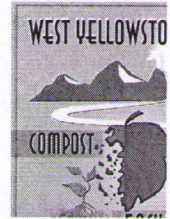




Gallatin County  
West Yellowstone Compost Facility/Transfer Station  
PO Box 226 • West Yellowstone • MT • 59758  
(406) 646-9298 • f (406) 646-9301  
[john.burns@gallatin.mt.gov](mailto:john.burns@gallatin.mt.gov)



To: Duane Bubac  
Chief of Facility Maintenance  
Yellowstone National Park

Re: West Yellowstone Compost Facility Closure

Dear Duane,

As you know, the West Yellowstone/Hebgen Basin Solid Waste Board has been discussing the current state of the compost facility operations. After carefully weighing the benefits and deficiencies of the program, the Board has decided to permanently cease operations at the West Yellowstone Compost Facility effective November 8, 2021.

The main reasons for the decision are:

- The cost to run the program far exceeds the benefits of composting on average, 600 tons of food waste per year.
- The quality of the feedstock received to compost is far below the industry standards to produce a quality, marketable product.
- Despite repeated attempts to refine and restructure the program over the past 18 years, costs and inefficiencies have increased.
- The Solid Waste District has had to subsidize the compost operations at the expense of the rate payers of the District.
- We feel the resources used to process, refine and finish the compost have a greater carbon footprint and contribute to increased greenhouse gasses than the waste being diverted.

The Board agrees that the facility was built with the best intentions of creating a viable waste diversion solution for the solid waste generated within Yellowstone National Park. Great effort and expense has been invested in sustaining the program over the last 18 years and there were certainly some successes during that time. However, more recently, the negative aspects of the program have far outweighed the positives.

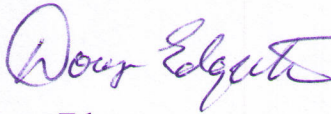


The West Yellowstone Transfer Station will not be affected by this decision and operations will remain the same. It is the Solid Waste Board's intention to provide the same efficient and seamless solid waste disposal service to Yellowstone National Park as in past years.

Since the Park's concessionaires have individual operating contracts with Yellowstone National Park, the Board agreed that notification of the closure should come from Yellowstone National Park representatives.

The Board has a tremendous amount of appreciation to Yellowstone National Park for the financial assistance, operational support and guidance during this venture. It is our profound hope that the partnership between the Solid Waste District and Yellowstone National Park remains strong and mutually beneficial for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Edgerton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Doug Edgerton  
Board Chairman  
West Yellowstone/Hebgen Basin Solid Waste District