



Zero Waste Vashon (ZVV) is a community-run 501 (c) (3) non-profit engaged in education and research in support of waste stream conversion away from the practice of landfilling reusable materials and towards reuse and recycling. Our goal is to inspire the Vashon and Maury Island communities to "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink." by turning waste into resources.

King County Moves Forward on Vashon Community Compost Facility

Zero Waste Vashon is pleased to announce that the King County Council has allocated \$3,006,102.00 to establish a Community Compost Facility on Vashon. This commitment to the project comes after successful completion of a two-part Feasibility Study, a Site Analysis, a Community Survey and a public meeting. The project, headed by the King County Solid Waste Division, is to build an organics processing facility in partnership with a third-party operator to be determined by RFP (Request for Proposal). The multi-phase project will include permitting, design and construction. Zero Waste Vashon has worked closely with KCSWD over the 5 years that this project has been in development and will continue to serve as the community partner to the County as it moves forward.



A Community Compost facility will turn the Island's organic waste (yard and food waste) into a valuable product that can be used to nourish the Island's farms and gardens. Compost has many benefits, including improving soil health, reducing runoff, and increasing plant yields. Producing it locally greatly reduces the greenhouse gas emissions from transporting it off island. It also reduces methane production by keeping organics out of the landfill.

In a related project, the County has allocated \$2,019,999.00 to improvements at the Vashon Island Recycling and Transfer Station that will improve collection of organic materials.

Both projects are in support of the statewide Organics Management law (E2SHB 1799), King County's Re+ Strategic plan, and goal to keep all food waste out of the landfill by 2030.

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/waste-services/garbage-recycling-compost/solid-waste-facilities/vashon-island-compost-study>

Compostable Serveware

Recycling or reusing every component of our waste stream can be challenging. Among them, compostable serveware products have their own unique challenges. Solving this problem would be a great advancement for local food services and composting on island.



The compostables industry is rapidly evolving, primarily around making products that require being processed at an "industrial compost facility". This means they need higher heat for extended periods of time in order to break down. A popular solution on the market today is corn-based plastic resins that unfortunately are still plastic. It's sometimes hard to confirm that they don't include potential chemical contaminants and break down thoroughly.

There are also nationwide testing services, including the [Compost Manufacturing Alliance](#), the American Society of Testing Materials, and BPI-Certified compostables, to help us avoid contaminated compostables. Cedar Grove has their own testing labs and has approved of a subset of these certified compostables for their composting process, [available here](#). It's tricky because some containers are paper-based, but are coated with a thin film of plastic to keep oils and hot liquids from seeping into the container jacket. A common example is the ubiquitous paper coffee cup.

One option is to avoid the plastics in compostables entirely. Consider trying to see how many fiber-only compostable products you can use within your day; brown paper bags and towels, uncoated paper plates and cups, wooden sporks, and cardboard food containers are all examples of fiber-based compostables. The fiber-based strategy has 3 key advantages; you can conceivably compost these products in your back yard, the color brown makes it easy to use and sort, and you are not using plastic! Here is a resource for [renewable fibers](#).

ZWV will continue to research truly compostable options with the goal of providing the community with sustainable solutions. Here are some links to information available on the advancing policies and science of compostable products:

[Biocycle - Updating compostables definitions](#)

[Biocycle - Whats in Seattle's collected organics streams?](#)

[The Atlantic - Compostable plastic trash](#)



Choose Plastic Free Meetup

The Choose Plastic Free Committee will be holding their first Zero Waste Meetup on Jan 28, 2024 from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Land Trust Building. This is a chance to meet with other like-minded folks to watch a movie, enjoy some snacks and chat about reducing our "waste footprint". Bring your best waste reduction strategy or biggest challenge to share. We can all learn from each other!

Welcome New Board Members

Zero Waste Vashon is happy to welcome two new board members. Joining us are Greg Simmons and Jamie Dulfer. We look forward to working with them on the exciting projects coming this next year.

2024 Will Be A Busy Year

There's a lot on our plate for the coming year. In addition to working with King County on the next stages of the Compost Facility project, the ZWV team will be also working on getting a third bin service for curbside pickup of organic

waste. This will be an important source of feedstock for composting. The compostable committee is doing a deep research dive into finding practical solutions for compostable serveware. ZWV is also starting to investigate establishing a reuse facility on the island that would establish an exchange for larger construction related items that come out of remodels and rebuilds. This would cover items too large for Granny's to take. Examples would be cabinets, doors, windows, lighting fixtures, etc. This is an ambitious project. It needs a home, a manager, and volunteer staff to make it go. If you want to get in on the ground floor and help out, please contact us at: info@zerowastevashon.org.



With community help Zero Waste Vashon is able to tackle bigger projects that help stop our waste from going to the landfill. As the year closes please consider a donation to fund these projects going forward. Thank you!

[Donate](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all of our volunteers, donors, and board members who contribute to the ongoing success of Zero Waste Vashon!



If you are interested in volunteering, getting involved, joining the board, donating to ZWV, or simply have a question, let us know - we are here to help!

Web Page: zerowastevashon.org

Facebook: [Facebook.com/zerowastevashon](https://www.facebook.com/zerowastevashon)

Email: info@zerowastevashon.org

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE & RETHINK

Zero Waste Vashon is a registered 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation

Zero Waste Vashon | PO Box 441, Vashon, WA 98070

[Unsubscribe info@zerowastevashon.org](mailto:info@zerowastevashon.org)

[Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@zerowastevashon.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!