

# Waste No More Ordinance

**City Council**

**Ordinance Update**

**August 18, 2025**

# WNM Impact & Opportunity

Denver's citywide waste diversion goals:

50% by 2027

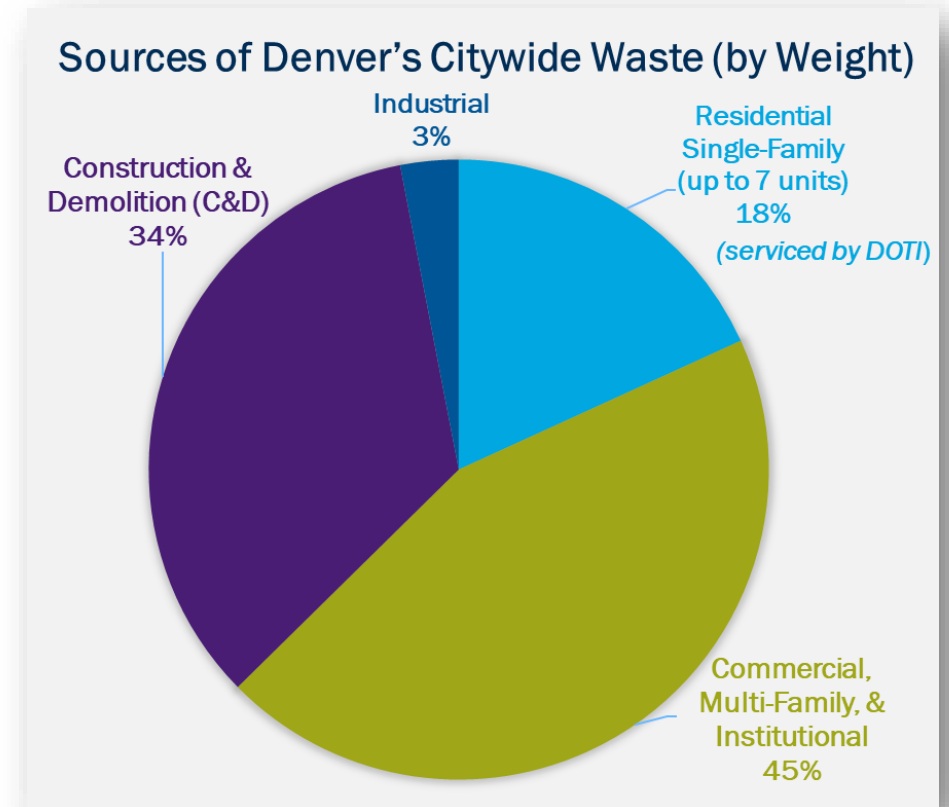
70% by 2032

2024 diversion rate = 22%

81% of Denver's municipal solid waste  
is not serviced by DOTI

Communities with Universal Waste  
Ordinances realize significant increases  
to their diversion rates.

(Boulder increased 23% without C&D)



# WNM Impact & Opportunity



## WNM requires access to services:

- ~170,000 multi-family residential units
- ~10,000 buildings
- ~2,500 restaurants
- ~92% of annual attendees at permitted events
- 50%+ diversion of C&D waste

***Beyond the diversion rate:*** The increased volume of materials captured through WNM can advance circularity through reuse and remanufacturing & can support healthy soils and climate regulation from beneficial applications of finished compost

# WNM Timeline

**2022**

**Ordinance Passes**  
with support from  
70% of voters

**2023**

**WNM Task Force**  
convenes &  
publishes  
recommendations

**2024**

**Updated Draft  
Ordinance** developed  
based on original  
ordinance, Task  
Force report, admin  
roles and resources

**2025**

**Revised Updated  
Ordinance** based on  
Task Force/stakeholder  
feedback and direction  
from Mayor & Council

## Looking Ahead...

### Next Steps

- Rules & Regulations
- Education & outreach
- Resource development

**September 1, 2026**

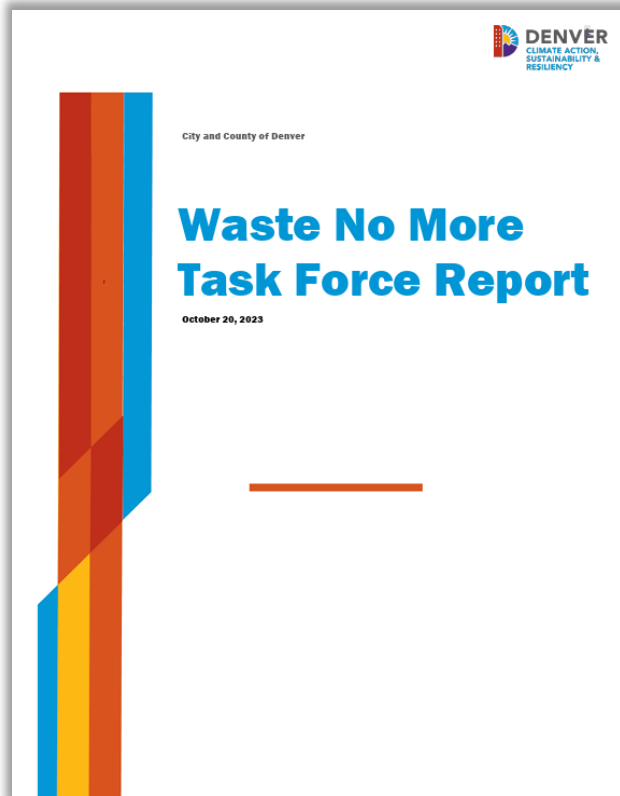
Compliance date for all  
sectors and responsible  
parties

