

Jefferson County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

From: Monte Reinders, Public Works Director/County Engineer

Agenda Date: February 13, 2023

Subject: Resolution Related to Compost Procurement

Statement of Issue

ESSHB 1799 was signed into Washington law in March 2022 with the primary goal to increase the diversion of organic materials going to landfills to reduce methane emissions. ESSHB 1799 encourages most cities and counties in Washington adopt a compost procurement ordinance in order to increase its beneficial use.

Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pro's & Con's:

Jefferson County currently advances the compost related goals in ESSHB 1799 through the use of compost in projects that benefit by its use. Adoption of the attached Resolution would formally recognize the current practices.

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis:

The reporting requirements in ESSHB 1799 would require limited staff time with nominal fiscal impact to approved budgets.

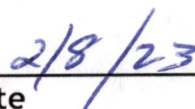
Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the attached Resolution.

Department Contact: Al Cairns X213

Reviewed By:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator


Date

STATE OF WASHINGTON

Jefferson County

**A RESOLUTION RELATED
TO COMPOST PROCUREMENT
POLICY**

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RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, in March 2022, ESSHB 1799 was signed into Washington law with the primary goal to increase the diversion of organic materials going to landfills to reduce methane emissions; and

WHEREAS, as more organic materials are diverted and recycled, it is critical that the compost manufactured be procured by local jurisdictions and others to support the economic viability of these processes and programs because compost production and use provide significant environmental benefits to our soil and food; and

WHEREAS, ESSHB 1799 encourages most cities and counties in Washington adopt a compost procurement ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners ordains as follows:

A. General Policy. Jefferson County shall purchase finished compost products for use in public projects in which compost is an appropriate material in Jefferson County projects or on Jefferson County land, provided it is not cost prohibitive to acquire. Cost prohibitive is defined as a product purchasing cost that exceeds 10% of the cost of another product that would serve the same purpose. Procurement costs will include the product cost and all associated transportation and delivery charges. Jefferson County is not required to use compost products if:

1. Compost products are not available within a reasonable period of time.
2. Compost products that are available do not comply with existing purchasing standards; and
3. Available compost products do not comply with federal or state health, quality, or safety standards.

B. Local Purchasing. Jefferson County will purchase finished compost products from the City of Port Townsend Composting Facility or other local or regional compost suppliers that meet the quality standards adopted by rule by the Department of Ecology. If locally produced compost is not available, compost shall be sourced from outside the region, with preference given to products sourced as close as possible to Jefferson County. Proof that locally produced compost was not available at the time of purchase or was cost-prohibitive shall be documented.

C. Planning. In order to meet the general policy, Jefferson County will plan for compost use in the following categories:

1. Landscaping projects.

2. Construction and postconstruction soil amendments.
3. Applications to prevent erosion, filter stormwater runoff, promote vegetative growth, or improve the stability and longevity of roadways; and
4. Low-impact development of green infrastructure to filter pollutants or to keep water onsite, or both.

This plan will be re-assessed each December 31st of even-numbered years, beginning in 2024 and thereafter as part of the reporting obligations of ESSHB 1799.

D. Education. Jefferson County shall continue to cooperate with the City of Port Townsend to conduct educational outreach to inform residents about the value of compost and how citizens can help with composting throughout Jefferson County.

E. Reporting. By December 31, 2024, and each December 31st of even-numbered years thereafter, Jefferson County shall report the following information to the Department of Ecology:

1. Total tons of organic material diverted (from landfills) each year.
2. The volume and cost of composted material purchased each year.
3. The source(s) of the finished compost product purchased.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2023, at ____:____ p.m.

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SEAL:

Greg Brotherton, Chair

Kate Dean, Member

ATTEST:

Heidi Eisenhour

Carolyn Gallaway, Date
Clerk of the Board