



MODEL MANDATORY REPORTING ORDINANCE FOR LARGE FOOD WASTE GENERATORS



CITIES AND FOOD WASTE

Municipal governments are uniquely well-positioned and motivated to address food waste because...

- **Climate change** mitigation and adaptation goals, zero waste goals, and other sustainability goals set by cities can be advanced through adoption of food waste reduction strategies
- **Waste management** (collection and disposal) costs can be reduced by producing less waste
- **Food insecurity** can be reduced through directing more surplus food to people who need it



WHAT IS A MANDATORY REPORTING ORDINANCE?



Mandatory reporting ordinances require large surplus food generators to report the amounts of food waste and surplus food that they generate.



GOALS AND PURPOSES

1. To provide data on food waste generation in order to effectively target interventions
2. To increase awareness of how much food is being wasted at organizational and municipal levels
3. To lead to reductions in disposal of food waste in landfills and incinerators through implementing targeted food waste reduction strategies



IS A MANDATORY REPORTING ORDINANCE RIGHT FOR MY CITY?

- Measurement and reporting requirements can be helpful in a variety of ways to a wide range of cities.
- For example, data can be used to:
 - Understand baseline food waste generation and track progress
 - Institute new diversion requirements
 - Inform changes to existing zero waste and other waste management requirements



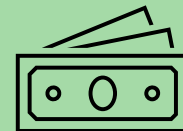
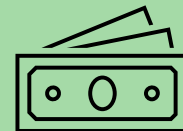
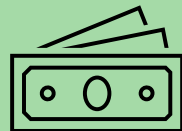
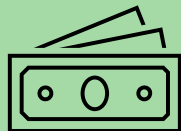
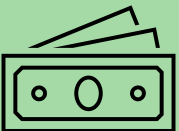
BACKGROUND ON THE MODEL ORDINANCE

- Model ordinance developed by NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) and the Environmental Law Institute (ELI)
- Based on **extensive research** and **best practices**
- Adaptable tool that **can be tailored** to needs of individual municipalities
- Versions with and without commentaries
 - Version with commentaries and accompanying research memo offer **background information and alternative approaches**

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Diverting food waste from landfills and incinerators typically:

- ***Reduces the need to expand and create new landfills***, which are costly and disproportionately sited in low-income communities and communities of color
- Fosters ***economic development*** through increased compost supplier and processor jobs
- ***Lowers waste management costs*** associated with landfill disposal
- ***Increases production of compost when food scraps are recycled***, which can reduce the demand for irrigation and fertilizer, thereby reducing operational costs



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Diverting food waste from landfills and incinerators typically:

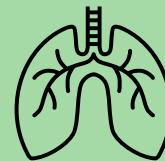
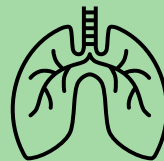
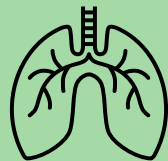
- ***Reduces emissions of methane*** from food waste as it decays in landfills and ***emissions of carbon dioxide*** from food waste that is incinerated
- ***Avoids wasting the greenhouse gas emissions and other resources*** associated with producing, transporting, and disposing of wasted food
- ***Reduces the harmful environmental (and public health) impacts*** of landfills and incinerators, which are disproportionately sited in low-income communities and communities of color
- ***Increases production of compost when food scraps are recycled***, thereby producing valuable soil amendment that can sequester carbon and increase nutrient and water retention, which can reduce the demand for irrigation and fertilizer



SOCIAL BENEFITS

Diverting food waste from landfills and incinerators typically:

- ***Reduces the need to expand and create new landfills***, which are disproportionately sited in low-income communities and communities of color
- Reduces the harmful ***public health impacts*** of landfills and incinerators
- ***Addresses food insecurity when surplus food is rescued*** and distributed to food-insecure populations, particularly households and communities of color which disproportionately face hunger



KEY PROVISIONS OF THE MODEL

COVERED ENTITIES

“...businesses, nonprofit organizations, and municipal governmental subunits that cook, assemble, process, serve, or sell food... and generate **a total annual average of two tons per week or more of food waste**”

