

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 6844

AN ORDINANCE relating to compost procurement; adding a new section to Chapter 4.28 of the Bellevue City Code; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

WHEREAS, as more organic materials are diverted and recycled, it is critical that the compost manufactured be procured by local jurisdictions and others in order to support the economic viability of these programs;

WHEREAS, RCW 43.19A.150 requires all cities in Washington State with a population greater than 25,000 residents, and each city in which organic material collection services are provided, to adopt a compost procurement code; and

WHEREAS, it is well established that compost production and use provide significant environmental benefits; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new section is added to chapter 4.28 of the Bellevue City Code as follows:

4.28.165 Compost Procurement

- A. Planning. Prior to planning City-funded projects or soliciting and reviewing bids for such projects, the responsible departments shall consider whether compost products can be utilized in said projects.
- B. Applicable Projects. Affected departments shall plan for the use of compost products in the following project categories:
 - 1. Landscaping projects;
 - 2. Construction and postconstruction soil amendments;
 - 3. Applications to prevent erosion, filter stormwater runoff, promote vegetation growth, or improve the stability and longevity of roadways; and
 - 4. Low-impact development and green infrastructure to filter pollutants or keep water on site, or both.
- C. Requirement for Use of Compost – Exceptions. If compost products can be utilized in a City project, then the City must use, or require its contractor to use, compost products in the project, except as follows:

1. Compost products are not available within a reasonable period of time;
 2. Compost products that are available do not comply with existing procurement standards;
 3. Compost products that are available do not comply with federal, state, or local health, quality, and safety standards; or
 4. Compost product purchase prices are not reasonable or competitive.
- D. Priority in Contracting. The City shall give priority to purchasing compost products that:
1. Produce compost products locally;
 2. Are certified by a nationally recognized organization, such as the United States Composting Council; and
 3. Produce compost products that are derived from municipal solid waste compost programs and meet quality standards adopted by the Washington Departments of Transportation and Ecology.
- E. Public Education. The City Manager or designee shall develop and implement education and outreach strategies to inform community members about the value of compost products and how the city uses compost in its operations.
- F. Reporting Requirements. By March 31, 2025, and each March 31st thereafter, the City Manager or designee shall submit a report covering the previous year's compost products procurement activities to the Washington Department of Ecology containing the following information:
1. The total tons of organic materials diverted throughout the year and the facility or facilities used for processing;
 2. The volume and cost of compost products purchased throughout the year; and
 3. The source or sources of the compost products.
- G. Collective Purchasing Allowed. Nothing in this section limits the City's ability to enter into collective purchasing agreements for compost products, if doing so is more cost-effective or efficient.
- H. Definitions. As used in this section the term "compost products" shall mean mulch, soil amendments, ground cover, or other landscaping materials derived

from the biological or mechanical conversion of biosolids or cellulose-containing waste materials.

Section 2. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of the Ordinance.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days after its passage and legal publication.

Passed by the City Council this _____ day of _____ 2025, and signed in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____ 2025.

(SEAL)

Lynne Robinson, Mayor

Approved as to form:
Trisna Tanus, City Attorney

Brian Wendt, Assistant City Attorney

Attest:

Charmaine Arredondo, City Clerk

Published _____