



ULSTER COUNTY FOOD WASTE PREVENTION & RECOVERY ACT FACT SHEET 2024-2025

Background

In 2019, the Ulster County Legislature enacted the “Food Waste Prevention and Recovery Act.” This law requires large food scraps generators to separate food scraps from the general waste stream and either:

- arrange for its reuse by the food insecure or for animal feed
- compost it on site
- self-haul it to a processing facility for composting or anaerobic digestion
- arrange for licensed services to deliver it to a processing facility for composting or anaerobic digestion

The food waste hierarchy outlined in the law represents the County’s policy for prioritizing the reduction, reuse and recycling of food scraps, and all food scraps generators are encouraged to manage food scraps accordingly.

Who is Impacted

Large generators of food scraps who produce:

- Greater than 2 tons of food scraps per week¹ (starting January 1, 2021)
- Greater than 1 ton of food scraps per week (starting January 1, 2022)
- Greater than 0.75 tons of food scraps per week (starting January 1, 2023)
- **Greater than 0.5 tons of food scraps per week (starting January 1, 2024)**

Annual Implementation Timeline

September 2023

- Regulated Large Food Scraps Generators notified of status by the County
- List of regulated generators published on the County’s webpage

November 30, 2023

- Waiver or Dispute of Status applications (if applicable) due to the County

January 2024

- Large Food Scraps Generators required to begin separating food scraps from the general waste stream
- Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) sends Annual Waste & Recycling Report information and report template to regulated entities

February 2025

- Annual Waste & Recycling Reports due to UCCRA, to include the amounts of food donated and food scraps recycled per the requirements of the law. Report information available at:
<https://ucrra.org/waste-recycling/annual-recycling-report/>



FAQS

How does the County identify large food scraps generators?

Ulster County uses the **Organic Resource Locator** dataset developed and maintained by the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) to identify large food scraps generators who are regulated under the law. The Organic Resource Locator is a web-based mapping tool that provides information on organic waste resources and generators in NYS. NYSP2I has developed methodology for estimating the amount of food scraps generated weekly by different types of businesses and institutions. This methodology can be reviewed on at their website: <https://www.rit.edu/affiliate/nysp2i/organic-resource-locator>

What do I do if my business is already regulated under the New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law?

Submit a **Waiver** form and supporting documentation by November 30; the County will issue a decision by December 31. More information on the NYS Law, as well as a list of regulated generators, is available at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/114499.html>.

What do I do if it is not possible to start separating food scraps at my business at this time?

Submit a **Waiver** form and supporting documentation by November 30; the County will issue a decision by December 31. The County may grant limited waivers for period of up to one year if a facility demonstrates that compliance with the requirements would result in extraordinary financial hardship OR other unique circumstances.

What do I do if my business does not produce more than 1 ton of food scraps per week?

Submit a **Dispute of Status** form and supporting documentation, including a third-party waste audit, by November 30; the County will issue a decision by December 31.

Where can I get more information on how to start separating food scraps at my business, information on local waste haulers and providers of waste audits, and other available resources?

Please visit the County Food Waste Prevention & Recovery Act webpage or contact the County at the email address and phone number provided below.

Additionally, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency offers many relevant resources including:

- Guidebooks for businesses: <https://ucrra.org/resources/businesses/>
- Food waste resources: <https://ucrra.org/waste-recycling/food-waste/>
-Includes UCRRA's Partners in Composting Program
- Food Waste Haulers list: <https://ucrra.org/waste-recycling/food-waste/haulers/>