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

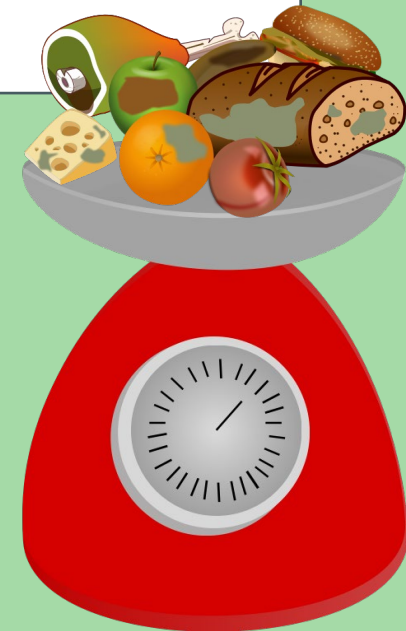
Covered entities must annually report to the municipality:

- ***Food waste generated***
 - Amount
 - Uncertainties in their measurement
 - Difficulties in complying with requirements
- ***Surplus food donated***
 - Amount
 - Types
- ***Food scraps recycled***
 - Amount
 - Destination of the recycled scraps (e.g. animal feed, composting)
 - Challenges to recycling



METHODS FOR QUANTIFYING FOOD WASTE GENERATION AND SURPLUS FOOD DONATIONS

The Model provides flexible options from which covered entities can select the quantification method(s) that work best for them. These include ***direct measurement methods*** and ***approximation methods***.



BUSINESS EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE

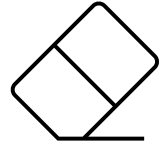
The Model requires that municipalities provide educational materials and compliance assistance ***before the ordinance goes into effect*** and ***on an ongoing basis after the enactment***, including ***educational materials*** and ***compliance assistance***.



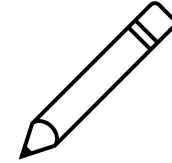
KEYS TO EQUITABLE IMPLEMENTATION

Translation • Technical assistance • Hardship waivers • Equitable enforcement





ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES INCLUDE...



- **Covered Entities:**

- Higher or lower generation threshold
- Different criteria, such as:
 - Generator/business type
 - Generator size (e.g. floor area)
 - Materials covered (e.g. additional types of organics, such as yard waste)

- **Reporting Requirements:**

- Truncated reporting requirements
- Additional reporting requirements

- **Methods for Quantifying Food Waste Generation and Surplus Food Donation:**

- Additional quantification methods
- Elimination of some methods

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

DIVE INTO THE MODEL ORDINANCE

Model Ordinance on Mandatory Reporting for Large Food Waste Generators: <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/model-ordinance-mandatory-reporting-large-food-waste-generators.pdf>

Model Ordinance on Mandatory Reporting for Large Food Waste Generators, with Commentaries:
<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/model-ordinance-mandatory-reporting-large-food-waste-generators-commentary.pdf>

Model Ordinance on Mandatory Reporting for Large Food Waste Generators – Background Memorandum:
<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/mandatory-reporting-large-food-waste-generators-background.pdf>

Presentation: Model Ordinance on Mandatory Reporting for Large Food Waste Generators:
<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/model-ordinance-mandatory-reporting-large-food-waste-generators-presentation.pdf>



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MODEL ORDINANCE ON MANDATORY REPORTING FOR LARGE FOOD WASTE GENERATORS*

* For a version with commentaries: *Model Ordinance on Mandatory Reporting for Large Food Waste Generators, with Commentaries*. For background information and supplemental resources: *Mandatory Reporting for Large Food Waste Generators Background Memorandum*.

- 1.0 Findings
- 2.0 Goals and Purposes
- 3.0 Definitions
- 4.0 Covered Entities
- 5.0 Reporting Requirements
- 6.0 Methods for Quantifying Food Waste Generation and Surplus Food Donation
- 7.0 Business Education and Compliance Assistance
- 8.0 Record Keeping
- 9.0 Waivers
- 10.0 Enforcement
- 11.0 Effective Date

HELPFUL SOURCES

NRDC Food Matters: <https://www.nrdc.org/food-matters>

ELI Food Waste Initiative: <https://www.eli.org/food-waste-initiative/food-waste-prevention-recovery-and-recycling>

Nashville Food Waste Initiative: <https://urbangreenlab.org/nashville-food-waste-initiative/>

ELI Research Brief – Social Science Literature Review on Value of Measuring/Reporting Food Waste: <https://www.eli.org/sites/default/files/files-pdf/Social%20Science%20Literature%20Review%20on%20Value%20of%20Measuring%20and%20Reporting%20Food%20Waste.pdf>

Food Loss & Waste Protocol's Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard: https://flwprotocol.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/FLW_Standard_final_2016.pdf

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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