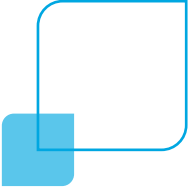




DENVER
CLIMATE ACTION,
SUSTAINABILITY &
RESILIENCY

Universal Recycling and Composting Ordinance (URCO)

TIN Committee Update
August 5, 2026



Agenda

- 
- 1. Ordinance Background & Overview**
 - 2. Key Milestones**
 - 3. Administrative Foundation**
 - 4. Resource Development**
 - 5. Communications**
 - 6. Implementation Support Programs**
 - 7. Next Steps**



URCO Background

URCO Overview by Sector

Buildings

Applies To:

- Multi-family residential buildings (8+ units)
- Non-residential buildings
- Licensed food businesses

Diversion Requirements:

- **Access to recycling and composting services** (*recycle-only for non-residential buildings*)

Events

Applies To:

- Events expecting 350+ daily attendees
- Occurs on public property (in whole or in part)
- Permitted through DAV, DOTI, or DPR

Diversion Requirements:

- **Access to recycling and composting services** for event employees, contractors, customers, volunteers, and attendees

C&D

Applies To:

- Permitted new construction and demolition larger than 500 sq. ft.
- Interior remodels > 2,500 sq. ft.

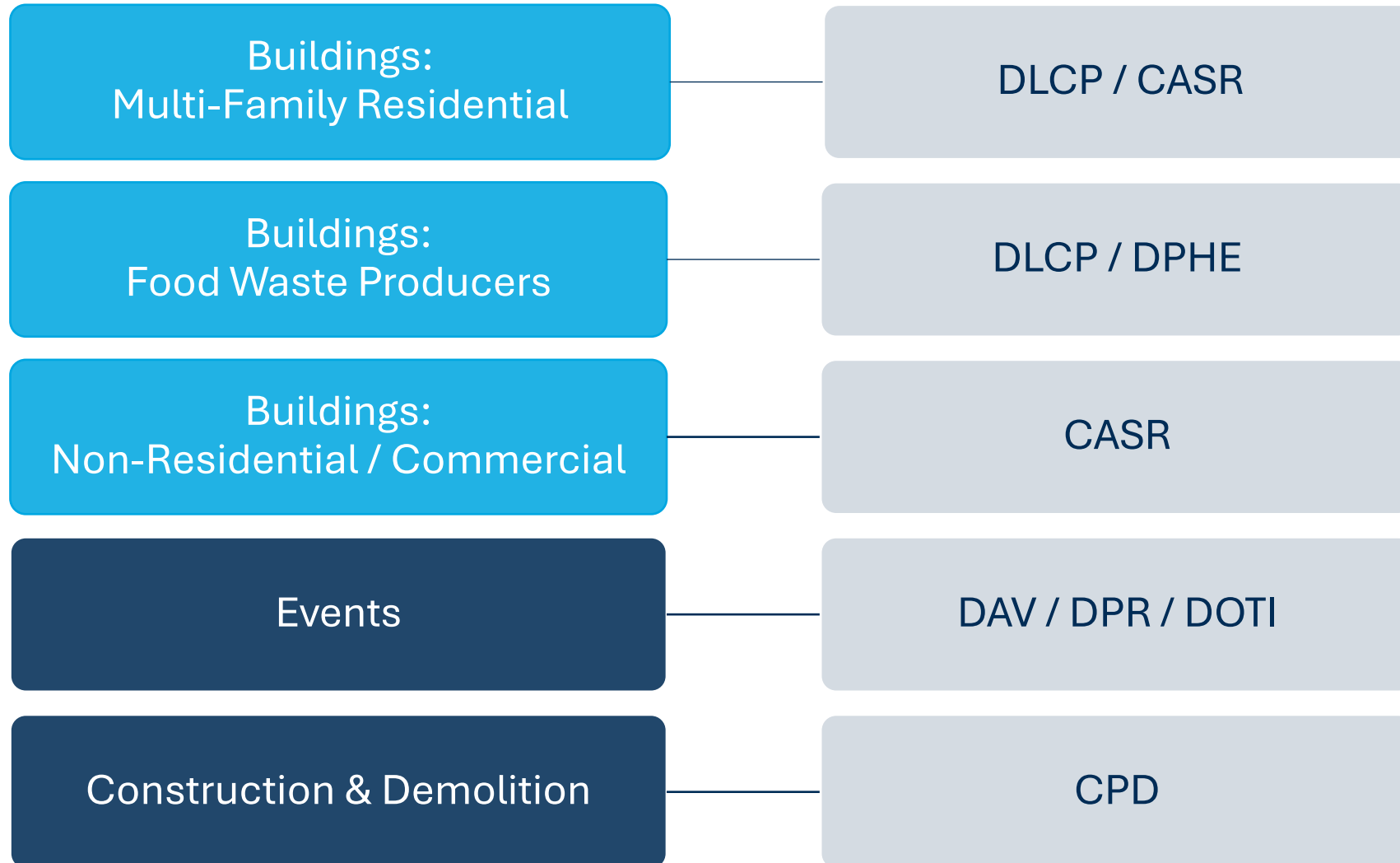
Diversion Requirements:

