

APPENDIX B

ORDINANCE EXAMPLES FROM OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

NEW CONSTRUCTION: CITIES REQUIRING SPACE FOR RECYCLING AND ORGANICS COLLECTION FOR NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

As Cambridge considers requiring newly constructed buildings (residential and/or commercial) to dedicate sufficient space to trash, recycling, and compost bins, the City can look to other municipal examples of similar policies.

Fort Collins, Co

The City of Fort Collins, CO has language in their ['Trash and Recycling Enclosures'](#) section of their Design Standards section that requires space for recycling and organics in all new or significantly expanded commercial and MF buildings. It focuses more on recycling but could be adapted to food waste bins. It mentions both indoor and outdoor features.

Santa Ana, Ca

Santa Ana, CA has this requirement for 3-stream [Sec. 41-623](#) - Trash bin enclosures.

New multifamily construction with more than three (3) units shall provide readily accessible recycling areas identified for the storage and collection of grey container, blue container, and green container or brown container materials, consistent with the three-container collection program offered by the city pursuant to Chapter 16, Article II of this Code, and shall comply with provision of adequate space for recycling for multifamily premises pursuant to sections 4.410.2 of the California Green Building Standards Code, 24 CCR, Part 11 as amended.

PROPERTY MANAGER RECYCLING/SOLID WASTE PLANS

Cambridge has historically asked property managers of multifamily residences and commercial buildings to create and register solid waste management plans. This practice was discontinued at some point, and now the City is interested in phasing it back in. Many other US cities require similar plans from property managers. Some examples are described below.

Alexandria, VA requires that all commercial businesses and multi-family properties submit a [Recycling Implementation Plan](#). The plans should be submitted yearly by the property owner, business owner, or property management company responsible for the contracting of trash and recycling services. The Recycling Implementation Plan is an online form that asks about the materials being recycled, hauler names, container sizes/collection frequency, population of the building, and education methods for informing employees about recycling. If properties do not submit the form, they may be subject to a monthly fine.

Arlington, VA requires something similar for business and multi-family property managers. They must submit a [Recycling Plan](#) with the Solid Waste Bureau of Arlington County. Arlington uses the Re-TRAC platform to collect plans and provides a [Toolkit](#) as a resource for business owners/managers and property managers.

Austin, TX requires property owners and business managers (whoever oversees the contract for trash and recycling) of commercial/mixed use properties to submit a recycling plan as part of their [Commercial Recycling Requirements](#). The plan is a report of how the business meets several recycling requirements such as offering sufficient recycling diversion capacity to their commercial tenants and employees, providing convenient access, posting signs, and providing educational resources.

Montgomery County, MD requires properties with seven or more dwelling units to report their recycling activities to the County each year through its [TRRAC](#) (Think, Reduce and Recycle at Apartments and Condominiums) Program. The program also provides education, outreach, training, and technical assistance to multi-family property owners, managers, staff, green team members, haulers/collectors, and residents to reduce waste and recycle more at apartments and condominiums.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE

Deconstruction Ordinances

Deconstruction can be successful when there is a community culture that values the recovered materials, either for new construction or for the historical value the components bring. Deconstruction requirements often include a threshold for the year of original construction, since newer construction materials are less valuable (lower quality) than the older ones.

PORTLAND, OR

Arguably the best example of deconstruction ordinances across the country is in [Portland, OR](#). The Portland, OR ordinance was thoroughly vetted with the community and the workforce development component was equally, if not more, important to the community than the actual deconstruction. It was fully embraced by the community. They already had a decent amount of building material reuse retail infrastructure, and this complemented that. Like Cambridge, Portland homes have a historic nature.

MILWAUKEE, WI

Milwaukee, WI also has a [deconstruction ordinance](#) that has been developed and passed but has yet to be implemented. You can read more about the status [here](#).

Mixed C&D

Without policy, diverting mixed C&D from landfill requires four fundamental things:

- 1) a rudimentary process called kick sorting or a sophisticated facility (or something in between) that can effectively separate the components of the mixed C&D stream
- 2) a location that makes transporting the mixed C&D to a processing facility cost competitive to landfilling
- 3) a processing fee that is competitive with landfilling
- 4) markets, ideally some that offer value (\$\$).

There are many communities that have a diversion policy that leverages some financial or other incentive or a penalty to enable them to either capture data on or keep some of these materials out of landfills.

There also exists an approach that combines both a “lite” deconstruction and demolition or C&D processing that runs the middle ground of keeping the highest quality materials at their highest value and degrade the lesser materials for fuel recovery or landfilling.

SINGLE-USE PRODUCTS “UPON REQUEST”

Cambridge is considering requiring food establishments using single-use products to have customers only be provided those items upon request (rather than for the default be that they are provided automatically). Several other Massachusetts municipalities have similar policies in place including the following in the table below.

MA MUNICIPALITY	STRAWS UPON REQUEST	CUTLERY UPON REQUEST	CUP LIDS UPON REQUEST	CONDIMENT PACKETS UPON REQUEST
Acton	X	X		
Buckland		X		
Easthampton	X			
Gloucester	X			
Hadley	X			
Lexington	X			
Melrose	X			
Northampton	X	X	X	X
Swampscott	X	X		

Furthermore, outside of Massachusetts, there are many other municipalities with similar policies and some that have stricter requirements. The City of [Berkeley, CA](#) has an ordinance that requires businesses offering takeout to charge \$0.25 for disposable cups and provide disposable accessory items (e.g., straws, napkins, utensils) only upon request.

