



COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Environment &
Sustainability

Circularity 2025

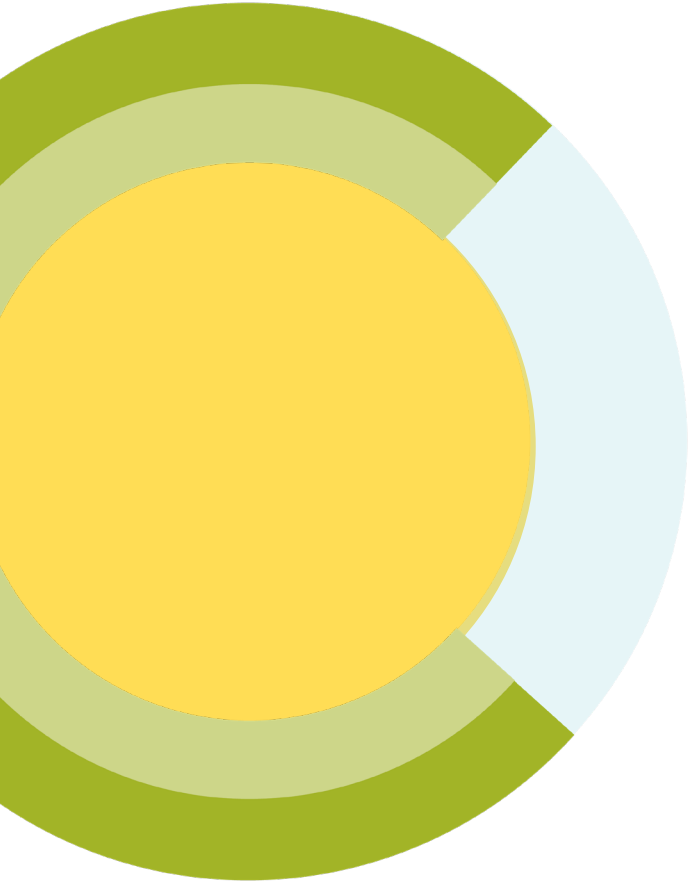
Cook County Large Event Facility Waste Diversion Ordinance

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Overview



- State of Illinois Statute Large Event Center Act
- Cook County Large Event Facility Waste Diversion Ordinance
- BRITE Program and Additional Outreach



State of Illinois Statute Large Event Facilities Act (415 ILCS 190/1)

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Summary

- **Minimum Requirements**: On and after January 1, 2025, an owner or operator of an event facility shall provide:
 - Recycling, including, but not limited to, glass, aluminum cans, cardboard, paper, and plastic beverage cups or bottles; the transfer of these recyclable materials to a recycling center for processing.
 - The composting of organic waste, which shall be collected separately from the recyclable materials.
 - Allows for State's Attorney or municipal attorney to prosecute an owner or operator of an event facility who violates the Act.



State of Illinois Statute Large Event Facilities Act (415 ILCS 190/1)

Impacted Cook County Event Facilities

- Event facilities which hold 3,500 people or more.
- Examples include convention centers, stadiums and music venues.
- At least 13 facilities have been identified in suburban Cook County.



