

Subject: Public Hearing Comments

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From: DoNotReply@delaware.gov

To: HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources), cathyablanche@gmail.com

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

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Organization: Plastic Free DE and Zero Waste First State

Comments:

I am reaching out on behalf of Plastic Free DE / Zero Waste First State to express my support for Community Composting and to voice my agreement with the requests of PFD and ZWFS listed below. I am a newcomer to the community composting site at Talley Day Park in Wilmington. When I learned that food waste in landfills is a significant contributor to greenhouse gases I became more mindful when purchasing food. I have also intended to recycle food scraps by composting but the obstacles of lack of know-how and what type of bin would be best for my yard were excuses preventing follow through. I looked over the discounted compost containers offered by DNREC a couple years ago but again delayed making a decision, then missed the deadline to order, and the desire fell to the lower part of my to-do list again. The community site eliminated my barriers to participate. Training is provided, the structure is provided as well as the benefit of compost for my garden. The Talley Day site is a win-win situation for me. It is in a location that I drive by with regularity, there is no up front cost, and the time commitment to collect scraps at home, make weekly drops and volunteer at the site once a month fits my schedule. It is also rewarding to participate in the effort, knowing that I am making a personal impact in reducing food waste pollution, and to see how the collective weekly scraps are transformed into reusable compost. I agree with the below points that Plastic Free Delaware is requesting in order to expand Community Composting in DE: 1. Community composting and small scale composting is requesting an exemption from the DNREC industrial composting permit process. 2. Community and small scale composting is requesting a permit fee exemption. 3. Community composting and small scale composting is requesting a simplified permit or registration. 4. Community composting and small scale composting is requesting a hauling permit exemption for moving small amounts of food scraps (ex. Picking up a bucket of coffee grounds from local coffee shop). I request that DNREC should facilitate community and small scale composting businesses for the below reasons: 1. Delaware needs to address the issue of food taking up nearly 25% of landfill space. 2. There are currently NO large scale food scrap composting facilities in Delaware. 3. Community composting is an effective way to educate the public about composting. 4. Small scale composting businesses are the first step toward larger food scrap composting. 5. A first step to address greenhouse gas emissions in landfills is reducing potent methane emissions and adding carbon sequestration through compost application. 6. Supporting Delaware small business startup and growth in an untapped industry in Delaware that not only can create jobs but has a positive impact on environmental and public health 7. Supports sustainable activities that the average person can directly contribute to and participate in that

encourage responsible consumption, environmental awareness, nature stewardship, and community resilience. 8. Encourages people to take direct action on a problem that everyone directly contributes to creating a circular economy. 9. Delaware is far behind compared to other states regarding food scrap diversion and recycling. These changes will help move Delaware forward as a leader in food waste diversion and recycling.