MANDATORY FOOD WASTE SEPARATION

As Cambridge considers designing an ordinance to require mandatory food waste (or “compost”) separation in all households and businesses, it can look to other cities that already have something similar in place. The table below identifies attributes of three US cities that have mandatory food waste separation for residents (either for multifamily households or all households).

The three cities are:

- Seattle, WA
- Austin, TX
- Boulder, CO

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION	COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS & PACKAGING	EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	POLICY & ZERO WASTE GOALS	PERFORMANCE MONITORING	COMPOSTING FACILITY READINESS
Seattle, WA	<p>Subscription to the organics waste collection service is now mandatory for single-family homes unless a resident can prove on-site management. This ensures high baseline participation. When surveyed in 2018, over 90% of residents reported composting their food waste either through curbside collection or on-site methods.</p> <p>Continual refinement of contracts, lists of acceptable items, and communications based on feedback from processing facilities.</p>	<p>The city simplifies the messaging around acceptable items by focusing on looking for the word "compostable" and a certification mark.</p>	<p>Extensive education and outreach through the Master Composter program, hauler outreach, mailers, signage, and community events. Materials presented in many languages; various community organizations engage diverse cultural communities and maximize outreach. Exploring new messaging around climate impacts to boost participation.</p>	<p>Washington enacted a compostable products labeling law requires certification for compostability claims.</p> <p>Seattle's 2022 Solid Waste Plan: Moving Upstream to Zero Waste and includes several recommendations for reducing wasted food. City ordinance requires commercial food establishments to use recyclable or compostable single-use items, and requirement that all food waste be diverted in residential, multifamily, and commercial sectors.</p>	<p>Robust reporting and data collection tracks contamination rates, capture rates, conducts route audits and measures contamination thresholds. Participation rates tracked through subscription levels for collection services. Financial performance measured through metrics like the diversion discount program. The city tests technologies like onboard cameras and scales to directly measure load contamination. The city surveys residents for feedback through community outreach. Program data evaluated to reveal impacts of policy, education, or operational changes.</p>	<p>New contracts with Cedar Grove and LENZ Enterprises now require compostable packaging to be BPI certified to standardize what is accepted across facilities. Reporting from facilities helps identify specific contaminants and informs Seattle's messaging on acceptable items.</p>
Austin, TX	<p>Provides collection of residential food scraps, yard trimmings, and food-soiled paper products to all single-family homes. The community launched a pilot program in 2012 to incorporate food scraps collection, which has continued to expand. The City of Austin requires food-permitted businesses to provide their employees convenient access to diversion options that keep organic material out of the landfill. Organic material can include unused food, food scraps and food-soiled paper. Austin will require commercial composting collection at all multifamily properties starting October 1, 2024.</p>	<p>Compostable products and packaging are accepted, including food-soiled paper and natural fibers.</p>	<p>Program incorporates many educational campaigns to help the community learn how to compost correctly, including offering a K-12 education program and managing a Zero Waste Block Leader program.</p>	<p>In 2011, Austin City Council approved the zero-waste goal to reduce the amount of trash sent to landfills by 90% by 2040. The program does not mandate source separation of residential food scraps but has a Universal Recycling Ordinance that requires composting collection services at all multi-family complexes as of 2024.</p>	<p>Program works with Organics by Gosh to conduct regular audits of the collected organics. The city maintains an online dashboard to track the diversion impact of its services. Customers can report missed collections and provide other feedback about their composting service.</p>	<p>Austin contracts with Organics by Gosh to process the organic material collected from residents. The city was offering weekly cart collection of yard waste to residents prior to these food scrap collection services.</p>
Boulder, CO	<p>Universal Zero Waste Ordinance implemented; Boulder City Council wanted to provide the same opportunity to the commercial sector, and "universally" across Boulder to divert organics for composting. The Ordinance requires all properties in Boulder to have waste services that provide separated compost, recycling and trash. All businesses must provide correctly placed collection containers, have required signs, train employees on proper sorting. All property owners, both residential and commercial, must subscribe to compost, recycling, and trash collection services, and regularly provide renters with information on where bins are located.</p>	<p>Initially, certified compostable products were accepted in the food scraps bin. However, as of April 2023, A1 Organics added compostable foodservice ware to the unaccepted list.</p>	<p>Boulder works primarily with community partners to lead outreach and engagement, including PACE, to encourage source separation of organics.</p>	<p>Boulder City Council passed a Zero-Waste resolution in 2006, focused on 85% waste diversion from the landfill by 2025. In 2015, the Universal Zero-Waste Ordinance was adopted, requiring all properties in the city to set up internal collection systems for compost, recycling, and trash services.</p>	<p>Boulder County has conducted two waste characterization studies that help detailed the composition of the waste stream.</p>	<p>The organic material is aggregated at a transfer station operated by Western Disposal, then transported to A1 Organics.</p>