



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SONOMA COUNTY ORGANICS PROCESSING AND COMPOSTING FACILITY

Q1 What is organics processing?

A1 The processing (recycling) of organics, such as yard debris, food material, and wood scraps, produces useful products, like compost, mulches and other materials for urban and agricultural use.

Q2 How are Sonoma County's organic materials currently processed?

A2 Organic materials collected from Sonoma County, including the weekly pick-up of residential curbside green bins and commercial food scraps, are currently trucked to composting facilities located outside Sonoma County. Currently, the four composting facilities are Redwood Landfill, Cold Creek Compost, Napa Garbage and Recycling, and West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill.

Q3 What are the benefits of having an organics processing facility in Sonoma County?

A3 A new organics processing facility will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, aid in meeting the State's objective of diverting 75% of the organics from the landfill by 2025 and producing 50% of our electricity from renewable resources by 2026. A new facility would provide needed infrastructure in Sonoma County for residents and businesses to drop-off yard trimmings, food discards and wood scraps, as well as provide access to high quality and affordable soil amendments. The new facility will also employ around 30 people.

Q4 Who will develop and operate the proposed organics processing facility?

A4 Through a competitive process, Renewable Sonoma was selected by Zero Waste Sonoma to develop and operate the County's organics processing facility. Renewable Sonoma is currently in negotiations with Zero Waste Sonoma and the City of Santa Rosa for the siting and design of the proposed project. To learn more about the proposed organics processing facility, visit renewablesonoma.com

Q5 How much will it cost to build the proposed organics processing facility?

A5 The proposed organics processing facility is currently in the initial planning stages and many factors will determine the final cost. Renewable Sonoma's estimates the cost to build the proposed facility will be over \$50 million.

Q6 How will the organics processing facility be funded?

A6 The development and construction costs of the facility will be funded by Renewable Sonoma and their partners. Costs will be recouped through organic material tipping fees (cost to drop-off material for processing) from local haulers and the sale of compost products and energy.

Q7 Where will the organic processing facility be located?

A7 A site location has not been determined. Renewable Sonoma is currently in negotiation with the City of Santa Rosa to lease City-owned property near the Laguna Treatment Plant. Renewable Sonoma's preferred location includes the City's existing biosolids compost facility on Llano Road and part of a vacant property located north of Meadow Lane along Llano Road. An alternative would have the facility located on most of the City-owned property north of Meadow Lane between Llano Road and Walker Road.

The proposed location was selected because it is centrally located within the County and is already operating as a facility to compost biosolids from the Laguna Treatment Plant, thereby reducing environmental impacts. Having an in-County organics processing facility will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by nearly eliminating the need to haul organic materials out-of-the-County. The proposed location also provides easy access for businesses and residents to drop-off green materials, as well as provide access to high quality and affordable soil amendments.

Additionally, locating the proposed facility next to the Laguna Treatment Plant creates synergies associated with the capture and treatment of process water and storm water from the site, that will result in a zero discharge compost facility.

Q8 What will happen to the materials produced at the proposed facility?

A8 The high quality and affordable finished composts, mulches, and other end-products will be available for sale to the general public, landscapers, and the agricultural community.

Q9 How is Zero Waste Sonoma communicating with residents about the proposed organics processing facility?

A9 Zero Waste Sonoma continues to educate residents about the benefits of an in-County compost facility and compliance with state law. Information about the proposed facility, including past meeting agendas of the Zero Waste Sonoma Board are available online along with project information and updates. Interested individuals can also sign-up to receive regular project updates via email. To sign-up for the digital newsletter and learn more about the proposed facility, visit zerowastesonoma.gov/organicsfacility

Q10 What opportunities are available to provide public input?

A10 Public input is welcome at any time during the planning, development and permitting process. For information about upcoming public meetings or to contact staff directly, please visit zerowastesonoma.gov/organicsfacility

Q11 How will odor, noise, traffic, flooding, and other environment impacts be addressed for the proposed location of the organics processing facility?

A11 The preliminary design of the proposed state-of-the-art organics processing facility will address mitigation to environmental impacts such as odor, noise, traffic, and flooding. A robust environmental review of the proposed project will be conducted to evaluate all of its environmental benefits and impacts. The public will have the opportunity to participate in this review.

During this public process there will be ample opportunities for community members to review the findings and provide formal community input. For more information and to sign-up to receive project updates, including upcoming meetings, please visit zerowastesonoma.gov/organicsfacility

Q12 When will the new organics processing facility open?

A12 If the proposed facility is approved, it is estimated to open in 2023, but depending on permitting, construction, and other factors, this date may change.