



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

Compost Reimbursement Program (CRP)

Driving compost demand by supporting farms

Pilot Year: Oct. 2023 – July 2024 (FY2024)

Derek Thedell

Compost Reimbursement Program Specialist

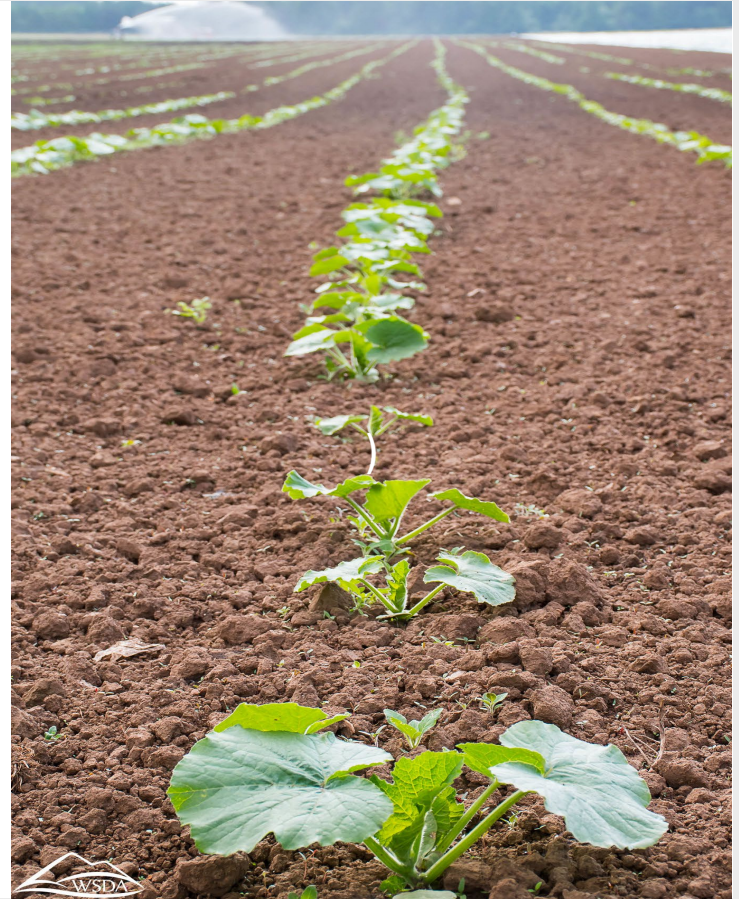
derek.thedell@agr.wa.gov | (360)890-0625

Introduction



WSDA Compost Reimbursement Program

- Reimburse WA farmers for compost-related expenses.
 - ~\$1 million annually
 - New applications annually
- Established in 2023 via RCW 15.04.420
- Launched 10/16/23
 - 150 applicants within first two days.
- Studies compost benefits on soil quality.



Establishment & Intent



- HB 1799 Sec. 502
 - Reimburse WA farming operations
 - Compost not generated by operation
- Intent: RCW 70A.205.077
 - Reduction of methane emissions
 - Incentivize organic waste management.
 - *Establish new financial incentives intended to increase composting.*
- Increase composting by driving demand

