



City of Sumas Request for Council Action

Meeting Date: September 22, 2025

Subject:

Ordinance No. 1824 - Adding Chapter 5.28 to the SMC, establishing a policy for the procurement of compost.

Department: Administration

Prepared By: Mollie Bost

Agenda Location:

☐ Public Hearing ☐ Old Business ☒ New Business ☐ Staff Reports

Brief Summary:

WA State Legislature passed HB 1799 to increase the diversion of organic materials to productive uses to reduce methane emissions caused by landfills. The bill mandates that cities who contract a "hauler" who provides residential curbside organic material collection services to adopt a Compost Procurement Ordinance (CPO).

The City contracts with NV Disposal who offers "yard-waste bins" to the residents of Sumas, and therefore the City of Sumas is required to adopt a CPO, prioritize the use of compost, report to ecology annually, and also conduct educational outreach to inform the residents about the value of compost and how the City uses compost in its operations.

Ordinance No. 1824 addresses these requirements by adding a new Chapter to the Sumas Municipal Code, codifying the Compost Procurement Policy and its requirements.

Legal Review: ☒ Reviewed ☐ Not Reviewed ☐ Review Not Required

Staff Recommendation:

Staff is recommending to adopt Ordinance No. 1824, adding chapter 5.28 to the SMC, and establishing a compost procurement policy.

Senior Staff Review:

- ☒ Mayor
- ☒ Finance Director
- ☒ City Clerk
- ☒ Public Works Director

Budget Implications:

- ☐ Current Budget
- ☐ New Budget Request
- ☒ Non-Budgetary

ORDINANCE NO. 1824

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SUMAS, WASHINGTON, ADDING CHAPTER 5.28 TO THE SUMAS MUNICIPAL CODE, ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF COMPOST.

WHEREAS, in March 2022, Washington State Legislature signed House Bill 1799 to increase the diversion of organic materials to productive uses to reduce methane emission caused by landfills; and

WHEREAS, RCW 43.19A.150 requires cities that contract to provide residential curbside organic material collection services, to adopt a Compost Procurement Policy; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the provisions established in RCW 43.19A.150 is to strengthen markets for the anticipated large amounts of additional compost that will be produced as organics collection programs expand; and

WHEREAS, RCW 43.19A.130 encourages local governments to purchase compost from the compost facility that serves its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUMAS, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The following is added as Chapter 5.28 to the Sumas Municipal Code to read in its entirety as follows:

5.28.010 Compost Procurement Policy

- (1) The City of Sumas will prioritize the use of compost in City projects, where compost has been determined by the City as an appropriate medium for the project.
- (2) When purchasing compost products, the City shall prioritize compost products from companies that produce compost products locally, in Washington and Oregon, are certified by a nationally recognized organization, such as the United States Composting Council, and produce compost products that are derived from municipal solid waste collection programs while meeting quality standards adopted by the Washington State Department of Transportation or adopted by rule by the Department of Ecology.

5.28.015 Planning

- (1) Departments shall plan for the use of compost in the following categories:
 - a. Landscaping projects;
 - b. Construction and post construction soil amendments;
 - c. Applications to prevent erosion, filter stormwater runoff, promote vegetation growth, or improve the stability and longevity of roadways; and
 - d. Low-impact development and green infrastructure to filter pollutants or keep water on-site or both

- (2) Departments are not required to use compost products if:
- a. Compost products are not available within a reasonable period of time;
 - b. Compost products that are available do not comply with existing purchasing standards;
 - c. Compost products that are available do not comply with federal or state health, quality, and safety standards; and
 - d. Compost purchase prices are not reasonable or competitive.

5.28.20 Reporting

- (1) The City of Sumas will report the following to the Department of Ecology annually in March for the previous calendar year
- a. The total tons of organic material diverted from landfills each year and the facility used for processing.
 - b. The volume and cost of compost purchased each year.
 - c. The source of the purchased compost.

5.28.025 Education

- (1) The City of Sumas will administer educational outreach to inform residents about the value of compost and how the City uses compost in its operations.

Section 2. Severability. Should any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstances be held invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance or the application of provisions to other persons or circumstances are not affected.

Section 3. Effective date. This Ordinance shall take effect five (5) days after the date of publication.

PASSED by the City Council and approved by the Mayor of the City of Sumas, Washington, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

CITY OF SUMAS, WASHINGTON

Bruce Bosch, Mayor

Attested/Authenticated:

Approved as to Form:

Michelle Quinn, City Clerk

James J. Wright, City Attorney