

CHAPTER 6.06

COMPOST

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6.06.010 DEFINITION. For purposes of this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, "compost" means a product created with "composted material" as defined in RCW 70A.205.015(3) as currently in effect or hereafter amended. "Compost" includes, but is not limited to, 100% finished compost or blends that include compost as a primary ingredient. Mulch is considered "compost" if it contains a minimum of sixty (60) percent composted material. Bark is not "compost".
[Ord. 647 (2023) § 1]

6.06.020 USE OF COMPOST. (a) Prior to purchase or solicitation of bids or proposals for County projects, Benton County officials shall determine if compost can be utilized in the project. In the event compost can be utilized, compost shall be purchased for use unless other provisions herein provide otherwise.

(b) When purchasing compost, Benton County shall give priority to purchasing compost from companies producing compost locally, are certified by a nationally recognized organization, such as the United State Composting Council, and produce 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.

(c) Benton County shall plan for the use of compost in the following categories that are applicable to a department's operations and project types:

- (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 to keep water onsite or both.

(d) Notwithstanding subsections (a) through (c) above, Benton County is not required to use compost if: (1) compost is not available within a reasonable period of time; (2) compost is available but does not comply with existing purchasing standards; (3) compost is available but does not comply with federal or state health, quality, and safety standards; or (4) compost purchase prices are not reasonable or competitive.

[Ord. 647 (2023) § 2]

6.06.030 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH. Benton County Solid Waste Department shall conduct educational outreach to inform residents about the value of compost and how the County uses compost in its operations each year.

[Ord. 647 (2023) § 3]

6.06.040 REPORTING AND PLANNING. By December 31, 2024, and each December 31st of even-numbered years thereafter, Benton County Solid Waste Department shall review the plan required by BCC 6.06.020(c) above and 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 source(s) of the compost product purchased.

[Ord. 647 (2023) § 4]

6.06.050 SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this chapter is declared unconstitutional, or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the constitutionality of the remainder of the chapter and the applicability thereof to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

[Ord. 647 (2023) § 5]

6.06.060 EFFECTIVE DATE. This chapter shall take effect and be in full force upon its passage and adoption.

[Ord. 647 (2023) § 6]