

Zero Waste Ordinance Recommended Clarifications and Changes

Adrian Hayes-Santos

August 3, 2021

1. Retail stores that sell prescription drugs must provide publicly accessible recycling for prescription drugs
2. Create and overlay district for downtown and midtown that restricts businesses from putting waste containers in the right of way or on sidewalks. This deals with the lines of trash cans you see on sidewalks in downtown.
3. Single-family composting implemented city wide by 2024, and a scheduled partial rollout in 2022
4. Mandatory single-family recycling
5. Multi-family composting implemented city wide by 2024, and a scheduled partial rollout to start in 2022 .
6. In areas of a business open to the public both indoor and outdoor, businesses must provide recycling and compost(if it meets the minimum required for composting) containers next to any landfill waste containers that the business may provide
7. In areas of a business that are employee only, the business must provide recycling and composting containers next to landfill waste containers. This is only necessary if that are of the business has recyclables or food waste produced or consumed in sufficient quantity
8. Residents of multifamily units must provide in unit recycling containers that can be carried by the resident to recycling pickup areas. This goes into effect October 1, 2022. These containers may be approved by the city.
9. Residents of multifamily units must provide in unit composting containers that can be carried by the resident to recycling pickup areas. This goes into effect when composting is available at that multifamily unit. These containers may be approved by the city.
10. Waste containers
 - a. Designated colors set by the city. Whole container does not need to be that color. This would be for all recycling containers that are used in public or employee areas
 - b. Designated signage
 - c. Minimum size of wording and pictures
 - d. Standardized language
 - e. Signage shall be in English and Spanish, or picture signs at each recyclable and compostable container.
11. Businesses that provide single use plastic bags to customers must provide easily publicly accessible recycling for single use plastic bags
12. Businesses that provide expanded polystyrene to customers must provide easily publicly accessible recycling for single use plastic bags
13. The city will create a reuse program to help residents and businesses with reusing waste and finding organizations who will take that waste. Program will be in place by July 1, 2023.

14. Multi-family complexes with more than 25 units must provide a reuse plan to the city when more than 20% of their units are turning over in a one-month period. Plans should include how they are helping to divert items that still have a useful life from the landfill. For example: This may include partnering with reuse companies or nonprofits, or providing space for residents to leave items that still have a useful life that can be picked up later. It is expected that the first year of the program is a learning period for multifamily complexes. This would go into effect in May 1, 2022.
15. City shall designate at least one day a year for residents to leave items that have reuse value on the street. These items may be picked up by the public. City will pick up items not picked up by the public.
16. Grocery stores are mandated to follow the food waste diversion hierarchy by Jan 1, 2023. Grocery stores are banned from destroying unsold food waste that is fit for human consumption. Grocery stores are obligated to establish a partnership with a charity for food donations.
17. City will create a food waste diversion program by Jan 1, 2023 to help businesses connect with food donation centers, animal farms, etc.
18. Businesses must train employees on proper sorting once per year, new employees must be trained within 30 days.
19. Property owners must provide space for landfill waste, recycling, and composting containers.
20. All businesses must compost unless they can show that they don't produce any compostable materials. We should move beyond just composting food waste. For example, places that have paper towels should have to compost as well.