- **50% (by weight)** of all debris must be recycled or reused
- **A minimum of three covered materials** must be recycled or reused

URCO Coverage:

- 10,000+ buildings
- ~170,000 multi-family residential units
- 3,000+ restaurants & food waste producers
- 92%+ of annual attendees at permitted events
- 100s permitted construction & demolition projects annually

Implementing Agencies





Key Milestones

URCO Key Milestones 2025 - 2026

		2025				2026								2027 -->				
		SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	ONGOING
Administrative Foundation																		
	Interagency Implementation Structure Formalized																	
	Commercial Waste Study - Baseline																	
	Technology Platform Development																	
	Draft Rules & Regulations Development																	
	Rules & Regulatinos Stakeholder Engagement																	
	Public Hearings for Rules & Regulations Adoption																	
Communications																		
	Communications Coordination & Planning																	
	Communications Plan Implementation																	
Resource Development																		
	Signage Development																	
	Website Content																	
	Best Practices & Technical Assistance Resources																	
Milestones																		
	Final Ordinance Updates Passed	9/15/2025																
	Interagency Implementation Kick-Off			11/14/2025														
	Universal Recycling Program Manager Hired								4/14/2026									
	All Rules & Regulations										6/30/2026							
	Compliance Date													9/1/2026				



Administrative Foundations

Rules & Regs

January to June 2026

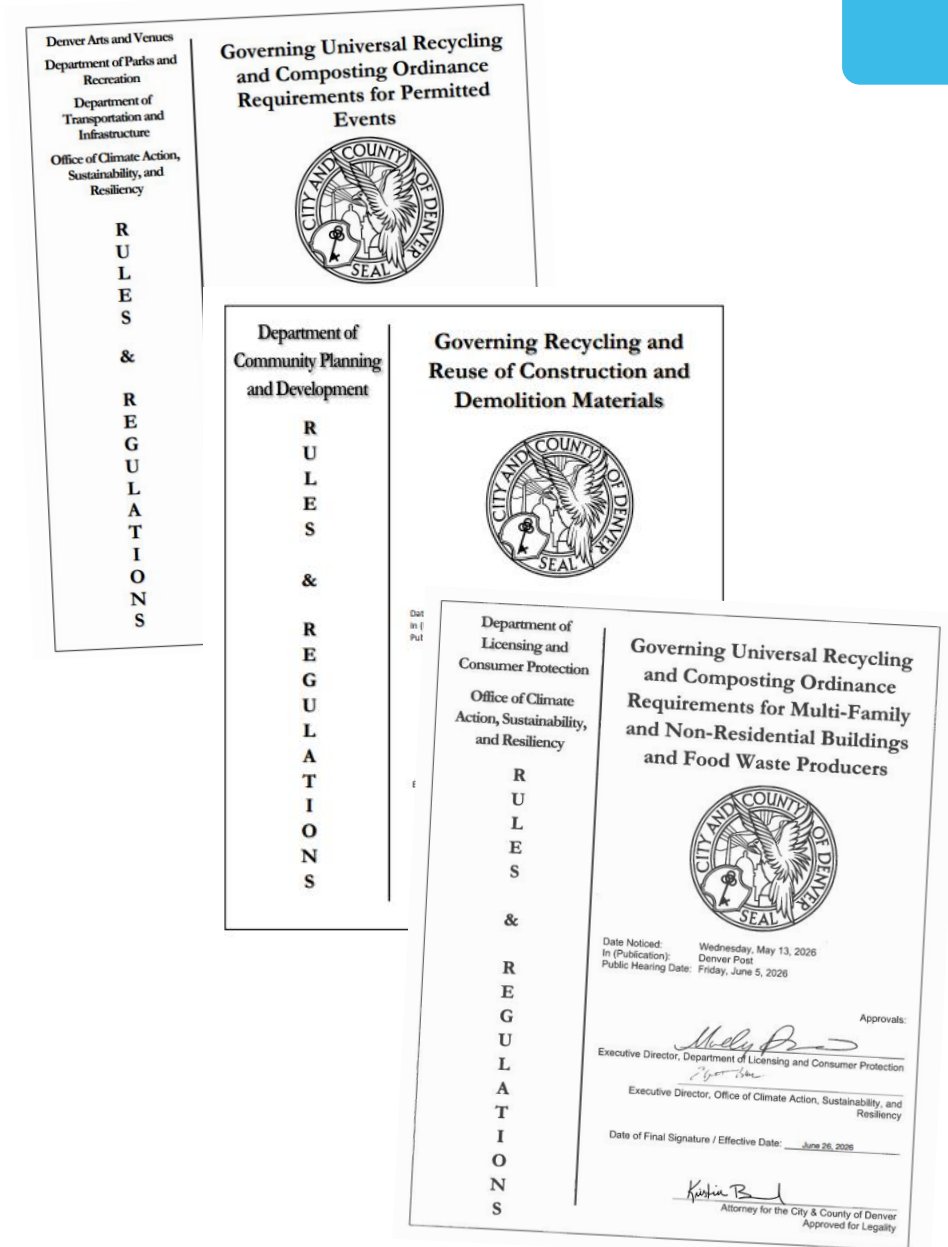
Three concurrent Rules & Regulations development processes (Buildings, Events, C&D)

