

Merscher, Patrick (ECY)

From: Merscher, Patrick (ECY)
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2025 1:25 PM
To: 'ROGER PENCE'
Subject: RE: Organics management model ordinances

Good afternoon, Roger,

Thank you again. You are exactly correct in your understanding of the process. In the future I will provide an Executive Summary, and I will try to callout the Appendix A that has similar information in any other outreach about this project. I can understand how this is confusing, and I appreciate your feedback. I've also forwarded your comment to our Communications team, who can help ensure this happens for other project we do here at Ecology too. Again, thank you so much for your time and engagement.

Patrick Merscher (he/him/his)
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From: ROGER PENCE <rdpence@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 2:15 PM
To: Merscher, Patrick (ECY) <pmer461@ECY.WA.GOV>
Subject: RE: Organics management model ordinances

External Email

Thank you Patrick for the quick and informative response.

As I understand it now, you're not seeking comments on the language of the model ordinances themselves, only whether a DNS is warranted on their publication, under SEPA?

Basically a pro forma process/question since the answer is obviously Yes~ there are no environmental impacts resulting from publishing model ordinances that may or may not be adopted, in whole or in part, by other jurisdictions.

I still think, in the future when you publish 52-page single-spaced documents for public comment, best practices would suggest including an executive summary written in lay language.

No harm/no foul this time, but in the future....

-Roger Pence-
P.O. Box 1552
Edmonds, WA 98020

On 01/14/2025 2:51 PM PST Merscher, Patrick (ECY) <pmer461@ecy.wa.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon, Roger,

First, so you are aware, I have to upload your email comments (and this response) to our public comment webpage. This is required by our agency's internal policy.

Second, I appreciate you looking into the model ordinances and this opportunity to comment. I know that legal language is often hard to discern, and we did work with our Assistant Attorney General to try and tone down some of the "legalese" in the ordinance language. Still, when you are writing a legal document, it is difficult to get away from.

For a more general description of the model ordinances, I would refer you to Attachment A – SEPA Checklist listed with the documents [on the webpage](#). I have also attached it here. In particular, you may find Section 1: Background helpful for a general description of the ordinance content, as you request. If there are specific areas where you have questions about the language and what it means – I am happy to try and explain.

Finally, I want to clarify that this comment period is related to a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review, which only looks at the potential environmental impacts. This is a smaller scope than what people think of with a more traditional comment period. We welcome your comments about the potential environmental impacts of the model ordinances, but we are not able to consider other comments such as cost increases to residents or businesses. We strongly encourage residents and businesses to keep tabs on their local City Council meetings and contact Council members. If a city or county chooses to adopt the model ordinances (or writes their own version), it should be discussed at Council meetings.

I hope that helps, and please let me know if you have other questions,

Patrick Merscher (he/him/his)

Organics/Food Center Specialist

From: ROGER PENCE <rdpence@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 2:00 PM
To: Merscher, Patrick (ECY) <pmer461@ECY.WA.GOV>
Subject: Organics management model ordinances

External Email

Dear Mr. Merscher,

I'm responding after reading this article published on MyEdmondsNews.com~
<https://myedmondsnews.com/2025/01/help-shape-the-future-of-organics-recycling-in-washington-comments-due-by-jan-28/>

I followed the links in the article, ultimately finding the 52-page document entitled Organic Materials Management Model Ordinances.

But to a layman, an ordinary citizen not steeped in the jargon and nuances of organics disposal and legal writing, your proposed "model ordinances" are frankly indecipherable.

Please provide us an executive summary in lay language of each model ordinance, so we citizens are able to provide informed and useful comments.

Thank you,

-Roger Pence-

P.O. Box 1552

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