

Code Change Fact Sheet

This fact sheet must be attached to any ordinance in Legistar that is proposing to amend Columbus City Codes. It should also be circulated among Councilmember offices prior to submitting an ordinance in Legistar.

It is also a standard practice that Council will not consider any code changes that have not been previously reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's office. Drafters should ensure that the City Attorney's office has approved a final version of a proposed code change prior to circulating this fact sheet to Councilmember offices.

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Columbus City Code Title Being Amended/Created/Repealed:

Chapter 181

What is the overall purpose of this code change? Summarize the general themes of the code change(s) and the need for these changes. Please utilize language and descriptors that would be easily understandable by the general public.

This ordinance amends the Columbus City Codes with the creation of new chapter 181 which requires recycling within most city facilities and to authorize the Director of the Department of Finance and Management to require and manage recycling services in City of Columbus facilities effective after December 31st, 2026. This supports Climate Action Plan Goal 12.2 by reducing recyclable waste that is sent to the landfill.

Why is this code change needed? Examples: Correcting a drafting error; bringing code into alignment with changes to state law. For other policy changes, it may be necessary to provide a much more in-depth rationale in the section.



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- According to the Climate Action Plan, the city of Columbus is currently working towards 40% reduction in recyclable waste landfilled by 2030 and 95% reduction in recyclable waste landfilled by 2050.
- This legislation will help the city reach this goal because we will be able to conserve landfill space (**76% of waste in the landfill is recyclable**) and set the standard to become a more sustainable Columbus
- This legislation serves as Phase 1 of Councilmember Wyche's longer term Recycling Expansion Policy Goals as part of the Columbus Forward Initiative

What would be the impact of not adopting this code change?

Not adopting this code change could potentially hinder progress on the Climate Action Plan goals to reduce recyclable waste landfilled

Are there any operating or capital budget cost/savings implications for this code change?

These may be direct or indirect, and please also note any long-term impact.

There are no immediate fiscal or operating budget impacts. There is a potential for future costs associated with this legislation, particularly around ensuring all the recycling bins are the same size and color, and signage, but those costs are currently unknown. In the interim, this legislation serves to clarify and strengthen administrative authority and organizational structure of city facility recycling processes.

Describe the community engagement process regarding this code change. What residents, impacted parties, and constituents may be affected? Have they been engaged, and how so?

How was their feedback incorporated (or not incorporated) into this code change?

This legislation affects internal city governance and operations. Councilmember Wyche's office and LRO staff have consulted with the Department of Public Service, the Department of Finance and Management, and Facilities Management Division. Additionally, Councilmember Wyche held a Public Hearing in October of 2025. The proposed plan for citywide recycling expansion beginning with Phase 1-Citywide facilities was discussed and received stakeholder and community input.



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Will this code change take effect with the ordinance, or is there a delayed effective date?

That the enforcement of sections 181.02, 181.04 and 181.05 of chapter 181 shall take effect after December 31, 2026.



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