



Staff Report

January 17, 2023 Council Workshop Meeting

Compost Procurement Ordinance

Presenter: James Carothers, Engineering Manager

Time Estimate: 5 Minutes

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BACKGROUND: Part 7 of Washington State House Bill 1799 requires that all Washington Cities with a population of 25,000 or more develop and adopt a compost procurement ordinance (CPO). Agencies that have adopted a CPO must plan to purchase compost products for landscaping projects, construction and post-construction soil amendments, applications to prevent erosion, filter stormwater runoff, promote vegetation growth, improve the stability and longevity of roadways, and in low-impact development and green infrastructure to filter pollutants. This bill is codified in RCW 43.19A.150.

SUMMARY: Staff became aware of this requirement in December 2022 and has worked with the city attorney to draft the attached ordinance. The ordinance includes the following requirements:

- Plan to use compost on landscaping projects, in construction and post construction projects, for erosion prevention, stormwater runoff filtration, and for low impact development and green infrastructure.
- Strategize ways to educate residents on the value of compost.
- Report on the use of compost every two years.

Public Works staff will work on a plan to implement policies and procedures to ensure compliance with this statute. Staff is recommending adoption of this ordinance at the February 6, 2023 regular Council meeting.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item?

Compliance with RCW 43.19A

What's the data? What does the data tell us?

The use of compost, when feasible, may reduce the emission of methane into the environment.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

This ordinance is being expedited by staff based on the state mandate.

Who will benefit from, or be burdened by this agenda item?

All will benefit from the potential reduction in methane emissions. Section 703 states that a local government must require the use of compost products to the maximum extent economically feasible.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?

Public Works staff will work on the creation of policies and procedures to comply with the State statute.

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact.

No.

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibilities for people with disabilities?

No.

What potential hurdles exist in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)?

Public Works staff will take the time to develop policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the State statute.

How will you ensure accountabilities, communicate, and evaluate results?

Through the policies to be developed by Public Works staff. Program reports are required every two years.

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy or other adopted resolution?

Comprehensive Plan Goal 3.4.1 The City encourages the preservation, restoration, and improvement of the natural environment in all development.

BUDGET IMPACT: The budget impact is anticipated to be minimal. Procurement of compost is required to the maximum extent economically feasible.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff will present this ordinance for Council approval at the February 6, 2023 meeting.