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Multiple rounds of public draft language review
- Direct outreach to **2,000+** community members and organizations
- **Five** public info sessions with over 150 attendees and
- **15+** individual stakeholder meetings

Four public hearings

- Buildings & Food Businesses: CASR, DLCP
- Buildings & Food Businesses: DPHE, Board of Public Health
- Events: CASR, DAV, DOTI, DPR
- C&D: CPD



URCO's Admin Technology Build-Out

General

- 311 coordination
- Compliance dashboards for data reporting

Buildings

- Accela platform for Waste Diversion Plan submittals
- Accela updates to DLCP and DPHE business processes
- CRM solution for data and contact management

Events

- Waste Diversion Plan form
- Exemption Request Form

C&D

- Green Halo C&D Data and Diversion Tracking system
- Accela integrations with permitting process
- Deposit & refund system



Resource Development

Website

- URCO resources available on city's 'megamenu' or at [Denvergov.org/UniversalRecycling](https://denvergov.org/UniversalRecycling)
- 'URCO Ready Haulers' listed on DOTI [Waste Hauler Licensing](#) page

Frequently Asked Questions +

URCO Ready Haulers

The haulers listed below have indicated they are ready to help you meet the requirements of the Universal Recycling and Composting Ordinance

- Recycling +
- Compost +
- Trash +

URCO Survey

List of Licensed Haulers by Category

- Clean Soil +

URCO Hauler Survey

As Denver prepares for the Universal Recycling & Composting Ordinance (URCO), licensed haulers may complete a brief survey by June 30, 2026, to be listed in an URCO-Ready directory, including company information and answers to service-related questions. An annual waste hauler license is required for all hauling in Denver.

More Information:

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

For any questions during your application and reporting processes,

DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

MAKE A PAYMENT REPORT AN ISSUE SERVICES ENGLISH (UNITED STATES)

New Account Login

My Property Community Business Vehicles & Parking Safety Government

Explore our site Search

Universal Recycling & Composting Ordinance

Home / My Property / Trash, Recycle & Compost / Universal Recycling & Composting Ordinance

Denver's Universal Recycling and Composting Ordinance (URCO) was approved by 70% of Denver voters in November 2022 and aims to conserve natural resources across the city. The ordinance, which takes effect September 1, 2026, expands Denver's sustainability efforts by requiring the following services be available citywide.

