

**Subject:** Public Hearing Comments

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**From:** DoNotReply@delaware.gov

**To:** HearingComments, DNREC (MailBox Resources)

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

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Organization: Plastic Free Delaware (PFD)

### Comments:

To whom it may concern, I am a volunteer and participant in the Plastic Free Delaware (PFD) Community Composting Program. As someone living in a two person household interested in composting, but not generating quite enough food waste to warrant having our own composting pile, this program is a fantastic way to compost our food waste in a safe and simple way. Considering the fact that DE does not have any large scale food scrap composting facilities, small scale composting operations are the only option available to residents, whether that be making their own pile in their back yard, or participating in a community composting program. Even a small community program, like the Talley Day Park program I participate in, has diverted two tons of food scraps from the landfill, and we have only been operating for two years! We are requesting that small community composting programs are exempt from the DNREC industrial composting permit process, and that community composting programs are exempt from a permit fee. This will make it much easier for volunteers and community organizers to take initiative to start their own composting programs. Changing the regulations and requirements around small scale composting operations would not just benefit PFD- imagine how much food waste could be diverted from landfills if public schools could easily open a composting club for their students, or churches starting a composting program for their parishioners. My place of work already has a gardening club, I imagine a compost program could be quite popular. Due to complex permitting requirements and fees, communities have limited options for what they can do with their food waste, and by removing those barriers and making composting more accessible for the general public, more food waste can be diverted from DE landfills. That food waste can then be turned into compost, going back into DE's gardens to grow something beautiful. Thank you for your attention to this matter.