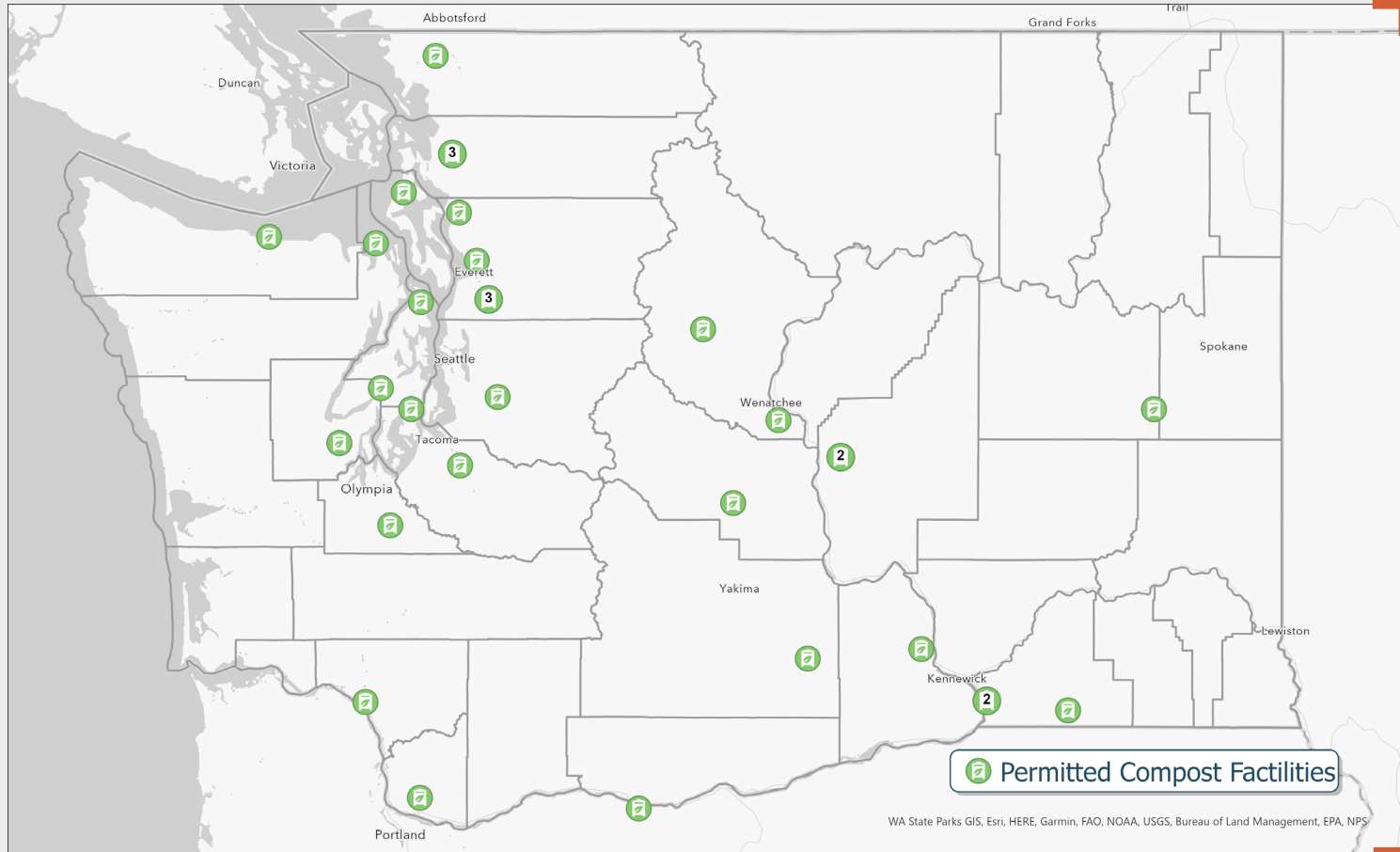


Establishment & Intent



- RCW 15.04.420 – WSDA CRP
 - Reimburses farming operations for compost purchases and associated costs.
 - **50% of qualifying costs up to \$10,000**
- Farming Operations
 - Agriculture, Silviculture, Aquaculture, Apiary, Livestock
- Qualifying Costs
 - Compost, transportation, equipment.
 - Labor, fuel, maintenance for equipment.
 - **Solid Waste Handling Permitted Facilities**

Solid Waste Handling Permitted Facilities



Program Overview



Typical Year Pacing

Step 1

Eligibility Application
& Grant Agreement Contract

July-August

Compost purchase
& transport

Step 2

Crop History
& Soil Sampling

September - November

Compost
application

Step 3

Reimbursement Application
& Fund Distribution

November - June

Eligibility Review & Grant Agreement



- Goal: Determine eligibility to participate
 - Farm & Contact Information
 - UBI, USDA commercial
 - Program Details
 - Farm type, compost facility
 - Estimated costs & qualifying facility
 - Confirmations
- Grant Agreement Contract
 - Establishes legal agreement
 - Deadline: 60 days from receipt
 - Assigned a Farm ID
 - Funds Allocated

