

# FACT SHEET



**Cooling the Climate**  
through Boulder Business Recycling

a new campaign from  
**eco-cycle**

## **Boulder Poised for Universal Recycling and Composting!**

On **Tuesday, June 2**, Boulder City Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and then vote on a new ordinance that would require commercial recycling and composting citywide. Eco-Cycle strongly supports the ordinance and is urging that it be fully implemented by mid-2016.

**NOW** is the time to boost the city's current waste diversion rate, which is only 32 percent<sup>1</sup> — well below its Zero Waste goal of 85 percent by 2025.

While single-family homes have achieved a waste diversion rate of 48 percent,<sup>1</sup> local businesses recycle and compost only 28 percent of theirs.<sup>1</sup>

Boulder can achieve its Zero Waste goal, but only if we make recycling and composting convenient and accessible regardless of where in the city you live, work, shop, or go to school.



**YOU CAN HELP** support this effort by taking the city's online survey **TODAY** at:  
[www.inspireboulder.com/topics/23634/zero-waste-requirements-in-boulder](http://www.inspireboulder.com/topics/23634/zero-waste-requirements-in-boulder).

And please join us at the public hearing and show your support by wearing GREEN!  
Details at: [www.ecocycle.org/take-action/cooling-the-climate](http://www.ecocycle.org/take-action/cooling-the-climate).

## **Why Should You Care?**

- Zero Waste — reducing, reusing, recycling and composting 85 percent or more of our trash — is one of the fastest, most inexpensive ways to reduce our local greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>2</sup>
- Increasing recycling and composting will also help conserve our natural resources, create jobs, and boost local economies.

## **Details about the Ordinance**

**The Boulder City Council is set to vote on a new Zero Waste ordinance on June 2, 2015.** The ordinance would require local businesses, nonprofits, institutions, and owners of apartments and condominiums, to recycle and compost.

Specifically, the ordinance would:

- Require commercial and residential property owners to provide recycling and composting services for their tenants.

<sup>1</sup> City of Boulder 2013 Waste Diversion Data

<sup>2</sup> Stop Trashing the Climate, ILSR, GAIA and Eco-Cycle, 2008

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- Require all businesses to separate recyclable and compostable material from trash.
- Require that recyclables and compostables be collected at any event that requires a city permit.
- Provide exemptions for home-based businesses and for businesses and residents that would:
  - Face financial hardship by acquiring new services.
  - Generate small amounts of recyclable or compostable materials.
  - Haul their own trash, recyclables or compostables.
  - Compost on site.
  - Share collection services with other properties or businesses.
  - Have severe space constraints.

## **Don't Delay**

Enacting a universal recycling and composting ordinance will make Boulder one of only three cities in the nation to require recycling and composting citywide.

Eco-Cycle supports the recommendation by city staff that all businesses, apartment and condominium owners, nonprofits, and institutions, start recycling and composting **within one year** after the ordinance is adopted. We need to level the playing field and ensure that everyone is playing by the same rules. There's no reason to give some businesses three years to start composting, an option which is still on the table.

## **Make Your Voice Heard!**

The city wants to hear what businesses and residents think about the ordinance and the timing of implementation. **Please take the survey BY JUNE 1:**

[www.inspireboulder.com/topics/23634/zero-waste-requirements-in-boulder](http://www.inspireboulder.com/topics/23634/zero-waste-requirements-in-boulder)

Eco-Cycle strongly supports the draft ordinance, which would ensure that **ALL** local businesses participate and everyone in our community has access to recycling and composting.

We know the ordinance can be effective. Cities, including San Francisco and San Diego, California; Portland, Oregon; and Madison, Wisconsin, that have made business recycling and/or composting mandatory, are diverting between 60 percent and 80 percent of their waste from landfills.<sup>1</sup>

**ACT NOW! Go to [www.ecocycle.org/take-action/cooling-the-climate](http://www.ecocycle.org/take-action/cooling-the-climate) or contact us for more info: Randy Moorman, Campaigns Director, [randy@ecocycle.org](mailto:randy@ecocycle.org)**