



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

### Ordinance 19552

**Proposed No.** 2022-0355.2

**Sponsors** Kohl-Welles

1 AN ORDINANCE specifying county policy for the  
2 procurement of compost, as required by chapter 43.19A  
3 RCW; and adding a new chapter to K.C.C. Title 18.

4 PREAMBLE:

5 In 2022, the Washington state Legislature passed, and Governor Jay Inslee  
6 signed, Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1799, sections of which  
7 were codified in chapter 43.19A RCW and which requires cities or  
8 counties to adopt a compost procurement ordinance. King County has a  
9 goal to achieve zero waste of resources by 2030, in accordance with  
10 K.C.C. 10.14.020, the Strategic Climate Action Plan, and the 2019  
11 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. In 2019, organic material  
12 comprised approximately thirty-five percent of what was sent to Cedar  
13 Hills regional landfill.

14 Diverting organic material and supporting end markets for those products  
15 is an essential part of reaching King County's zero waste of resources goal.  
16 Besides reducing the amount of material going to the landfill, processing  
17 organic material into compost and applying it to land improves soil health  
18 and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

19 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

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20            SECTION 1. Sections 2 through 6 of this ordinance should constitute a new  
21 chapter in K.C.C. Title 18.

22            NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. For the purposes of this chapter, unless the  
23 context clearly requires otherwise, "compost" means a product created with "composted  
24 material" as defined in RCW 70A.205.015(3). "Compost" includes, but is not limited to,  
25 one hundred percent finished compost or blends that include compost as a primary  
26 ingredient. Mulch is "compost" if it contains a minimum of sixty percent composted  
27 material. Bark is not "compost."

28            NEW SECTION. SECTION 3.

29            A. Before issuance of a solicitation for bids or proposals in accordance with  
30 K.C.C. chapter 2.93, departments shall consider whether compost can be utilized in a  
31 county project as required in RCW 43.19A.120. In the event that a department identifies  
32 that compost can be utilized, that department shall purchase compost for use in the  
33 county project.

34            B. Departments shall plan for the use of compost in any of the following  
35 categories that are applicable to the departments' operations and project types:

- 36            1. Landscaping projects;
- 37            2. Construction and postconstruction soil amendments;
- 38            3. Applications to prevent erosion, filter stormwater runoff, promote vegetative  
39 growth, or improve the stability and longevity of roadways in accordance with K.C.C.  
40 Title 9; and
- 41            4. Low-impact development and green infrastructure either to filter pollutants or  
42 to keep water onsite, or both, in accordance with K.C.C. Title 9.

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43 C. Notwithstanding subsections A. and B. of this section, departments are not  
44 required to use compost products if:

45 1. Compost products are not available within a reasonable time or distance from  
46 the project;

47 2. Compost products that are available do not comply with existing purchasing  
48 standards;

49 3. Compost products that are available do not comply with federal, state or local  
50 health, quality and safety standards; or

51 4. Compost purchase prices are not reasonable or competitive.

52 D. Departments shall give priority to purchasing compost products from  
53 companies that:

54 1. Produce compost products locally;

55 2. Are certified by the US Composting Council or an equivalent nationally  
56 recognized organization; and

57 3. Produce compost products that are derived from municipal solid waste  
58 compost programs and meet quality standards comparable to standards adopted by the  
59 Washington state Department of Transportation or adopted by rule by the Washington  
60 state Department of Ecology.

61 E. Departments that use compost shall report the following information to the  
62 solid waste division by each December 15:

63 1. The volume and cost of compost purchased by the department in that year;  
64 and

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65           2. The source or sources of the compost purchased by the department in that  
66 year.

67           NEW SECTION. SECTION 4. The solid waste division is responsible for:

68           A. Providing technical assistance and education regarding the use of compost to  
69 King County departments and staff;

70           B. Conducting educational outreach to inform residents and businesses about the  
71 value of compost and how King County uses compost in its operations each year; and

72           C. Reporting the total estimated tons of organic material diverted from the King  
73 County waste stream because of compost use under this chapter.

74           NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. The solid waste division is responsible for  
75 compiling and submitting the report required by RCW 43.19A.150 to the Washington  
76 state Department of Ecology by December 31, 2024, and each December 31 of even-  
77 numbered years thereafter, with the following information:

78           A. The total tons of organic material diverted from the King County waste stream  
79 throughout the year;

80           B. The volume and cost of compost purchased in that reporting period by the  
81 county; and

82           C. The source or sources of the compost purchased by the county under this  
83 chapter in that reporting period.

84           NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. The finance and business operations division is  
85 responsible for:

86           A. Collaborating with departments to utilize specifications for compost products  
87 in the use of sourcing and executing contracts for compost products; and

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- 88 B. Assisting the solid waste division in annual reporting by providing  
89 information about compost contracts.

Ordinance 19552 was introduced on 10/4/2022 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/6/2022, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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F8830816F1C4427...  
Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
C267B914088E4A0...  
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of 12/22/2022, \_\_\_\_\_.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None

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Claudia Balducci  
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 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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 Deputy Clerk of the Council  
 King County Council  
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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 Dow.Constantine@kingcounty.gov  
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Kaitlyn Wiggins kwwiggins@kingcounty.gov Executive Legislative Coordinator King County Executive Office Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) <b>Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:</b> Not Offered via DocuSign	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"><b>COPIED</b></div>	Sent: 12/15/2022 1:19:04 PM Viewed: 12/15/2022 3:19:01 PM
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