



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Kristin Lynett, Sustainability Officer, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability
 Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Ordinance – Compost Procurement and Reporting – December 13, 2022
DATE: November 21, 2022

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 GMS MPS

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

An ordinance amending Chapter 1.06 of the Municipal Code relating to Administration, to add a new Section 1.06.2702 entitled “Compost Procurement” for organic material management, effective January 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

This Department’s Recommendation is Based On: The 2022 Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (ESSHB) 1799 to support the diversion of organic materials from landfills through a variety of interventions to support productive uses of organic material wastes including, “encouraging cities and counties to procure more of the compost and finished products created from their organic material” and increasing the likelihood that composting and other responsible organic material management options are economically viable”. Toward that end, ESSHB 1799 added a new section Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.19A.150, which requires the City to adopt a compost procurement ordinance to implement the provisions RCW 43.19A.120.

It is the goal of the state to divert more organic and food waste from the landfills by encouraging its compost and subsequent procurement of finished product. The City is required to “lead by example” by procuring municipal derived and certified compost for City projects and reporting to the state annually on such purchases.

Most compost facilities in the state already source some of their raw materials from municipal organic waste. It is anticipated that little change in sourcing will be required.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

No direct City engagement was conducted, as this ordinance is a direct requirement of a new state law.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

This state mandated legislation aims to encourage more complete circular economy of Washington State’s municipal yard and food waste. While these efficiencies and synergies increase opportunities for job growth and carbon reduction through the City’s purchasing power, it will not directly lead to either positive or negative equity impacts for our community.

Economy/Workforce: Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity

Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.



ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. N/A - Required by State law		

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

City Staff are updating our Standard Specifications to include these procurement and reporting requirements for City projects. Additionally, staff will be trained on the new elements, and a reporting mechanism will be developed.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend this ordinance passed, effective January 1, 2023, as new state law requires it for local governments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Language for TMC 1.06.2702
- ESSHB 1799
- 2022 Organics Management Law summary