

Sophia Cassam

From: Jan Alderton <janetmalderton@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: 2021_Docket_Bennett_UDC_21-0001

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Dear Sophia,

Please share my comments on the 2021 Docket item UDC 21-0001 with the County Councilors Wolf, Minnie, and Stephens.

Dear Councilors Wolf, Minnie, and Stephens,

I think there was some initial confusion surrounding Mr. Bennett's docket request. The scale of commercial composting that he is describing is not "industrial" or "urban". "Commercial" indicates that a product or service would be supplied in exchange for money. The word "commercial" does not indicate scale.

It is true that Agricultural Resource Lands are limited in our islands and therefore are extremely valuable.

Because of this, any owner who farms Agricultural Resource Lands is unlikely to locate their composting operations on the best soils on their acreage.

The commercial composting operation on Lopez Island at Midnight's Farm is an example of what I think is needed in our islands. Local vegetation is brought to the composting site where it is processed into compost. The compost is then either used on the farm or sold to people in the Lopez community. I have heard from a neighbor of Midnight's Farm that the composting operations cause her no distress. Sounds good to me!

Maybe a restriction could be added to prevent composting operations from exporting their compost outside of San Juan County? This way our local soils would be enriched and the scale would be limited. Something to consider.

I stopped using burn piles years and years ago. Instead, I have a rather untidy miniature compost "mountain". Little critters love it! After the awful heat dome event, I noticed a tiny bright green "tree frog" in the salal next to my compost "mountain". Somehow a frog had survived even though the nearest (a very tiny puddle pond) water is more than 300 feet away. And baby garter snakes live in the compost mountain, too!
Compost is golden.

Janet Alderton
Orcas Island