pursuant to article XII of chapter 2; provided however that if the violation is issued  
12 by the department of public health and the environment, such appeal shall be filed pursuant to  
13 section 24-1 of the Code.

14 (f) The director of excise and licenses also has authority to enforce these provisions  
15 pursuant to chapter 32.

16 (g) Whenever a licensee is the responsible party, the licensee shall submit with its license  
17 application the following information: (i) the name and contact information of the person responsible  
18 for compliance with the provisions of this article; and (ii) the name(s) and contact information of the  
19 hauler(s) providing the recycling and/or organic waste diversion services required by this article. In  
20 addition, the department of excise and license may require such licensees and applicants for  
21 licensure to submit a waste diversion plan or otherwise demonstrate compliance with this article.

22 (h) No variances shall be allowed for any provision of this article and any rules or  
23 regulations issued pursuant to it.

24 **Sec. 48-138. – Reporting.**

25 ~~No more frequently than every three (3) years and no less frequently than every five (5)~~  
26 ~~years thereafter, the executive director of the office of climate action, sustainability, and~~  
27 ~~resiliency shall provide a written report to city council on the subject of this article which shall~~  
28 ~~include, but is not limited to, compliance rates, market conditions, and other factors pertaining~~  
29 ~~to this article. Included in this report will be information on whether there have been any~~  
30 ~~revisions, or if there are any plans to revise, the exemption in section 48-132(f) through an~~  
31 ~~update to the rules and regulations promulgated under authority of this section. No later than~~  
32 ~~September 1, 2028, and at least every three years thereafter until September 1, 2034, after~~  
33 ~~which, at least every five years, the director of the office of climate action, sustainability and~~

1 resiliency shall provide a written report to City Council which shall include, but is not limited to,  
2 compliance rates, market conditions, and other information related to this article.

3 **Sec. 48-139 - 153. – Reserved.**

4

5 **Section 4.** That a new article XI is hereby added to chapter 48 to read as follows:

6 **ARTICLE XI. SPECIAL EVENT REQUIREMENTS FOR RECYLABLES AND ORGANIC**  
7 **MATERIAL COLLECTION**

8 **Sec. 48-153. – Definitions.**

9 Except as otherwise provided in this article, the following words and phrases have the following  
10 meanings:

11 (1) *Permitted event* means an event permitted by the city which occurs, in whole or in  
12 part, on public property and determined to be one or more of the following type(s) of event(s): (i)  
13 a special event as defined in article XXI, chapter 2, as determined by the executive director of  
14 the office of special events; (ii) an event requiring a permit by the department of parks and  
15 recreation and as determined by the manager of parks and recreation; or (iii) an event requiring  
16 a special event revocable street occupancy permit as determined by the manager of  
17 transportation and infrastructure.

18 (2) *Responsible city offices and departments* means the office of special events, the  
19 office of climate action sustainability and resiliency, the department of parks and recreation, or  
20 the department of transportation and infrastructure.

21 (3) *Responsible party* means the permittee of a permitted event.

22 **Sec. 48-154. – Recycle and organic waste requirements.**

23 (a) *In general.* On or after September 1, 2026, the responsible party must provide recycling  
24 and organic material collection to their employees, contractors, customers, volunteers, and  
25 attendees.

26 (b) *Containers.* The responsible party of a permitted event must supply containers, placed  
27 in sufficiently adequate locations, to make source separation of recyclables, organic material, and  
28 trash convenient for employees, contractors, customers, and attendees of permitted events. The  
29 containers must:

30 (1) Be of appropriate number and size to adequately accommodate recyclables, organic  
31 material, and trash quantities reasonably anticipated to be generated at the location;

32 (2) Display appropriate signage in English and Spanish, or picture-only, be color coded to

identify the type of refuse to be deposited, and meet any additional design criteria established by rules and regulations adopted by the responsible city offices and departments; and,

(3) Be placed in reasonably convenient locations to provide equally convenient access to users, consistent with the rules and regulations adopted by the responsible city offices and departments.

