

Municipal Biogas Requirements Related to Ontario's Food & Organic Waste Policy Statement¹

On April 30, 2018, the Province of Ontario issued a *Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement* pursuant to section 11 of the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016*. The *Policy Statement* provides direction to entities that generate, manage or oversee food waste and organic waste (e.g., organic waste from food preparation and soiled paper), including municipalities, multi-unit residential building owners, private waste management providers, industry, commercial entities and institutions that generate larger volumes of organic waste. The language used is aligned with *Planning Act* requirements (e.g., **Shall** – clear direction; **Should** – moderate direction; **Encourage or May** – minimal direction).

Table 1 – Municipal Requirements Related to Diversion

	Southern Ontario			Northern Ontario
	Municipalities with Green Bin programs	Higher density municipalities ²	Large & medium municipalities with medium density ³	Large municipalities with higher density ⁴
Shall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% target by 2023 • Maintain or expand curbside services • Areas without curbside provide other diversion opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% target by 2025 • Provide curbside in urban settlement areas to single family homes • Areas without curbside provide other diversion opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% target by 2025 • Provide curbside in urban settlement areas to single family homes • Areas without curbside provide other diversion opportunities 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure official plans consistent by period determined in the <i>Planning Act</i> • Ensure bylaws amended within 3 years after official plan update • Work with municipal associations on promotion and education to promote recovery • Ensure approvals for new or expanded resource recovery facilities address <i>D-Series Land Use Compatibility Guidelines</i> and the <i>Compost Guideline</i> 			
Should	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue regional options to facilitate collection • Ensure official plans, zoning by-laws, plan or subdivision approvals and site plan approvals support resource recovery of food and organic waste • Protect existing/planned resource recovery systems from incompatible uses, where appropriate, to meet projected needs • Co-ordinate with the province and other planning authorities to facilitate timely decisions for resource recovery systems • Consider how existing policies and procedures could encourage the use of compost, digestate and other soil amendments 			
Encourage/May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept other materials such as personal hygiene, sanitary products, shredded paper, additional paper fibre products, compostable products and packaging and pet food and wastes • Establish performance metrics to monitor implementation of policies • Plan for the management and beneficial use of biosolids • Consider use of wastewater treatment infrastructure • Pursue regional approaches to address processing needs • Support technology and innovation to recover compostable products and packaging 			

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Table 2 – Diversion Requirements for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings, Commercial and Institutional Buildings that Might be Owned or Serviced By Municipalities

	Multi-residential buildings with 6 or more units	All commercial buildings subject to O.Reg 103/94 that generate more than 300/kg week	All commercial buildings not subject to O.Reg 103/94 that generate more than 300/kg week	All commercial buildings subject to O.Reg 103/94 that generate less than 300/kg week	Educational institutions and hospitals subject to O. Reg 103/94 that generate more than 150 kg
Shall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% target by 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% target by 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% target by 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% target by 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% target by 2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source separation or equivalent 				

Table 3 – Requirements of Service Providers

	All Food and Organic Waste Service Providers
Shall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize contamination Use appropriate technologies Not direct source separated materials to disposal
Should	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide complete submissions for necessary approvals Develop community outreach plans Ensure mixed waste facilities only accept source separated organics where contamination or processing availability issues arise Ensure mixed waste facilities demonstrate regularly that outputs meet applicable environmental quality standards. Ensure mixed waste facilities send materials for further processing where necessary Promote and educate on the use and benefits of compost, digestate and other high-quality soil amendments Make compost convenient and accessible Increase the beneficial use to build soils
Encourage/May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt financial measures to encourage generators to maximize resource recovery and discourage disposal Reduce GHG emissions from operations and manage as close to source as possible Maximize energy recovery to reduce GHG emissions

¹ This document refers to requirements related to the biogas sector. For all requirements including additional details please refer to the Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement that is available on the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks website.

² A municipality with a population greater than 50,000 and a population density greater than or equal to 300 persons per km².

³ A municipality with a population greater than 50,000 and a population density less than 300 persons per km²; or a municipality with a population greater than 20,000 but equal to or less than 50,000 and a population density of greater than or equal to 100 persons per km².

⁴ A municipality with a population greater than 50,000 and a population density of greater than or equal to 300 persons per km².