- Recycling and composting services at
 - Multi-family residential buildings of 8+ units
 - Food businesses
 - Permitted events (events on city property or open to the public)
- Recycling for:
 - Non-residential buildings
 - Construction and demolition projects

What You Need to Know for URCO

Multifamily Residential Requirements

Most multi-family residential properties such as apartments and condos must offer recycling and composting services for tenants, residents, employees and visitors at the property. Building

Event Requirements

Events with over 350 daily attendees that occur on public property and require a permit from the city must offer recycling and composting. Event planners and organizers: find forms and resources to file the necessary

Non-Residential Building Requirements

Non-residential properties must offer recycling services for tenants, employees and contractors at the property. Building owners/managers and residents can find what they need to know about the City of

Signage & Decals

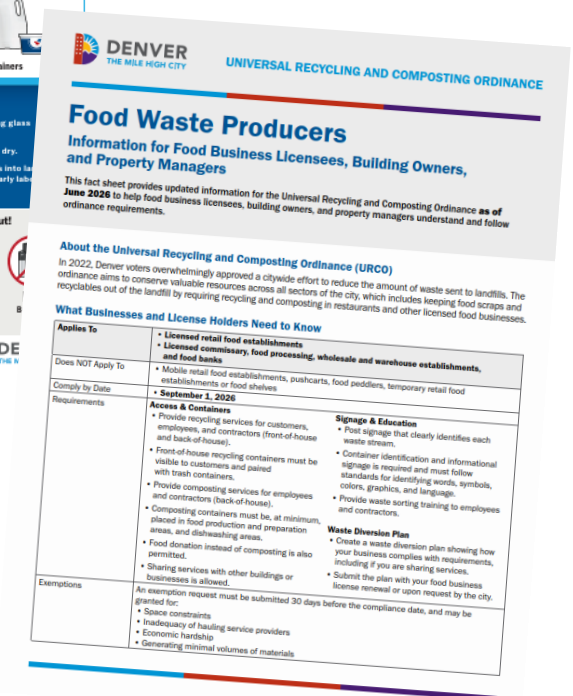
- Utilizing industry best practices and standards, alignment with statewide Producer Responsibility (EPR) program
- English & Spanish
- Signage & Container Testing
- Audience-Specific Signage Versions:
 - Events
 - Multi-family Residential
 - Non-Residential Buildings
 - Food Service Providers (Front of House, Back of House)
 - Coming Soon: C&D



Additional Resources

Currently Under Development

- Fact sheets – multiple audiences
- Compliance checklists for responsible parties
- Staff & contractor training materials
- Sample notification letters and newsletter blurbs
- ‘One-Pager’ reference materials for multi-family buildings and food service providers
- Service capacity calculator
- ‘Do More, Save More’ resources
- And more!

