

Repurpose (Lauren Gropper)

Repurpose is writing to express our comments to the Washington Department of Ecology in order to revise its proposed regulations as they will undermine the state's longstanding leadership in organic-waste diversion and conflict with the goals of existing laws including EPR and on-product labeling.

We agree that contamination from traditional plastic materials is a real issue within the composting stream. But instead of proposing a narrowly tailored solution to address plastic contamination, the legislation targets the certified compostable products and packaging market in Washington and, in doing so, effectively eliminates a critical pathway for organic waste diversion.

Founded in 2010, Repurpose is a women-founded and led consumer packaged goods brand on a mission to reduce single-use plastic pollution through its plant-based, compostable, non-toxic household essentials. As the leading consumer brand in this space, we are available nationwide in over 20,000 retail locations. Repurpose drives the circular economy by providing high-performance, completely compostable alternatives to traditional petroleum-based plastics. As a business, we are committed to helping consumers take part in the circular economy and overall waste reduction goals and have invested significant resources into research and development of innovative solutions.

The definition of "organic materials" remains too narrow because it limits them to substances of plant or animal origin, thereby excluding compostable products that facilitate diversion while replacing harmful contaminants. Non-compostable food packaging should not be included in source-separated organic waste. Processing them along with food waste into depackagers greatly increases the risk of persistent microplastics, PFAS, heavy metals, and other contaminants. Instead, organic materials (including compostables) and non-compostable packaging should be separated at the point of generation, as exemplified by recent regulations in Vermont and even by local grocery store chains.

The definition of "source separation" should be revised to explicitly require separation of organic materials from non-compostable packaging, aided by education and support.