

Look, Westley (DNREC)

From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov
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To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources); amywhitman@gmail.com
Subject: Public Hearing Comments

Comments on Docket #2025-R-WHS-0016 -- Solid Waste Regulations

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Organization:

Comments:

Dear DNREC Hearing Officers, I am writing to urge you to support reduced regulatory barriers and expanded access for community and small-scale composting in Delaware. Our family participates in the Talley Day composting program. Participating in community composting is a powerful reminder that small actions matter. Knowing our food scraps are being transformed into a valuable resource is both personally rewarding and environmentally impactful. By volunteering just one hour a month, we are not only learning how composting works firsthand, but also building connections with neighbors who share a commitment to reducing waste and caring for our environment. I'll also mention that the program is run thoughtfully and efficiently by Elisa King. I support the following requests put forward by Plastic Free Delaware (also known as Zero Waste First State): - Exempt community and small-scale composting operations from the industrial composting permit process - Provide permit fee exemptions for community and small-scale composting - Create a simplified permit or registration process for community and small scale composting - Exempt hauling permits for transporting small quantities of food scraps, such as buckets collected from local businesses These changes would deliver meaningful benefits to Delaware. Small-scale composting businesses along with community composting is one of the most effective ways to educate residents about food waste reduction and sustainable practices. Delaware is currently behind many neighboring states in food waste diversion. Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania all offer exemptions, incentives, or streamlined approaches for small composting operations. Lowering barriers to community and small-scale composting is a practical, achievable step that aligns with Delaware's environmental goals and the values of its residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.