

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Grant County, Washington**

**ORDINANCE ADOPTING NEW CHAPTER  
8.44 TITLED “ORGANIC MATERIALS  
MANAGEMENT, COMPOST USE AND  
PROCUREMENT” INTO GRANT COUNTY CODE**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23 - 151 - CC**

**RECITALS:**

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

**WHEREAS**, the legislature has found that landfills are a significant source of methane emissions; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Legislature finds it is well established that compost production and use provide significant environmental benefits to our soil and food; and

**WHEREAS**, ESSHB 1799 requires that most cities and counties in Washington adopt a compost procurement ordinance by January 1, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grant County Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on December 19, 2023 at 3:15 pm to consider ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grant County Board of Commissioners finds adopting the proposed amendment complies with the requirements of Washington State law and furthers the public interest.

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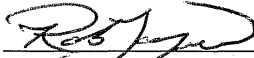
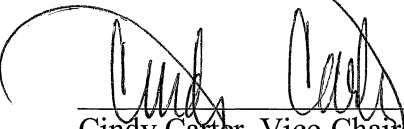
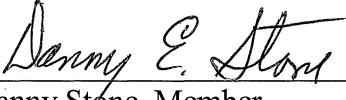
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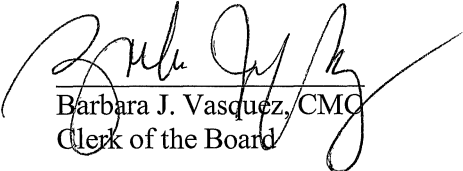
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED THAT,** The Grant County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the new Chapter 8.44 titled "Organic Waste Materials Management, Compost Use and Procurement" to be incorporated into the Grant County Code as presented in Exhibit A.

**DATED** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

**BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
GRANT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Yea	Nay	Abstain	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Rob Jones, Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Cindy Carter, Vice-Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Danny Stone, Member

ATTEST:

  
Barbara J. Vasquez, CMC  
Clerk of the Board

**EXHIBIT “A”**  
**Organic Waste Materials Management**  
**Compost Use and Procurement Policy**

**Chapter 8.44 Organic Waste Materials Management Compost Use and Procurement**

**8.44.010 - Purpose.**

In March 2022, ESSHB 1799 was signed into Washington law. The primary goal of the law is to increase the diversion of organic materials going to landfills in order to reduce methane emissions. The legislature finds that landfills are a significant source of methane emissions and that reducing the amount of organic materials going into landfills will reduce methane emissions. ESSHB 1799 requires that most cities and counties in Washington adopt a compost procurement ordinance by January 1, 2023.

**8.44.020 - Definitions.**

A. “Cost Prohibitive” is defined as a product purchasing cost that exceeds 10% of the cost of another product that would serve the same purpose.

B. “Finished Compost Product” means a product created with “composted material” as defined in RCW 70.A.205.015(3). Finished Compost Products include but are not limited to 100% finished compost or blends that include compost as a primary ingredient. Mulch is considered a Finished Compost Product if it contains a minimum of sixty percent composted material. Bark is not a Finished Compost Product.

C. “Locally Produced Compost” means compost produced inside Grant County or within a 50-mile radius of the outer boundaries of Grant County.

**8.44-030 - General Policy.**

Grant County shall purchase finished compost products for use in public projects in which compost is an appropriate material in County projects or on County land.

**8.44.040 - Public Projects-Use of Compost.**

A. Grant County shall purchase compost products for use in County projects or on County land in which compost is an appropriate material, 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 costs and all associated transportation and delivery charges. Grant County is not required to use compost products if:

- (i) Compost products are not available within a reasonable period of time;
- (ii) Compost products that are available do not comply with existing purchasing standards; and
- (iii) Available compost products do not comply with federal or state health, quality, or safety standards.

B. Pursuant to RCW 43.19A.130, Grant County will strive to purchase an amount of finished compost products that is equal or greater than fifty percent of the amount of organic materials that it delivers to the compost processor.

**8.44.050 - Local Purchasing.**

Grant County will purchase finished compost products from companies producing compost locally (see definition above), are certified by a nationally recognized organization, such as the United State Composting Council, and produce finished compost products that are derived from municipal solid waste compost programs, while meeting quality standards adopted by the department of transportation or adopted by rule by the Department of Ecology.

**8.44.060 - Planning.**

In order to meet the general policy, Grant County shall plan for compost use in the following categories:

- (a) Landscaping projects;
- (b) Construction and postconstruction soil amendments;
- (c) Applications to prevent erosion, filter stormwater runoff, promote vegetative growth, or improve the stability and longevity of roadways; and
- (d) Low-impact development of green infrastructure to filter pollutants to keep water onsite or both.

This plan will be reassessed by December 31, 2024, and each December 31<sup>st</sup> of even-numbered years thereafter as part of its reporting obligations in 8.44.080.

**8.44.070 - Public Education and Outreach.**

Grant County shall conduct educational outreach to inform residents about the value of compost and how the jurisdiction uses compost in its operations each year.

**8.44.080 - Reporting.**

By December 31, 2024, and each December 31<sup>st</sup> of even-numbered years thereafter, Grant County shall report the following information to the Department of Ecology.

- (a) The total tons of organic material diverted each year;
- (b) The volume and cost of composted material purchased each year; and
- (c) The sources(s) of the finished compost product purchased.

**8.44.090 - Effective Date.**

This ordinance becomes effective immediately upon adoption.

**8.44.100 - Severability.**

If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.