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**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**ORDINANCE** \_\_\_\_\_  
COUNCIL BILL 117906

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AN ORDINANCE relating to Seattle Public Utilities; prohibiting certain recyclable materials from disposal in commercial garbage; and amending subsections A and B of Section 21.36.082 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle began curbside recycling in 1987 and adopted a recycling goal of 60% in 1989; and

WHEREAS, 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of curbside recycling in the City of Seattle; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle did not build a third transfer station and instead developed a Zero Waste Strategy to dramatically reduce waste and increase recycling; and

WHEREAS, the City's recycling goal has not yet been achieved, reaching 55.7% of the total municipal waste stream in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) offers convenient recycling services and conducts educational programs to encourage customers to recycle voluntarily; and

WHEREAS, to help achieve the recycling goal, SPU residential customers have been prohibited since 2005 from disposing in the garbage recyclable paper, cardboard, glass and plastic bottles and jars, and aluminum and tin cans; and

WHEREAS, SPU's commercial customers continue to discard as garbage significant quantities of recyclable glass bottles and jars, plastic cups, bottles and jars, and aluminum and tin cans; and

WHEREAS, by 2015, a ban on disposal of commercial recyclables as garbage is expected to increase Seattle's recycling rate by 0.3% and reduce recyclables that go to the landfill by 1,655 tons, or 58 shipping containers per year, and by 2019 this will increase Seattle's recycling rate by 1.1% and reduce recyclables that go to the landfill by 5,938 tons, or 207 shipping containers per year; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council expects SPU to implement an educational outreach effort to businesses for at least one year leading up to enforcement of the new requirement; and

1 WHEREAS, this outreach will include information about how businesses might achieve cost  
2 savings by expanding recycling and reducing the size of garbage receptacles; and

3 WHEREAS, to further promote recycling and establish more consistent requirements among  
4 household and commercial customers, the City has decided to prohibit commercial  
5 customers from disposing as garbage recyclable glass bottles and jars, plastic cups,  
6 bottles and jars, and aluminum or tin cans; NOW, THEREFORE,

7 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

8 **Section 1.** Subsections A and B of Section 21.36.082 of the Seattle Municipal Code,  
9 which was enacted by Ordinance 121372, are amended as follows:

10 21.36.082 Commercial Recycling Required.

11 A. Required Recycling ((Required))of Paper, Cardboard and Yard Waste.

12 1. As of January 1, 2005, all commercial establishments, including those entities  
13 authorized to haul their own waste pursuant to ((SMC))Section 21.36.060, shall  
14 separate paper (including paper cups), cardboard and yard waste for recycling, and no  
15 paper, cardboard or yard waste shall be deposited in garbage cans, detachable  
16 containers, or drop boxes or ((in the)) disposed as garbage ((disposal pit))at the City's  
17 Recycling and Disposal Stations after that date.

18 2. ~~((B-))Enforcement.~~

19 1. ~~As of March 31, 2004, the Director of Seattle Public Utilities shall begin a program of~~  
20 ~~educational outreach regarding these new recycling requirements.~~

21 2. ~~As of January 1, 2005, the Director of Seattle Public Utilities shall establish a program~~  
22 ~~of placing educational notice tags on garbage cans, detachable containers and drop~~  
23 ~~boxes with significant amounts of paper, cardboard or yard waste.~~





**FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Analyst/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Meg Moorehead 4-8929	

**Legislation Title:**

AN ORDINANCE relating to Seattle Public Utilities; prohibiting certain recyclable materials from disposal in commercial garbage; and amending the Seattle Municipal Code 21.36.082.

**Summary of the Legislation:**

Starting June 1, 2014, this ordinance would prohibit businesses from disposing as garbage recyclable glass bottles and jars, plastic cups, bottles and jars, and aluminum and tin cans. Six months of educational outreach to businesses would precede implementation of the new requirement and education would be used to achieve compliance during the first year. The ordinance also clarifies that the existing prohibition on disposal of paper as garbage includes paper cups.

**Background:**

Each year, businesses in Seattle discard as garbage over 15,000 tons each year of recyclable glass bottles and jars, plastic cups, bottles and jars, and aluminum and tin cans. The recently updated Seattle Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan recommends that practice be prohibited to help meet Seattle's recycling goals of 60% by 2015 and 70% by 2024. By 2015, the prohibition is expected to divert 1,655 tons from the landfill and increase the recycling rate by 0.3 % compared to 2012. By 2019, tons diverted are expected to increase to 5,938 tons, adding 1.1% to the 2012 recycling rate. The prohibition also will make commercial recycling requirements more consistent with requirements for households.

     This legislation does not have any financial implications.

  **X**   This legislation has financial implications.

**Appropriations:**

Fund Name and Number	Department	Budget Control Level*	2013 Appropriation	2014 Anticipated Appropriation
<b>TOTAL</b>				

*\*See budget book to obtain the appropriate Budget Control Level for your department.*

Appropriations Notes:

No additional appropriation is needed for 2013 or 2014. Resources in the endorsed 2014 Solid Waste Fund budget would be reallocated from lower priority activities to increase business outreach for this new requirement.

**Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from this Legislation:**

Fund Name and Number	Department	Revenue Source	2013 Revenue	2014 Revenue
<b>TOTAL</b>				

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:

No new revenues are needed.

**Total Regular Positions Created, Modified, or Abrogated through this Legislation, Including FTE Impact:**

Position Title and Department	Position # for Existing Positions	Fund Name & #	PT/FT	2013 Positions	2013 FTE	2014 Positions*	2014 FTE*
<b>TOTAL</b>							

*\* 2014 positions and FTE are total 2014 position changes resulting from this legislation, not incremental changes. Therefore, under 2014, please be sure to include any continuing positions from 2013.*

Position Notes:

No new positions are needed. Seattle Public Utilities would reallocate funds in the endorsed 2014 budget to expand commercial outreach efforts performed by a contractor.

**Do positions sunset in the future?**

N/A

**Other Implications:**

- a) **Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?**  
 The legislation would have implications for businesses that will be required to follow the new requirements. While additional space, solid waste service changes, and education of business employees and customers may be required, businesses could save money by diverting more recyclable materials from the garbage. For example, a small restaurant that currently has a 95-gallon garbage cart picked up twice a week and a 95-gallon recycling cart picked up every 2 weeks might decrease their monthly solid waste bill by about 30% by recycling the additional materials.

- b) What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?**  
Tons of recyclables from businesses would be not be recycled and instead be sent to the landfill, at greater cost to the City.
- c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**  
No
- d) What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?**  
No
- e) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**  
No
- f) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**  
No
- g) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**  
No
- h) Other Issues:**

**List attachments to the fiscal note below:**

