

2023 Organic Materials Management in King County

Food, yard and wood waste, and compostable paper

King County's vision is to create a self-sustaining regional organics system that minimizes waste, promotes healthier soils, and protects the environment.



488,000 tons

of organic material are generated from King County businesses and residents.



1/3 of food waste in Washington is edible! Food waste can also be prevented through recovery and donation amongst our local communities.

Organics Recycling

231,000 tons recycled

257,000 tons disposed

Garbage

Recycling cart
92%

Self-haul
8%

Self-haul
18%

Garbage cart
82%

47.3% collected and sent for processing

70%
 Regional organics recycling, servicing Seattle, King and Snohomish counties, is estimated at 70% of permitted capacity

- In 2023
- **628,000+** tons annual permitted compost capacity
 - **438,522** tons estimated material recovered for processing

52.7% sent to landfill for disposal

Processing

Compost

Alternative technologies
 i.e. Anaerobic digestion



Cedar Hills Landfill
 Burial, decomposition, methane generation and capture

Local Organics Markets

- Mulch
- Fertilizer
- Compost
- Energy – fuel, heat

Opportunities

- Local agriculture and horticulture
- Local government and cities pilots and projects

- Climate mitigation action by business and government
- Local landscaping and building/construction services