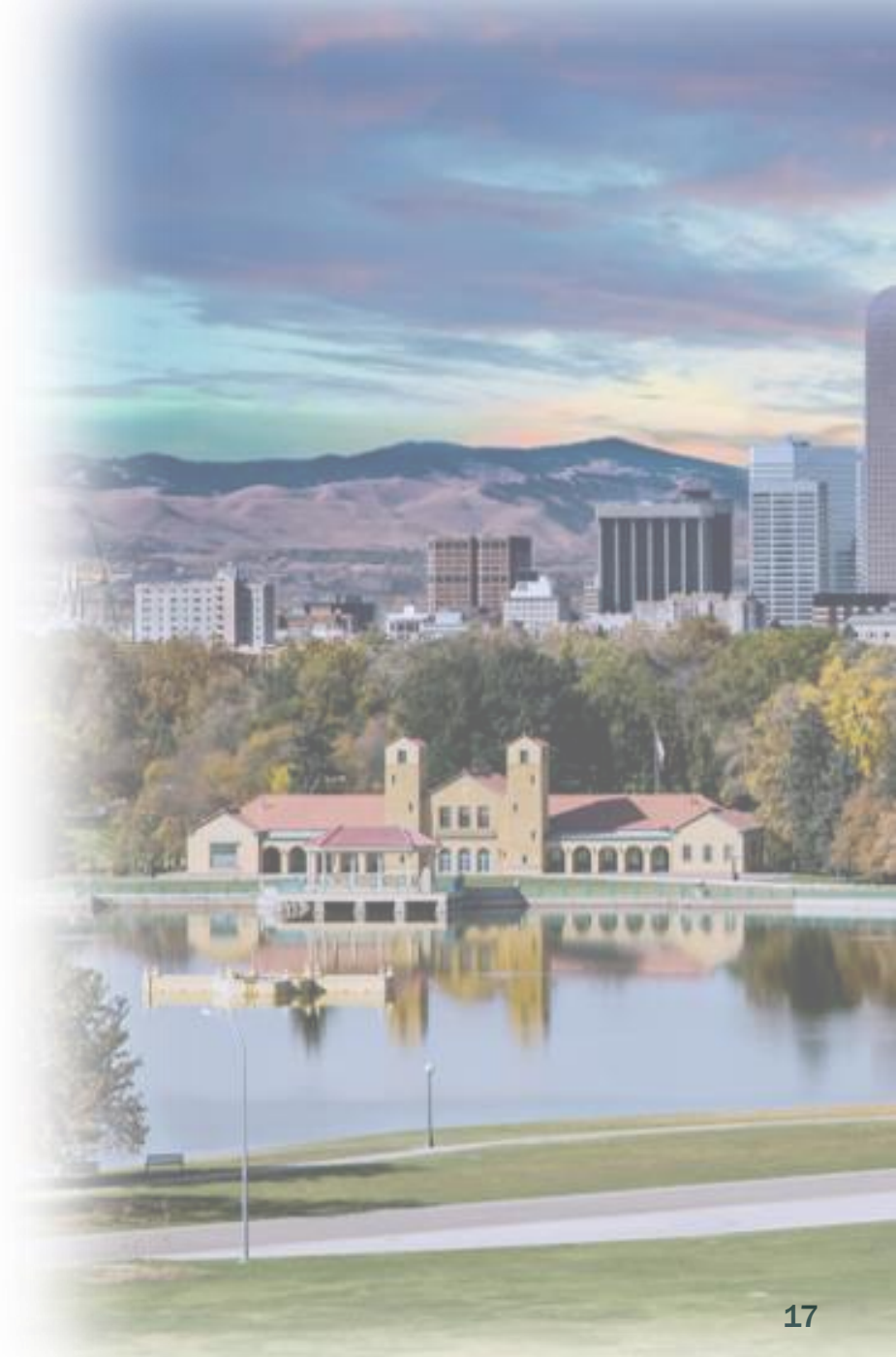




Communications

Communicating URCO Requirements

- General Approach:
 - Interagency Coordination of Communications Directors (CASR, CPD, DAV, DLCP, DOTI, DPR)
 - Communications Plan Implementation
 - ‘Education-First’ Approach



How are we letting people know?

ALL

- Website
- Press Releases
- Earned Media
- Social Media
- August 2026 URCO Resource Fair

Buildings

- CASR Newsletter
- Direct Communication with Food and Residential Rental License Holders
- Upcoming August Events:
 - Panel w/ EatDenver
 - Green Latinos / We Don't Waste Trainings

Events

- DAV, DOTI, DPR Newsletters
- DAV Annual Events Forum
- 7/29/26 Webinar for Event Organizers

C&D

- CPD Newsletters
- Direct communication to permit holders



Implementation Support Programs

Existing Implementation Support Programs

- Zero Waste Support for Food Service Providers (still accepting applications)
 - Up to \$1,000 in reusable service ware items
 - Up to \$3,600 towards composting services*
- Certifiably Green Mini Grants for Waste Reduction
 - Up to \$10,000 for small businesses and nonprofits
- Training Rebate for *Composter Operators Training Course* (up to \$2,500 for individuals)
- *Coming Soon:* On-demand food waste reduction technical assistance for restaurants (DPHE)

*Participants must meet minimum program requirements to be eligible for composting service incentive.



Planned Implementation Support Programs and Resources

Ideas Currently Under Development

- (Limited) Signage Printing and Distribution
- *Coming Soon:* [Mini Grants for Green Workforce – Deconstruction](#)
- *Coming Soon:* On-Demand food waste reduction technical assistance for restaurants (DPHE)

Ideas Under Consideration (Based on Need, Resources, Capacity):

- Incentives
- Technical Support Contractor
- ‘Train the Trainer’ Program
- Public Education Opportunities (IE: Facility Tours)



Next Steps

Next Steps

Between Now and 9/1:

- Updating [Denvergov.org/UniversalRecycling](https://denvergov.org/UniversalRecycling) with additional resources
- Hosting an URCO Resource Fair in August 2026
- Ongoing direct communications to responsible parties

9/1 and Beyond:

- ‘Education-First’ approach to implementation
- Ongoing education and outreach, resource development, expansion of implementation support programs
- Data reporting, regular progress updates

Questions?