Compost purchase
& transport

Crop History & Soil Sampling



Crop & Field Survey

- Qualitative data on a single field
 - Geo-spatial boundary
 - 5-year crop & management history
 - Crop success metrics



Soil Sampling

- Sample above selected field
 - Baseline (0 yr), 1 yr, 5 yr, 10 yr
 - Kits sent following completion of crop survey
 - Carbon (%C, OM, PMC, POC)
 - pH, CEC, Texture, N, Salinity



Compost application

Reimbursement Application



Each farm submits **one** application per year

- Due **June 30th**

Qualifying Costs: Compost, transportation, equipment.

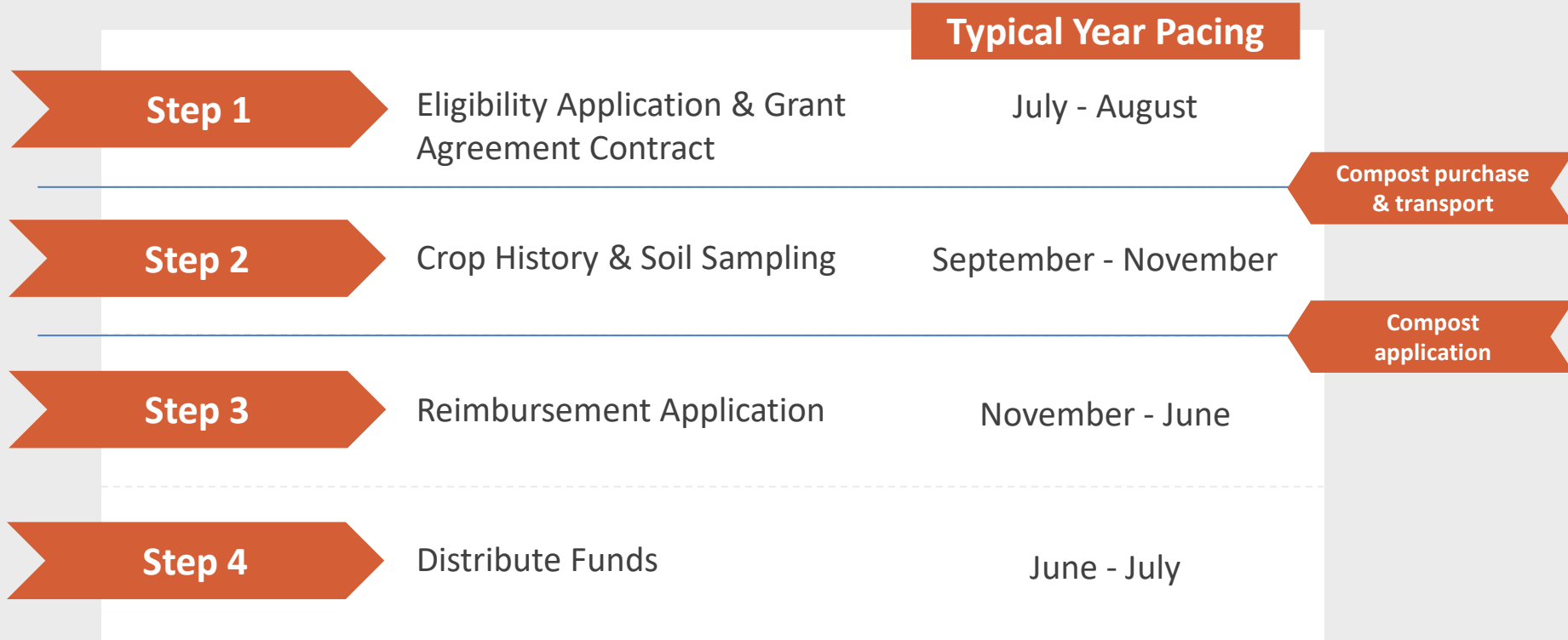
- Labor, fuel, maintenance for equipment.

