

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESHB 1033

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Evaluating compostable product usage in Washington.

Sponsors: House Committee on Environment & Energy (originally sponsored by Representatives Walen, Ryu, Reed, Fitzgibbon, Pollet, Callan, Doglio, Macri, Gregerson, Davis, Santos, Ormsby and Fosse).

House Committee on Environment & Energy
Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology

Background:

Under the state's solid waste management laws, local governments are the primary government entity responsible for implementing state solid waste management requirements. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has certain roles in overseeing the administration of solid waste management laws. Ecology is responsible for working cooperatively with local governments as they develop their local solid waste management plans. Ecology also evaluates, analyzes, and monitors the state's solid waste stream, and develops a statewide solid waste plan that, in part, addresses organic material wastes.

Since 2019, state law has established several goals for organic material management, including:

- landfill disposal of organic materials at a level in 2030 that is 75 percent less than in 2015;
- at least 20 percent of the volume of edible food disposed of be recovered for human consumption by 2025; and
- reducing the amount of annual food waste generation by 50 percent by 2030, relative to 2015 levels.

Since 2019, state law has established a number of standards related to labels communicating whether a product is degradable. These standards include general standards that products labeled as compostable must satisfy, and specific standards for the labeling, tinting, and

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terms used by plastic film bags and food service products that are not compostable.

Summary:

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) must contract with an independent, third-party facilitator to convene a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (Committee) to make recommendations to the Legislature concerning the development of standards for compostable product management, including food service products, by organic materials management facilities. Ecology must select to participate on the Committee representatives from a variety of specified public and private sector entities, such as local governments, organic materials management facilities, and businesses, including the hospitality industry. Ecology is also required to invite the participation of any federally recognized Indian tribe that expresses interest in participating.

Among the factors that the Committee must consider in its recommendations are:

- state goals for managing organic materials;
- compostable standards related to the breakdown of products in facilities and home composting;
- estimates of disposal rates of compostable products at organic materials management facilities; and
- policy options to address contamination of organic waste streams.

The third-party facilitator must hire subcontractors as needed to conduct research on issues relevant to the work of the Committee, and is responsible for staffing and supporting Committee meetings. The first Committee meeting must be convened by September 15, 2023, and the Committee must meet in a virtual format and must meet at least monthly until at least January 2024. The facilitator must draft and submit the Committee's recommendations to the Legislature by September 15, 2024.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	91	6	
Senate	48	0	(Senate amended)
House	92	4	(House concurred)

Effective: July 23, 2023