

ORCA Frequency Waiver Process

- (1) The jurisdiction that implements a solid waste plan submits an application to request a Frequency waiver.

The application period will open in February 2026 when applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until December 31, 2026.

- a. Submit your application using the link [[Ecology's webpage will go here](#)]. This will send a direct email to Ecology's Organics team organics@ecy.wa.gov.
 - i. Please ensure you carbon copy (cc) your respective city and/or solid waste county contacts and the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) (jaclynn.simmons@utc.wa.gov, mike.young@utc.wa.gov, and tonia.bailey@utc.wa.gov) on this email communication.
 - b. Supporting evidence is not needed for this application and waiver request.
- (2) Ecology will review the submitted materials and respond to the waiver application request within approximately six weeks with one of the responses below. This response will still include the contacts cc'd on the application submission email.
- a. **Approved to proceed:** The waiver application is approved, and the eligible jurisdiction will receive a waiver. This response will still include the contacts cc'd on the application submission email.
 - i. The Frequency waiver is a one-time waiver that is valid indefinitely.
 - b. **Conditional approval dependent on more information:** Prior to receiving a waiver, Ecology may request further information.
 - c. **Deny an application and the associated waiver request:** The waiver application is denied due to insufficient and/or inaccurate information and/or criteria. This means the jurisdiction will not receive a waiver for the ORCA collection requirements.
- (3) If your application is approved and your jurisdiction is granted a waiver, Ecology will schedule time for a technical assistance meeting to learn more about the jurisdiction's alternative collection program and approach for managing organics.
- a. Ecology will document main points of discussion that can be used in a jurisdiction's Organics section of their solid waste management plan (SWMP).
- (4) If your application is denied, Ecology will schedule time for a technical assistance meeting to explain why the waiver request is denied and provide support for your jurisdiction to meet the requirements.

Organics Recycling Collection Areas (ORCA) Frequency Waiver
Application for the 2027 Requirements

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) presents this form for jurisdictions implementing a solid waste plan under RCW [70A.205.040](#) and seek to receive a Frequency waiver regarding the ORCA collection requirements ([RCW 70A.205.540](#)). We strongly encourage jurisdictions to work with relevant stakeholders in their impacted areas, such as city and/or county solid waste representatives, service providers, facility representatives, etc., throughout this application process and when engaging with Ecology during technical assistance.

If your jurisdiction is applying for a Frequency waiver, please complete the following application below. For further instructions, please refer to the Frequency Waiver Guidance document [[will be linked once available](#)].

1. Jurisdiction name: _____

Refer to the [ORCA map](#) to identify ORCA impacted areas.

- a. Please list all ORCA impacted cities you are requesting a waiver for
- b. Please list all ORCA impacted Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) or Census Tracts you are requesting a waiver for

2. Person completing the application (First name, last name, and role/job title)

3. Contact information (email and phone number). You may include additional contact information for your ORCA impacted areas.

4. Please check the alternative collection method your jurisdiction is pursuing.

- Collection of dehydrated food waste from a food recycler (i.e. a food dehydrator).
- Implement a drop box or public drop off management system.
- Other: Management of food waste and other organic material that uses an alternative method to curbside collection and reduces the volume, odor, or both, of the collected material.

5. **Describe your alternative organics management approach. Please be specific and explain the different approaches between residential and commercial organics collection. Please include details on why your jurisdiction is adopting this alternative organics system, how it will reduce the odor or volume of the organic material collected, and where the final form of the organic material from this system is going.**

6. **How does your jurisdiction ensure or partner with impacted areas to confirm residential and commercial customers are participating in this new system? How will you track participation with this new system? [short answer]**

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