Application:

- Apply through WSDA PISCES web-system
- All costs require:
 - Proof of purchase (receipt/invoice)
 - **Must be reasonable market rate**
 - Description of use



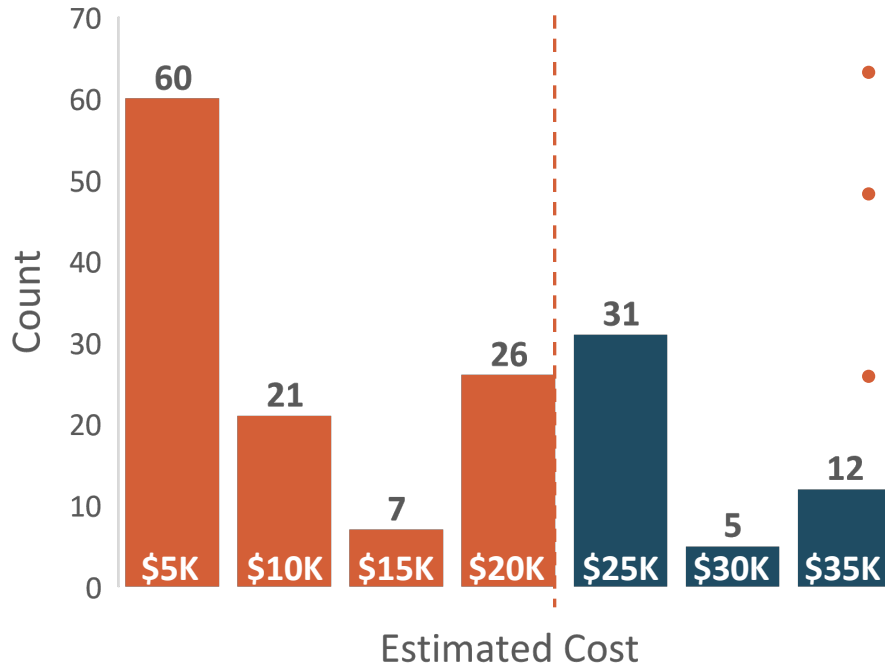
Program Overview



Early Application Data



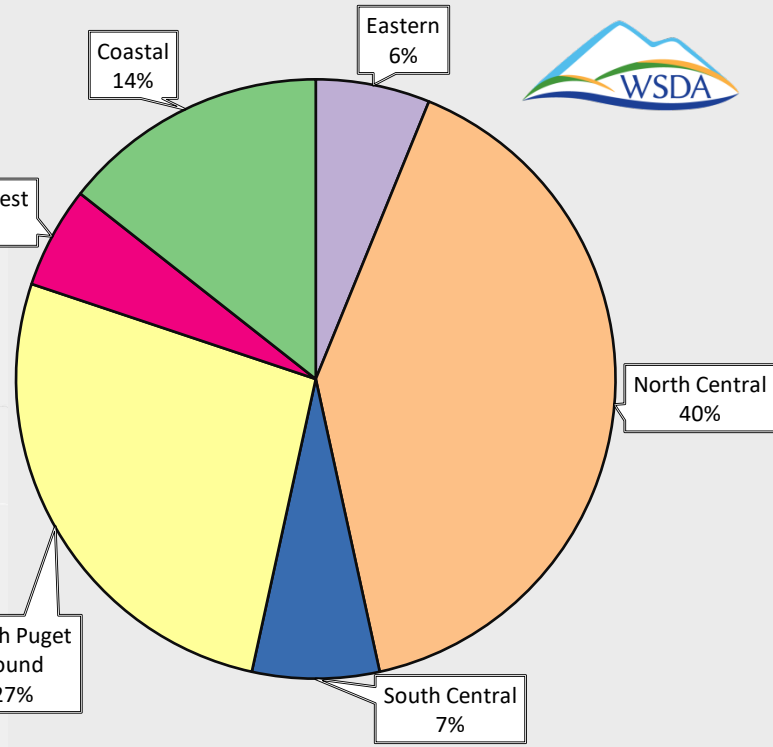
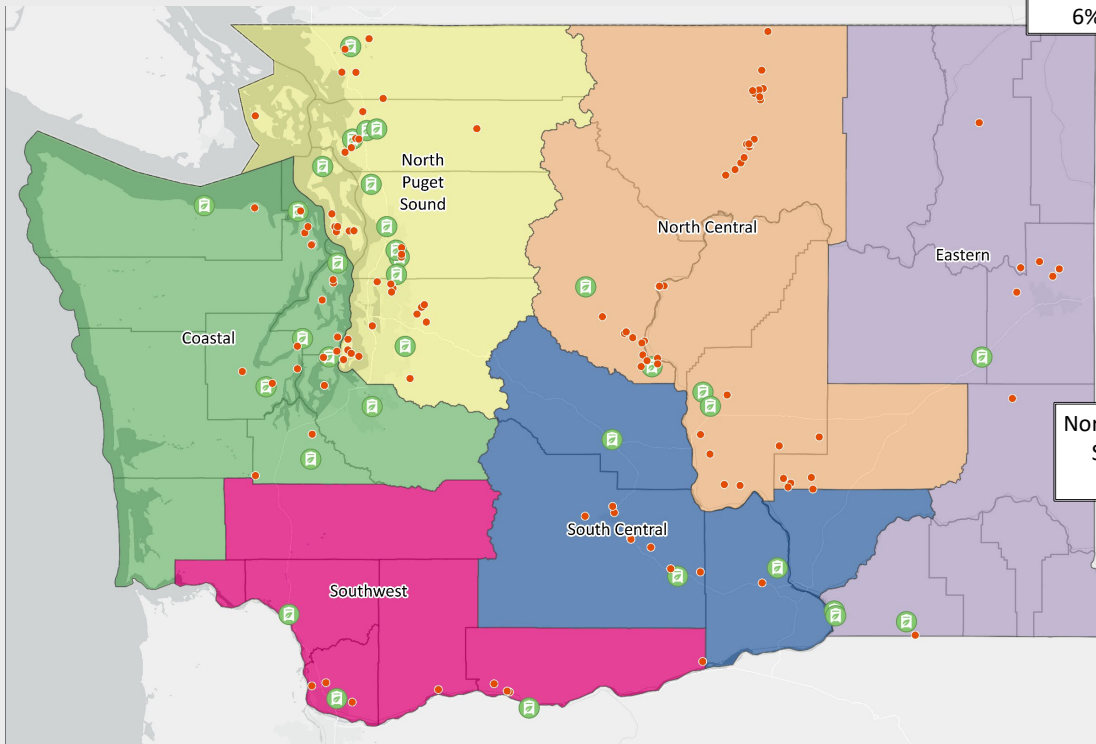
Applications opened 10/16. Within first week, **165** applications were received.



- Average Estimated Cost - \$12,000
- Average Farm Age – 12.6 years
 - Oldest farm – 117 years
- Primarily agricultural operations.
 - Apiary, livestock & silvicultural.



WSDA CRP Applications – Oct 2023



● Applicant
🗺️ Permitted Compost Facilities

WDFW Regions

- Coastal
- Eastern
- North Central
- North Puget Sound
- South Central
- Southwest

Summary Overview



- New WSDA Program: Compost Reimbursement Program
 - Built by HB1799 via RCW 15.04.420
 - Financial incentive for permitted compost purchases
 - Studies soil quality and compost
 - High early interest





Questions?

Contact Us



WEB

bit.ly/wsdacompost



TWITTER

[@WSDAgov](https://twitter.com/WSDAgov)



PHONE

360-890-0625



EMAIL

compost@agr.wa.gov

derek.thedell@agr.wa.gov



FACEBOOK

<http://tinyurl.com/WSDAFB>



YOUTUBE

[Youtube.com/user/WSDAgov](https://www.youtube.com/user/WSDAgov)