

Business Organics Management Area Exclusion Requests

Overview

Under [RCW 70A.205.545](#), businesses located in a Business Organics Management Area (BOMA) that meet specific criteria are required to arrange for organics management services to reduce their organic material waste. The BOMA represents areas in the state where the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) determined both these conditions exist:

- Businesses have access to year-round curbside food waste and organic materials collection, and these materials are delivered to an organics management facility such as a compost facility or anaerobic digester for processing.
- Capacity exists at these facilities to accept increased volumes of organic materials from businesses.

Ecology has published a searchable map of the BOMA online at: [2024 Business Organics Management Areas \(wa.gov\)](#). This map will be updated annually on July 1. Ecology may amend the map to exclude a jurisdiction or part of a jurisdiction if a county or city notifies Ecology that conditions of the BOMA do not apply to them.

What should be included in a BOMA exclusion request

To request an exclusion from the BOMA requirements, a jurisdiction must include a description of the specific geographic areas they are requesting be excluded, and how one or both of the following criteria are met in those areas:

- There are no available businesses that collect and deliver organic materials to solid waste facilities that provide for the organic materials management of organic material waste and food waste; and/or
- There is no available capacity at the solid waste facilities to which businesses that collect and deliver organic materials could feasibly and economically deliver organic materials from the jurisdiction.

If a jurisdiction is making their exclusion request based on cost, they must demonstrate that it's not economically feasible for affected businesses to meet the requirements in RCW 70A.205.545. To do this, they must provide evidence of the higher costs that businesses would incur. This evidence can include rate sheets, billing invoices, or service proposals for both general waste collection and source-separated organic material collection services. If the exclusion request is based on affected businesses not being able to meet the requirements for other reasons, the jurisdiction must explain in detail why businesses are unable to comply. Exclusions will remain in place through the end of the BOMA determination period (July 1 - June 30) for which they were issued and may be extended.

How to submit an exclusion request

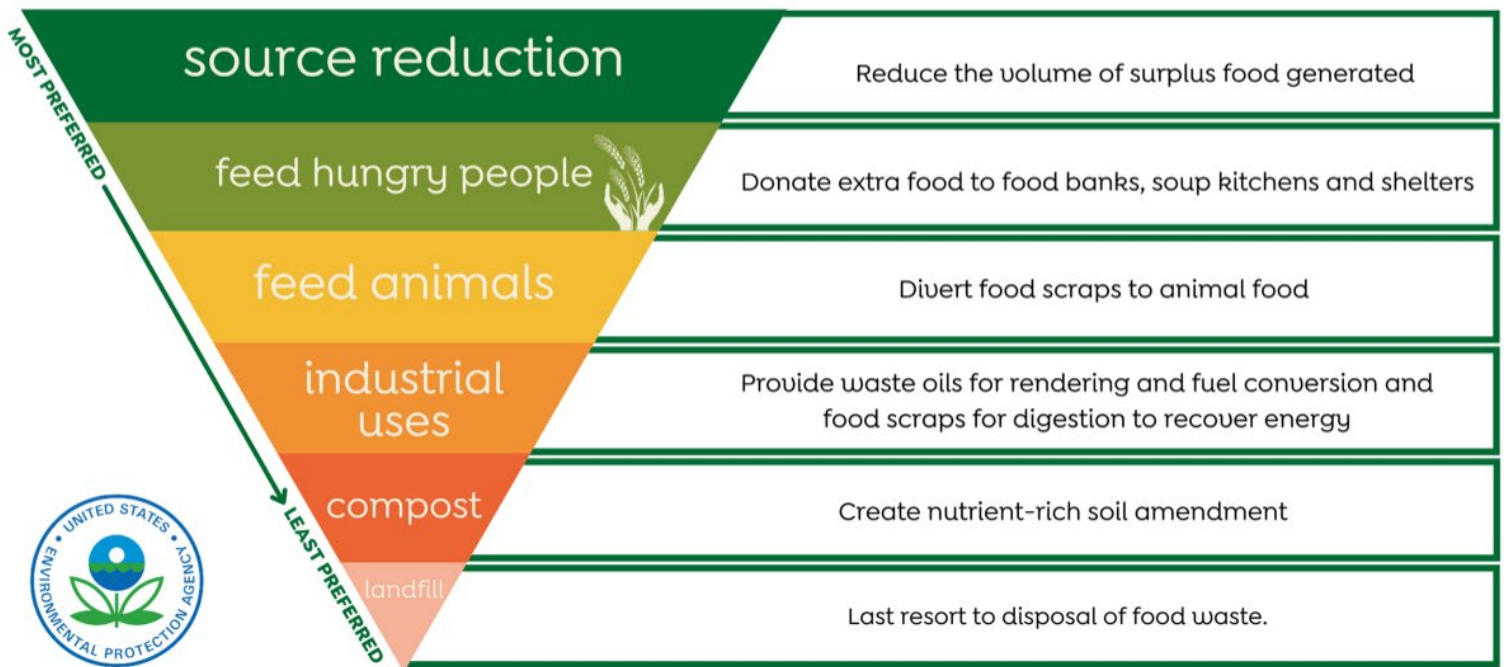
To request an exclusion, a jurisdiction must submit their request in writing to Ecology. Exemption requests should be emailed to organics@ecy.wa.gov. Ecology will acknowledge receipt of exemption requests within 2 business days and will respond within 30 calendar days. In some cases, Ecology may request additional information to determine if the criteria to issue an exclusion has been met.



How to learn more

- Check out the [Business Organics Management web page](#) and [focus sheet](#).
- Visit the [BOX platform](#) for additional resources.
- [Subscribe](#) to the Organics Management Bulletin.
- Contact our Organics Management Team at Organics@ecy.wa.gov or (509) 960-1290.

FOOD RECOVERY HIERARCHY:



Organics Management Team
Organics@ecy.wa.gov
(509) 960-1290



To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at (360)-407-6000 or email at SWMPublications@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.