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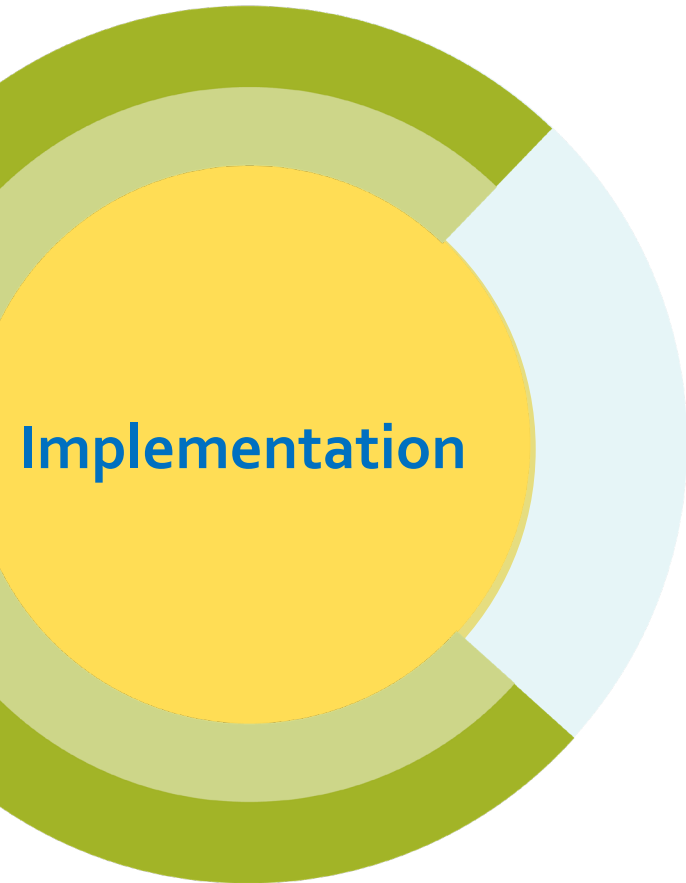
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Summary

- Approved by Cook County Board of Commissioners in September 2025
- Applies in only suburban Cook County (City is introducing a similar ordinance for their large event facilities)
- Types of disposal locations for recyclables and organics include:
 - permitted recycling facility
 - composting facility
 - anaerobic digester facility
 - food donation center
- Phased implementation over the next two years



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- **Phase 1**: By January 1, 2026, event facilities must collect all recyclable materials and organic waste generated in non-public **“back-of-house”** locations, including but not limited to indoor kitchens, catering locations, food preparation areas, private conference rooms and employee break rooms.
- **Phase 2**: By January 1, 2027, event facilities must collect all recyclable materials and organic waste generated in public **“front-of-house”** locations by providing separate, clearly labeled containers at designated locations.



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Outreach and Engagement

- Co-Hosted a Stakeholder Listening Session with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the City of Chicago and the Chicago Sustainability Task Force. Over 40 representatives from event facilities, recyclers, composters, food rescue groups, etc. attended. (November 2024)
- Co-Hosted a Stakeholder Listening Session with the City of Chicago and the Chicago Sustainability Task Force to discuss the draft IEPA Large Event Recycling toolkit. Over 100 representatives attended. (January 2025)
- Connected local event facilities with local recyclers, composters, and food waste haulers
- Between ordinance passage and implementation, additional outreach may be conducted as needed



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Current and Next Steps

- Providing input for IEPA Large Event Recycling toolkit
- Publish a page on the DES website for additional information, including a link to the IEPA toolkit
- Offer pollution prevention resources (including for recycling and composting) through BRITE Program checklist and assessments
- Continue to coordinate with IEPA, local advocates, and venues on implementation of the ordinance



Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment (BRITE) Program

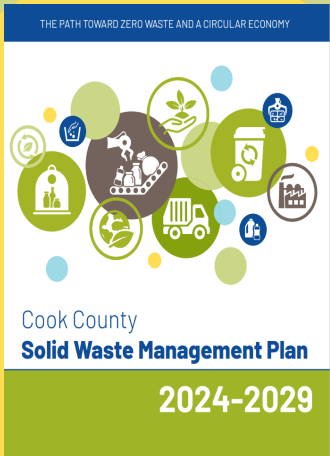


- Pollution Prevention Program
 - free assessments
 - grant funding
- Suburban Cook County
- Eligible business types
 - Dry cleaning
 - Auto body and repair
 - Metal finishing and fabricating
 - Food and beverage manufacturing
- Grant Funding
 - Small business (500 or less full-time employees).
 - Financially affected by COVID-19 pandemic with proven loss of revenue.
 - Was in operation prior to January 1, 2020.



Policy Alignment

- Cook County Policy Roadmap
- The Cook County Solid Waste Management Plan: The Path Toward Zero Waste And A Circular Economy
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Materials Management Report to the Illinois General Assembly





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Contact Information

Questions?

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Cook County DES BRITE Program

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