

Community Recycling Ordinance FAQ

Why do we have the [Community Recycling Ordinance](#)?

In 2013, the City worked closely with the community to develop a roadmap for greater waste diversion, resulting in the Road to Zero Waste Plan and a City Council-adopted goal of diverting 75% of the community's waste from the landfill by 2020, 90% by 2025, and 100% (zero waste) by 2030. The Zero Waste goal was affirmed by the Council during Our Climate Future planning process in early 2021. Data shows that community members want recycling services to be more easily accessible in Fort Collins.

What is the [Community Recycling Ordinance](#)?

The [Community Recycling Ordinance](#) was unanimously approved by Fort Collins City Council in September 2016. Waste haulers and community members requested a long roll-out of the requirement for commercial and multi-family properties to have recycling services, which was intended to come into effect December 31, 2020. The deadline was delayed to June 30, 2021 during the early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic to allow businesses, multi-family properties, and waste haulers time to focus on operations. Leading up to June 30, commercial and multi-family property owners or managers that don't already have recycling will need to work with their waste hauler to add recycling services.

How much recycling service do I need to add to meet the ordinance?

Recycling service level must be at least 1/3 of the overall service provided.

- Example: 2 cubic yards / week of recycling service + 4 cubic yards / week of trash service = 6 cubic yards total ($2/6 = 1/3$ and complies with ordinance)

Calculate the adjustments to your trash service level that will meet the CRO requirements by using this tool:

[Service Level Calculator](#)

Will I be charged for additional recycling services?

If you are adding new service, then an additional cost does apply. Contact your waste hauler to understand fees and costs. If you are already at the correct level, no additional service costs apply. You can balance or "right-size" your service by reducing your trash container size or service frequency when adding recycling services.

Can I opt out of this program?

The Ordinance requires that all waste haulers provide recycling service to their customers. Customers will incur the recycling service fee whether or not the recycling service is utilized. While you can decline to recycle items, the recycling fee will still be applied to your service.

I can't add recycling services, what should I do?

Exemptions may be requested through a variance, and may be granted by the City if:

- Space constraints on the property prevent the addition of additional dumpsters or carts on your property.
 - This variance does not apply if an existing enclosure is too small but there is space available to relocate or expand the enclosure on the property. In this case, a new site plan may need to be developed through a minor amendment process.
 - Contact: Zoning@fcgov.com, 970 416-2745
- The location does not generate single stream recyclables or the single stream recyclables are less than 33% of the waste generated from the location.
- Recyclables are self-hauled to a recycling drop-off center by the business or multifamily complex management (rather than hiring a waste hauler to collect the recyclables).
- The location utilizes separate licensed collectors for trash and recycling.
- The only available location to service recycling bin(s) is unsafe to service.

Who should I reach out to if I have additional questions?

For questions concerning recycling service levels, adding new waste services, or waste service pricing, contact your waste hauler.

For questions about variances, WRAP (Waste Reduction and Recycling Assistance Program), or general recycling inquiries, contact the Fort Collins Waste Reduction and Recycling Team at WRR@fcgov.com

Where can I find recycling resources and support for my property or business?

The City of Fort Collins Waste Reduction and Recycling Team works directly with business and multi-family units and can offer a variety of resources through [WRAP \(Waste Reduction and Recycling Assistance Program\)](#):

- Recycling Guidelines
- Recycling Signage & Educational Materials
- Recycling Education
- Site Assessments

For inquiries and recycling support, contact our Waste Reduction & Recycling Team by email at WRR@fcgov.com