

CRSB MEETING | MAY 14, 2026

Mandatory Organics Management Law

Impacts to Spokane • Capacity • Cost • Exemptions

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What the Law Requires

Washington's Organics Management Law keeps food & yard waste out of landfills. Organic waste in landfills creates methane a greenhouse gas 80× more potent than CO₂. State goal: 75% reduction in organic landfill waste by 2030.



Source-Separated Collection

Food & yard waste collected in a separate bin from trash & recyclables. Min. 26 pickups/year.



Business Compliance/ Business Organics Management Area (BOMA)

Businesses in designated areas must arrange organics collection based on weekly waste volume.



Residential Service/ Organics/ Residential Collection Area (ORCA)

Jurisdictions must provide organics pickup to all single-family homes by April 1, 2027.



Solid Waste Mgmt Plan Update

After July 2026, SWMPs must include plans for multifamily organics and new processing facilities.



Who Must Comply & Key Deadlines

Jan 2024



✓ *Businesses generating 8+ cu yd/week in BOMA areas must subscribe to organics collection.*

Jan 2025



✓ *Threshold drops to 4+ cu yd/week. More businesses required to comply.*

Jan 2026



Threshold drops to 96 gallons/week (~1 trash cart of organics). Nearly all food-generating businesses in BOMA areas included. Organics = Recycling: no franchise agreements businesses may use any hauler.

Apr 2027



ORCA jurisdictions must provide year-round source-separated organics collection to ALL single-family homes & qualifying businesses minimum 26 times per year.

Apr 2030



Organics collection becomes non-elective (mandatory) for all customers. Residents may opt out only by certifying sustainable self-management (e.g., backyard composting or self-haul).

2027 ORCA waiver applications are open now through December 2026 — submit to organics@ecy.wa.gov



Impacts to City of Spokane

What Applies to Spokane

- City of Spokane (pop. 230k+) is in an ORCA — must provide year-round organics collection to ALL single-family homes by April 1, 2027
- Collection must occur minimum 26 times per year
- City currently NOT in a BOMA Barr-Tech at capacity prevents designation
- Organics = Recycling under state law no franchise agreements, businesses may use any hauler
- Green cart service currently optional at \$19.37/month must become universally available by 2027, mandatory by 2030

Key Numbers

Apr 1, 2027

Deadline: year-round collection available to all single-family homes

26x / year

Minimum collection frequency required by state law

~1/3

Of all Spokane waste is compostable organic material

170 lbs

Food waste per person/year
Spokane leads WA state

Apr 1, 2030

Service becomes mandatory (non-elective) for customers



Capacity Constraints

Spokane is already at the edge of processing capacity before mandatory collection even begins:

107K tons

processed by Barr-Tech
2025 actual

105–110K

tons max capacity
at Barr-Tech

9,405 tons

tons yard waste overflow
(Barr-Tech full)

= 97–100% of capacity — BEFORE mandatory residential collection is added



Critical

Barr-Tech At Capacity

107K tons in 2025 vs. 105–110K max. Barr-Tech has formally told Ecology it cannot accept additional commercial waste.



Waiver Basis

Cost to Ratepayers

Mandatory collection requires new containers, additional routes, and tipping fees. Waivers available if collection is economically infeasible.



Spokane Specific

9,405 Tons Overflow

Yard waste diverted from composting in 2025 because Barr-Tech was full. Overflow grows once mandatory collection adds thousands of new accounts.



Operational

Contamination Risk

Barr-Tech employs 2–4 full-time sorters for Spokane loads. Rapid mandatory rollout risks spiking contamination and load rejections.



City of Spokane — Cost to Implement

Preliminary internal estimates from Solid Waste Collection Division. Actual costs will be higher.

TODAY (BASELINE)

\$3,212,248

2030 EST. (+3%/yr, 5 yrs)

\$3,723,875

2035 EST. (+3%/yr, 10 yrs)

\$4,316,991

Containers (green carts for all single-family accounts)	\$2,665,000	\$3,089,465	\$3,581,537
3 Collector III positions	\$335,712	\$389,182	\$451,168
2 Collector II positions	\$211,536	\$245,228	\$284,286
TOTAL (preliminary minimum)	\$3,212,248	\$3,723,875	\$4,316,991

⚠ Important: These are preliminary figures. Missing from estimate: monitoring, contamination management, new Supervisor position, Education/Outreach, and Enforcement. Trucks cost ~\$569,000 each if new fleet needed. 2030 and 2035 projections assume 3% annual inflation on listed items only actual totals will be higher.



Exemptions & Waivers

Residential Exemptions

A resident may opt out if they:

- Self-haul directly to a certified organics management facility (keep haul receipts)
- Actively compost at home backyard composting qualifies as sustainable self-management
- Individual exemption guidelines still being developed by Ecology expected 2026

Approved by: LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(city/county/private haulers)

Business Exemptions

A business may be exempt if:

- Organics from food/fiber growing are used offsite to grow more food or fiber
- Organics are sold or donated to another business (e.g., food bank donations)
- Organics generated from a natural disaster
- Business self-hauls to a certified organics management facility
- Business is located outside a designated BOMA area

Approved by: LOCAL HEALTH DEPT — keep Ecology email approvals or self-haul receipts

Jurisdiction Waivers

A city/county in an ORCA may apply if:

- Distance to nearest organics facility is too far
- Processing facility or transfer station is at capacity
- Collection is economically infeasible for ratepayers
- Transport restricted by apple-maggot quarantine

Approved by: WA DEPT. OF ECOLOGY | Window: now–Dec 2026 | organics@ecy.wa.gov



Why Spokane Is Not in a BOMA

A BOMA designation requires BOTH conditions to be true simultaneously. Spokane currently fails Condition 2:

Condition 1 ✓ MET

Collection Service Available

Businesses must have access to year-round curbside food and organics collection service. Spokane has haulers (including Sunshine Disposal) that can provide commercial organics collection service.



Condition 2 ✗ NOT MET

Processing Capacity Confirmed

A certified facility must have confirmed capacity to accept increased volumes. Barr-Tech (Spokane's only commercial composter) is at 97–100% capacity and has told Ecology it cannot accept more commercial waste.

What This Means for Spokane Businesses

Because Spokane is not in a BOMA, businesses currently have NO mandatory organics collection obligation — regardless of how much waste they generate. This is capacity-driven, not permanent. If a new composter enters the Spokane market and confirms capacity to Ecology, Spokane could be added to the BOMA map effective January 1 of the following year.



Next Steps for City of Spokane

- 1 Confirm ORCA designation and begin 2027 implementation planning immediately less than 12 months remain
- 2 Evaluate 2027 service waiver application Barr-Tech capacity constraints may qualify Spokane
- 3 Develop rate structure for universal green cart service explore bundled pricing for affordability
- 4 Secure funding for \$3.2M+ infrastructure investment containers, staffing (actual costs will be higher)

- 5 Coordinate with Spokane County County manages the Comp Solid Waste Plan and leads processing capacity planning
- 6 Update Solid Waste Management Plan to include multifamily organics plan (required after July 2026)
- 7 Assess expanded processing capacity Barr-Tech at 97–100%; new facility planning must start now
- 8 Launch resident education campaign contamination risk is high without preparation. Monitor BOMA map annually.