

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

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.

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Finance & Asset Management Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

To ensure compliance with state law, this ordinance will create a new section within Chapter 4.28 of the Bellevue City Code to encourage the procurement, use, and reporting of compost in City funded projects.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6844

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

RCW 43.19A.150 requires cities, like Bellevue, with populations greater than 25,000 residents, and that offer organics collection services to its residents and businesses, to adopt a compost procurement ordinance.

The purpose of the law, and subsequent ordinances adopted at the local level, is to support state, regional, and local goals to reduce the amount of organic materials delivered to landfills and increase the demand for finished compost products.

In accordance with RCW 43.19A.150, the proposed ordinance will require the City to consider whether compost products can be used in City funded projects, to include:

- Landscaping;
- In construction and post-construction as a soil amendment;
- As a material to prevent erosion, filter stormwater, promote the growth of vegetation, and improve roadway stability; and
- In low-impact development to filter pollutants and retain surface water.

If the City determines compost products can be used in a project, then the City must include compost products in said project, giving priority to purchasing locally produced compost products derived from municipal organics collection programs. Additionally, the proposed ordinance requires preference for compost products that have been certified by a nationally recognized organization.

However, there will be exceptions to the requirement to purchase/use compost products. The City will not have to comply with preferential purchasing requirements if a compost product is not readily available; does not comply with existing procurement standards; does not comply with health, quality, and safety standards; and/or is not competitively or reasonably priced.

The proposed ordinance also requires the City to track and report its compost procurement activity

every year. In annual reports to the Department of Ecology, the City will include total tons of organic material diverted annually, the facilities used for processing organic materials, volume and cost of compost purchased, and the sources of any compost purchased.

Moreover, the proposed ordinance requires the City to develop and implement strategies to educate and inform the community about the value of compost products and how the City uses compost products in its own operations. While the City already provides extensive outreach to residents and business extolling the benefits and multiple uses of compost, Staff also plans to: (1) update its public-facing websites related to compost; (2) deliver periodic messages to service area customers to further promote compost; and (3) revise its educational materials.

Last, the Finance & Asset Management Department will update its procurement policies to educate staff with respect to the new compost procurement requirements, and it will take the lead in reporting annual metrics to state agencies.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

RCW 39.30.040 allows local governments to make preferential compost purchases that meet the requirements of chapter 43.19A RCW.

RCW 43.19A.150 requires the City to adopt a compost ordinance to implement the use of compost products in government funded projects.

The City's Comprehensive Plan and Environmental Stewardship Plan include policies which support and advance the proposed ordinance.

Fiscal Impact

If approved, staff do not anticipate any fiscal impact because of this ordinance. There is an adequate supply of finished compost available from several manufacturers. Administratively, staff will ensure affected departments are aware of and are complying with the compost product procurement code, and it will develop appropriate policies to ensure that purchasing and reporting meet the requirements of the relevant state agencies. The requirement for public education and outreach will be incorporated into the Utilities Department – Solid Waste Division work plan, which plan is already encouraging composting and the purchase/use of compost finished products.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the 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.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction for staff.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Ordinance No. 6844

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A