(c) Education and training. The responsible party must work with waste haulers and vendors staff to reduce contamination through control of materials allowed on site and ensure training on proper bin use is provided.

#### **Sec. 48-155. – Exemptions.**

The following exemptions shall apply:

(a) Permitted events that generate a de minimis amount of waste, demonstrate a proven economic hardship, or do not have licensed food vendors for on-site consumption, are exempt from the organic materials requirements of this article;

(b) Permitted events that anticipate ~~three hundred fifty (350)~~ ~~three hundred (300)~~ three hundred fifty (350) or fewer total daily attendees are exempt from the recycling and organic material collection requirements of this article;

(c) Permitted events that anticipate one thousand (1,000) or fewer total ~~daily~~ weekly attendees are exempt from the organic material collection requirements of this article.

(d) The executive directors of the responsible city offices and departments may adjust the exemptions of this section by increasing or decreasing the total number of daily attendees, based on market conditions and compliance rates, through an update to the rules and regulations promulgated under authority of this section.

(e) Any responsible party that is granted an exemption by the responsible city office or department, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the office or department, if the responsible party demonstrated a good faith effort but ultimately failed to secure adequate hauling services for recycling and organic material.

#### **Sec. 48-156. – Education and waste diversion plan.**

(a) In order to be issued a permit for a permitted event, a responsible party must submit a waste diversion plan on a form established by the responsible city offices or departments. The waste diversion plan must include, at a minimum, phone and email contact information on the haulers servicing the event, and the manner in which the responsible party will educate staff and vendors on its waste diversion plan.

(b) All information and documentation, including signage, required to be provided to



persons or posted as public information under this article shall be written in English and Spanish, or picture-only, and include universal symbols as adopted through rules and regulations by the responsible city offices and departments.

**Sec. 48-157. – Rules and regulations.**

The executive director of the office of special events, the executive director of the office of climate action sustainability and resiliency, the manager of parks and recreation, or the manager of transportation and infrastructure may adopt such reasonable rules and regulations as may be necessary for the purpose of administering and enforcing the provisions of this article and any other ordinances or laws relating to permitted events.

**Sec. 48-158. – Disciplinary actions and penalties.**

The manager of the department of transportation and infrastructure and the manager of the department of parks and recreation are authorized to assess civil penalties pursuant to this article as provided in article XII, chapter 2 of the Code.

**Sec. 48-159. – Reporting.**

~~No more frequently than every three (3) years and no less frequently than every five (5) years thereafter, the executive director of the office of climate action, sustainability, and resiliency shall provide a written report to city council on the subject of this article which shall include, but is not limited to, the number of events subject to this article, decisions and rationale regarding modifications to the exemption threshold, compliance rates, market conditions, and other factors pertaining to this article.~~ No later than September 1, 2028, and at least every three years thereafter until September 1, 2034, after which, at least every five years, the director of the office of climate action, sustainability and resiliency shall provide a written report to City Council which shall include, but is not limited to, data on how many permitted events met or did not meet the thresholds in Section 48-155 subsections (a)-(c); explanations of adjustments under subsection 48-155(d), compliance rates, market conditions, and other information related to this article.

**REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**

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2  
3 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: July 16,2025  
4 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: July 22,2025  
5 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL: 09/15/2025  
6 *Diana Romero Campbell* - PRESIDENT  
Diana Romero Campbell (Sep 16, 2025 11:06:46 MDT)  
7 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ - MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_  
8 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ - CLERK AND RECORDER,  
9 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
10 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER  
11 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL: \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_  
12 PREPARED BY: Jacob Crawford, Assistant City Attorney DATE: August 7, 2025  
13 Pursuant to section 13-9, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the City Attorney.  
14 I find no irregularity as to form and have no legal objection to the proposed ordinance. The proposed  
15 ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to § 3.2.6 of the Charter.  
16  
17 Katie J. McLoughlin, Interim City Attorney  
18  
19 By: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_