

# Organic Waste Diversion Program - Aspen's case study

Jimena Baldino  
[jimena.baldino@aspen.gov](mailto:jimena.baldino@aspen.gov)

# CITY OF ASPEN: ORGANICS DIVERSION ORDINANCE

**Law:** Organics shall be separated from substances designated for trash disposal.

All organic materials must be collected and disposed of through a **recoverable management practice** such as, but not limited to, donation, animal feed, composting, or any other recoverable management practice.



# APPLICABILITY

Phase 1: *October 15, 2023*

**Retail Food License (+100)**

Phase 2: *January 15, 2026*

**Commercial & Multifamily properties**

Phase 3: *January 15, 2028*

**City of Aspen Occupants**





Pitkin County Solid Waste Center  
Composting Operation





# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Survey
- Personal visits
- Legal letters
- Newspaper ads



October 2, 2023

Dear Aspen Business Representative:

On October 15, 2023, it will be illegal for your establishment to dispose of food, and compostable products, as trash. It is the responsibility of your business to contract with a compost hauler or partner with another recoverable management practice of choice. Aspen is currently serviced by two private compost hauling





## GETTING RESTAURANTS READY

- Business communications
- Wildlife proof receptacles
- Accountability and container identification
- Staff training and language barriers
- Supplies for Back of House



## OVERCOMING CONCERNS

- Outdoor and indoor space availability
- Employee turnover: bi-annual visits
- Smell and wildlife attractions
- Cost



Restaurant Compost Training (SP)

31 views • 1 year ago



Restaurant Compost Training (ENG)

69 views • 1 year ago

## COMPOSTAJE

TODOS LOS RESTOS DE COMIDA +  
PRODUCTOS DE PAPEL



## COMPOST

ALL FOOD WASTE + PAPER PRODUCTS



NO GLASS - METAL - PLASTIC





## LESSONS LEARNED...SO FAR

### Hauler Responsibilities:

- Extra pick-ups and flexible schedule of the haulers
- Change of services offered by a hauler / no legal obligation to collect organics
- Ice in the winter
- Liquid weight



# LESSONS LEARNED...SO FAR

## City of Aspen Responsibilities:

- Best for each restaurant to have their own container
- Padlocks for all containers







By October 2024, Aspen achieved a remarkable **70% increase in organics diversion** compared to the same period before the policy was implemented!

**Thank you!**





# EverGreen ZeroWaste

David Reindel, Co-Founder, Chief Operations Officer

# Overview

- About EverGreen ZeroWaste
- Rolling out Aspen's Ordinance
- Tooling Up
- Power of Partnerships
- Customer Challenges
- Containers Issues
- Lessons Learned



# EverGreen ZeroWaste

At a glance

- Founded in 2010
- Colorado Public Benefit Corp.
- Woman-owned
- Eight employees
- Four rear-loading compactors
- One roll-off truck
- Zero Waste Events
- Award-winning Compost Collections:  
Aspen to Glenwood Springs,  
Vail to Rifle
- Nearly 3,300 tons recovered in 2024

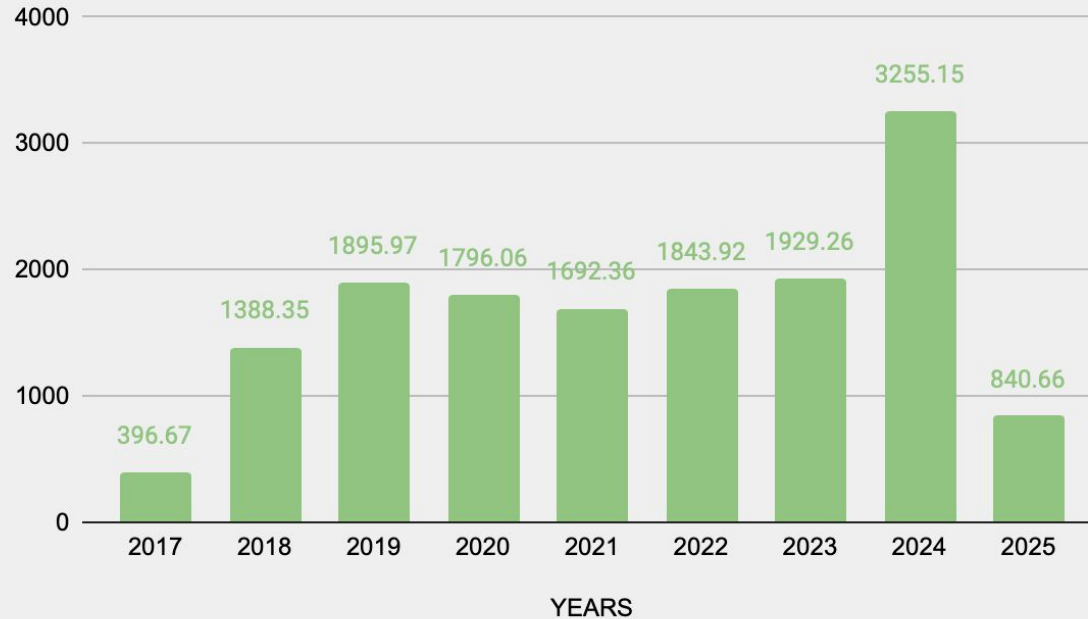




# Rolling Out Aspen's Organics Diversion Ordinance



**ANNUAL COLLECTION AMOUNT (IN US short tons)**



# Tooling Up





# Partnering with Aspen is a Pleasure & Privilege



- Partnerships are powerful
- Shared objectives - divide and conquer
- Work together overcoming challenges
- Ordinance is the best way optimize diversion



# Customers can be difficult, high maintenance







# Containers are great, but not without troublesome issues



- EGZW set the bar higher than trash and recycling with grizzly proof collection containers in 2014
- Animal defense vs. usability











# Lessons Learned







# EverGreen ZeroWaste

970-930-7900   [info@evergreenzerowaste.com](mailto:info@evergreenzerowaste.com)