



ORGANICS DIVERSION

UNIVERSAL RECYCLING ORDINANCE



The Universal Recycling Ordinance's (URO) organic diversion requirements support Austin's Zero Waste goal by ensuring that employees of food permitted businesses have convenient access to landfill diversion methods for organic materials, (e.g. food scraps or soiled paper products). The URO intends to increase the life of local landfills, reduce harmful environmental impacts, encourage economic development and support the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) food recovery hierarchy.

Visit [AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/BIZORGANICS](https://austintexas.gov/bizorganics) for information and resources to help your food permitted business reach compliance.

METHODS OF ORGANICS DIVERSION

The URO requires convenient access for employees to divert discarded organic material from the landfill. Businesses will decide what methods to use. Some methods to divert organic material could include:

1 ACCESS

Ensuring employees have convenient access to methods of keeping food scraps and other organic material out of landfills.

2 SIGNAGE

Post informational, bilingual signs on or near organics diversion stations or containers.

3 EDUCATION

Provide annual, bilingual education on organics diversion to employees. Education may be provided at team meetings or by e-mail.

4 REPORTING

The person responsible for the organics diversion will need to fill out an Annual Organic Diversion Plan, beginning October 1 at: austintexas.gov/odp. This plan is a report of how a business meets the ordinance requirements. Having access to service receipts is beneficial when filling out this online form.

FEEDING HUNGRY PEOPLE (preferred option)

Donate extra food to food banks, soup kitchens, or shelters.

FEEDING ANIMALS

Donate food scraps to feed animals at regional or community ranches.

COMPOSTING

Compost on-site or contract with a private service provider to collect organics.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS

Develop innovative solutions, customized to your business, which diverts organic material from landfills.



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LEARN MORE ABOUT FOOD RECOVERY AND ORGANICS DIVERSION

COMMERCIAL ORGANICS DIVERSION
austintexas.gov/bizorganics

AUSTIN'S HEALTHY AND EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEM
austintexas.gov/department/austins-healthy-and-equitable-food-system

HOW TO DONATE FOOD
austintexas.gov/page/how-donate-food

RESOURCES

INFORMATION:

More information about the Universal Recycling Ordinance is available at: austintexas.gov/uro

SIGNAGE:

Free recycling and organics diversion signage is available at: austintexas.gov/signmaker

EDUCATION:

Free recycling and organics diversion education is available at: austintexas.gov/uroresources

FOR QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE

Please contact the Business Outreach Team at:
commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov

