



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6197
December 6, 2022
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6197: Compost Procurement Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Conduct second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 22C-22	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works		
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Ross Freeman, Sustainability Program Analyst		
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Craig Reynolds	Jake Jacobson	Ted Weinberg
EXHIBITS:	1. Ordinance No. 22C-22		
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	1. Prepare for the impacts of growth and change with a continued consideration on environmental sustainability.		

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to adopt Ordinance No. 22C-22 (Exhibit 1). The City Council completed a first reading of this ordinance on November 15, 2022 ([AB 6188](#)).

Ordinance No. 22C-22 amends Chapter 4.04 of the Mercer Island City Code (MICC) to add a new section identifying how and when the City will use compost in public works projects and educate the public on these activities.

BACKGROUND

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1799 ([E2SHB 1799](#)) requires that all Washington cities over 25,000 in population, and with curbside yard/food collection service, must pass a Compost Procurement Ordinance by January 1, 2023. Adopting Ordinance No. 22C-22 ensures that the City is compliant with this new legislation which is intended to achieve a 75% reduction of food and yard waste in landfills by 2030 statewide.

In the new Ordinance language, local governments must address how they will prioritize purchasing compost from companies that produce compost locally, are certified by a nationally recognized organization, produce products derived from municipal solid waste compost programs, and meet quality standards.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Under the new legislation, the City must seek to use compost in the following project types:

- Landscaping projects in the City right-of-way
- Construction and postconstruction soil amendments on CIP projects
- Application of compost to prevent erosion, filter stormwater runoff, promote vegetation growth, or improve the stability and longevity of roadways
- Use of low-impact development and green infrastructure to filter pollutants or keep water on-site, or both.

Starting on December 31, 2024, the City must also begin reporting back on its program to the State Department of Ecology every other year; the format of this report is yet to be fully specified.

NEXT STEPS

Various City departments already use compost in a number of applications such as by the Right-of-Way & Stormwater and Parks Maintenance Teams, and in some stream restoration projects, therefore staff do not anticipate significant operational or financial impacts. Project managers and other key staff will be informed of the new requirements of Ordinance No. 22C-22.

Among residents, 98% of all single-family households participate in food/yard curbside composting offered by contracted hauler Recology, and staff believes awareness of compost in general is already reasonably widespread. The City will also continue to educate the public about the value, and use, of compost through newsletter articles, website content, and other means, as required by the ordinance.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Ordinance No. 22C-22, adding Section 4.040.50 MICC regarding the use of locally produced, certified compost in City Public Works and other maintenance projects.