



# 2022 Organics Management Law

## Focus on Compost Procurement Ordinances and Reporting

### Overview

Methane is a greenhouse gas that is, over 20 years, at least 75 times more potent than carbon dioxide. The primary goal of the [2022 Organics Management Law<sup>1</sup>](https://ecology.wa.gov/2022-organics-management-law) is to reduce the emissions of methane created when organic materials, like food and yard waste, decompose in a landfill. To achieve this goal, the bill established goals based on 2015 disposal levels, which require actions by state and local agencies, residents, and businesses to:

- Rescue 20% of previously disposed edible food for human consumption by 2025.
- Divert 75% of previously disposed organic materials from landfills by 2030.

The purpose of the compost procurement provisions now codified in [RCW 43.19A.150<sup>2</sup>](https://leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.19A.150) is to strengthen markets for the anticipated large amounts of additional compost that will be produced as organics collection programs expand. Other statutes established or amended for this purpose include RCW 43.19A.160 and RCW 39.30.040.

Specifically, these statutes require cities and counties that meet certain criteria to adopt **compost procurement ordinances (CPO)** and to report their compost purchases to Ecology.

**What follows are answers to key questions about how these new provisions affect local governments:**

**Which local governments are required to adopt a CPO and submit compost procurement activity reports to Ecology?**

- Cities and counties with a population of 25,000 residents or more.
- Cities and counties (less than 25,000 residents) that provide, contract to provide, or require their UTC-franchised hauler to provide residential organics collection.

**When is the deadline for adopting a CPO?**

The deadline for adopting compost procurement ordinances was **January 1, 2023**. New cities and counties have 12 months to adopt one once they are required due to population and/or service levels.

**Organics  
Management**



<sup>1</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/2022-organics-management-law>

<sup>2</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.19A.150>

## What options do jurisdictions have for meeting the CPO adoption and reporting requirements?

Each city or county required to adopt a CPO must adopt their own CPO or amend an existing recycled product procurement ordinance to include compost. To facilitate this process, jurisdictions can work together to draft identical or similar CPOs for separate adoption.

City or counties may coordinate purchasing compost with other jurisdictions through the use of collective purchasing agreements under RCW 43.19A.150(7). For more information, consult [Intergovernmental Procurement and “Piggybacking”](#)<sup>3</sup> on the Municipal Research Service Center website.

## What should a CPO address?

A CPO is intended to implement [RCW 43.19A.120: Use of compost products in projects](#).<sup>4</sup> This statute states that when “planning government-funded projects or soliciting and reviewing bids for such projects, all state agencies and local governments shall consider whether compost products can be utilized in the project.” If it is determined that compost products can be used, then they must be used unless certain exceptions related to cost, availability, and quality apply.

Other relevant statutes to review in preparing a CPO include:

- RCW 43.19A.110, which requires counties and cities to adopt specifications for compost products to be used in road projects.
- RCW 43.19A.130, which encourages local governments to purchase compost from the compost facility that serves its residents.

## When are compost procurement activity reports due?

The first annual report is due by March 31, 2025 and should include the available data for 2024. After that, reports are due by March 31<sup>st</sup> each year on the previous years’ data.

## What is included in a compost procurement activity report?

Compost procurement activity reports need to include the following:

- The total tons of organic material diverted from landfills each year and the facility(ies) used for processing.
- The volume and cost of compost purchased each year.
- The source(s) of the compost.

Details on what to include in these reports can be found in the [2022 Organics Management Law – Quick Guide](#)<sup>5</sup>.

## How are these reports submitted and tracked?

Ecology is developing an online system for local governments to submit their compost procurement activity reports. The first report, due by March 31, 2025, should include the available data for 2024. We anticipate the new reporting portal to be available by the end of 2024.

## Are there other related requirements in the new law?

Yes. Any city or county that adopts a CPO must “develop strategies to inform residents about the value of compost and how the jurisdiction uses compost in its operations.” These strategies will need to be included in the local solid waste management plan the jurisdiction participates in when that plan is amended or updated. Information on the value of compost and making and using compost are on [Ecology’s compost page](#).<sup>6</sup>

## How can I get help drafting my CPO?

Expert help to draft a CPO is offered to all Washington towns, cities, and counties free of charge by the Municipal Research Service Center through their [Ask MRSC](#)<sup>7</sup> inquiry service. Additional resources, including sample ordinances, can be found on Ecology’s [Box platform](#).<sup>8</sup> These materials include environmentally preferred purchasing materials prepared by Ecology and the Department of Enterprise Services.

## For more information

[Subscribe to our Organics Management email](#)<sup>9</sup>. Set up your account, choose Solid Waste Management, then Organics Management.



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<sup>3</sup> <https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Public-Works/Purchasing-and-Bidding/Purchasing-and-Bidding-for-Washington-State-Local/Piggybacking.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.19A.120>

<sup>5</sup> <https://app.box.com/s/5ifwysu30x7uk0xlapz6t6g4a7j5gofp>

<sup>6</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Waste-reduction-programs/Organic-materials/Managing-organics-compost>

<sup>7</sup> <https://mrsc.org/Home/Research-Tools/Ask-MRSC.aspx>

<sup>8</sup> <https://app.box.com/s/r7shmywl2t798nu43f1udkp1481bcx6y>

<sup>9</sup> <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new>