



City implements new recycling, compost requirements for homeowners, property managers and businesses

Boulder is a sustainability leader in many ways, yet we send more than 60 percent of our waste to the landfill. Compare that to San Francisco, which buries less than 20 percent of its waste in the ground. By choosing to reuse, recycle and compost rather than send waste to the landfill, we add value to our “waste,” support our natural resources and invest in the future of our community and local economy.

Last year, we became one of the first communities in the nation to require recycling and composting citywide.

These new guidelines are part of a healthy future – a future in which we become a zero waste community, where we reduce the waste we generate and then reuse, recycle and compost most of what we throw away. Our goal is to generate new materials from 85 percent of our waste by 2025, saving it from the landfill. We’re well on our way, and we’re taking the biggest step yet with new universal zero waste requirements.

Where does Boulder’s waste go?



So what are the new standards?

In June 2015, City Council approved requirements to expand recycling and composting to all Boulder residents, employees and visitors. At work, at home and around town, you’ll soon be able to recycle and compost everywhere. Here’s how it will happen:

- **All single-family homeowners** must subscribe to waste hauling services by June 2016;
- **All property managers** must provide adequate trash, recycling and composting service to their tenants and occupants by June 2016;

- **All businesses** must separate recyclables and compostables from the trash and provide properly placed containers and signage by September 2016; and
- **All special events** in Boulder must provide recycling and composting collection by June 2016.

What can I do?

We’re so glad you asked! Start by visiting our exciting new website: ZeroWasteBoulder.com.

Connect with all the resources you’ll need to help you comply through the site, including training videos, signage, rebates, incentives and more. Reach out to ZeroWaste@bouldercolorado.gov if you have any questions, or are a business or property manager seeking free one-on-one advising.

Wondering what you do with your old laptop, yoga mat or used building materials? Visit our What Goes Where page to learn more about Boulder’s great zero waste facilities and what materials can be reused, recycled and composted. Visit our Special Events page to learn what steps you can take to make your own event zero waste.

How much waste does Boulder recycle and compost?

