



CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Public Works Department
Solid Waste Division

Convenience Stores

On June 6, 2022, the City of Gainesville Commission approved new Zero Waste Ordinances for the City of Gainesville. The new ordinances and updates to the existing commercial recycling ordinance require your attention to ensure compliance by the effective dates.

Commercial Recycling (Already in effect)



- All commercial generators shall separate designated recycling materials and make them available for recycling (if recyclables total 15% or more of the waste stream). Recycling containers shall be accessible where the material is generated.
- **Designated Recycling Materials:** corrugated cardboard, paperboard, newspaper & magazines, office paper, metal cans (steel & aluminum), glass bottles & jars, and plastic bottles, jugs & jars.

Single-Use Plastic Straws & Stirrers (Already in effect)



- Prepared food providers shall not sell, use, offer for sale or use, or provide to any person a single-use plastic straw or single-use plastic stirrer.
- This ban includes straws made from “biologically-based polymers” (e.g., “PLA” or “PHA” materials). **Options:** paper, bamboo, wheat, pasta, or no straws. Wooden stirrers or no stirrers.

Garbage Collection Frequency – 4 x week (Effective: 9/2/2022)



- Grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, and other food service establishments shall be required to have garbage collected no less than 4 days per week if open 7 days a week, and no less than 3 days per week if open 6 days a week.
- Establishments serviced by compacting dumpsters are exempt from this ordinance.

Single-Use Plastic Food Accessories By Request Only (Effective: 9/2/2022)



- Prepared food providers shall not provide single-use plastic food accessories (such as plastic utensils, condiment packets, portion cups) for dine-in, take-out or delivery, unless the single-use food accessory is specifically requested by the customer or is provided at a customer self-serve station.

Public Litter Receptacles (Effective: 9/2/2022)



- Place an equal number of recycling receptacles for the collection of bottles and cans next to the garbage receptacles. Receptacles must integrate labeling consisting of text and images on the body or adjacent to the opening of the container that is consistent with City provided samples provided by the Solid waste Division.

Commercial Food Waste Collection (Effective: 6/1/2023)



- Commercial establishments that generate one cubic yard (1 cu. yd.) of food waste or more per week shall separate food waste from the waste stream and collect food waste in containers that are separate from garbage and recovered materials.
- **Options:** (1) Proof of valid current contract with a food waste registrant collector; or (2) Provide receipt for delivery of food waste to a food waste processing facility that meets permitting requirements of the State of Florida.

Commercial Food Waste Diversion (Effective: 1/1/2024)



- Food service establishments that occupy at least 4,500 sq. ft., businesses with a commercial kitchen(s) where the kitchen(s) occupies at least 1,000 sq. ft., businesses engaged in selling food to other businesses, food manufacturers (excluding food service establishments) engaged in processing or fabricating food products from raw materials for sale directly to the public, retailers, or wholesalers shall divert food or food waste from the waste stream by following the hierarchy below (listed in order of priority):
 1. Feeding hungry people;
 2. Feeding animals;
 3. Providing for industrial uses; and/or
 4. Composting.

For more information on these and other Zero Waste Ordinances adopted by the City of Gainesville, visit gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste. To contact the City's Solid Waste Division, email waste@gainesvillefl.gov or call 352-334-2330.