# Task Force Report & Ordinance Update



Examples of minor modifications include adjusted phasing and implementation dates & changes to align with existing codes and admin processes

# Task Force Report & Ordinance Update



## Modification from Task Force

Organic waste exemption at small permitted events was added to address service costs and staff needed to avoid contamination.

## Modification from Original Ordinance

Organic waste exemption for small food waste producers was included to address current economic challenges.  
*(NOTE: this topic was not discussed during Task Force process)*

# Summary of Ordinance



**For All Regulated Entities** (multi-family residential, non-residential buildings, food waste producers, permitted events, and construction & demolition)

- Effective date of September 1, 2026
- Education-first enforcement
- Reporting requirement at 3 years, and every 3-5 years thereafter



# Multi-Family, Non-Residential, & Food Waste Producers



## Summary of Requirements:

- Recycling collection services
- Organic material collection for MF and FWPs
- Maintain current waste diversion plan
- Signage & education requirements

## Common Exemptions:

- Economic hardship, de minimis volumes of materials, space constraints (*original language*)
- Approval to comply through alternative means such as food donation, animal feed, on-site diversion, sharing (*original language*)
- Inadequacy of hauling service providers (*added by CCD*)



# Multi-Family, Non-Residential, & Food Waste Producer

## Additional Exemptions



### Non-Residential:

- Parking garages, parking structures, parking lots, vehicle depots, vacant lots, condemned properties, or vacant land (*added by CCD*)

### Food Waste Producers:

- Establishments with packaged food not requiring preparation (*original language*)
- Mobile or temporary retail food establishments, pushcarts, food peddlers, food shelves, and food banks (*added by CCD*)
- Retail food establishments that reported less than \$2 million in revenues and have operated with fewer than 25 employees in the previous tax year (*added by CCD*)

# Permitted Events Summary



## Requirements:

- Recycling and organic material collection
- Waste diversion plan with permit application
- Signage & education requirements

## Exemptions:

- Economic hardship, de minimis volumes of materials, or no food vendors (*original language*)
- Inadequacy of hauling service providers (*added by CCD*)
- Small events with 350 or fewer daily attendees (*added by Task Force*)
- Events with 1,000 or fewer daily attendees exempt from organic material requirements only (*added by CCD*)

# Construction & Demolition Summary



## Requirements:

- Divert 50% of the total weight of debris (65% by 2036)
- Divert a minimum of 3 materials
- Waste diversion plan with permit application
- Performance security deposit and compliance report required

## Exemptions:

- Projects 500 square feet or less (*original language*)
- Quick permits (ex: plumbing, electrical, HVAC) or permits solely required to change occupancy (*original language*)
- Remodels and tenant finishes 2,500 square feet or less (*added by CCD*)
- Emergency orders from the city (*added by CCD*)

# Next Steps

## Rules & Regulations

- Definitions and process for exemptions
- Signage, education, and training standards
- Covered materials lists
- Compliance and enforcement process
- Identify metrics for impact tracking and program assessment

## Outreach & Education

- Best practices guides and communication to responsible parties
- Communication to tenants, residents, and the public

## Ongoing Resource Development

- Online platform development
- Explore grant & incentive programs (dependent on available resources)
- Identify supports for end market development

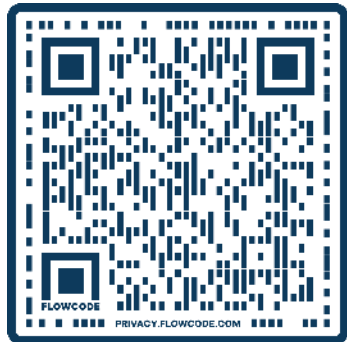
# Stay Connected



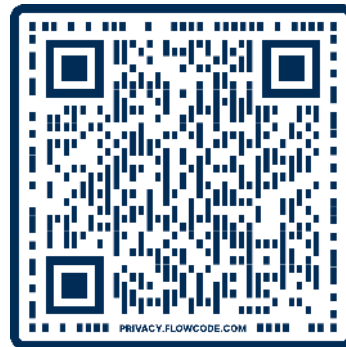
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