Chapter 187 Composting

§ 187-1. Title.

This chapter shall be entitled "Composting."

§ 187-2. Purpose.

Municipalities are encouraged under state law to reduce municipal waste and encourage and promote recycling and residential composting as an effective means of reducing solid waste and producing soil-enriching products. Composting has a beneficial impact on the environment by reducing solid waste and improving soils conditions, and for these reasons the Village of Waterford wishes to promote composting and educating Village residents on effective composting and practices. Improper composting can attract vermin, create offensive smells, create unsightly conditions and otherwise have a negative impact on the health and well-being of the community, and as such, the Village wishes to ensure that proper composting practices are followed.

§ 187-3. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

COMPOST — A mixture of primarily vegetative matter, including but not limited to fallen leaves, woodchips, pine needles, sawdust, grain, coffee grounds, eggshells, lawn clippings, vegetable matter, and/or fruit matter maintained in a sanitary manner.

COMPOSTING — Decomposition of solid, organic material to produce a stable, humus-like material.

RESIDENTIAL COMPOSTING — Collection of compost materials, solely from the residential property where generated, and maintenance on site for noncommercial purposes. The term "residential composting" shall include only single-family and two-family residential dwellings.

§ 187-4. Composting Requirements.

Residential composting is allowed and encouraged on all single-family and two-family residential properties in all zones in the Village of Waterford subject to the following conditions:

A. Composting is limited to materials generated on the premises.

B. Composting may not include meat, fish, dairy products, treated wood or dog or cat feces.

C. Compost must be maintained in a sanitary manner which does not create unreasonable odors or attract vermin.

D. Compost may be maintained in a maximum of two compost bins, each up to 9.5 cubic feet or 71 gallons maximum. Compost containers acquired from or through the Village as part of a Village-sponsored program will be deemed compliant with this chapter.

E. Compost that is not maintained in bins may cover an area no greater than: 1) 100 square feet and a volume of no greater than 250 cubic feet for lots less than or equal to one acre; or 2) 200 square feet and a volume not greater than 500 cubic feet for lots greater than one acre and less than or equal to five acres; or 3) lots greater than five acres shall be exempt from this size requirement.

F. Compost that is not maintained in compost bins must be stored in the rear of a residential premises. For corner properties, the architectural front of the property will be considered the front.

G. All composting bins or areas must be located at least six feet from all property lines.

§ 187-5. Enforcement.

The Code Enforcement Officer, or any Deputy Code Enforcement Officer, is authorized to investigate complaints of violations of this chapter.

§ 187-6. Penalties for offenses.

A. Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any of the provisions of this chapter or fail to comply therewith, or with any of the provisions thereof, or any landowner who shall allow such violation, shall be guilty of a violation punishable by a fine of not more than $950 for the first offense; and by a fine of not more than $950 or by imprisonment for not more than one year for a second offense. The imposition of such penalty shall not be held to prohibit the enforced removal of prohibited conditions by any appropriate remedy, including immediate application for an injunction. Each day that the violation is carried on or continues shall constitute a separate violation.

B. A civil action or proceeding in the name of the Village of Waterford, New York, may be commenced in any court of competent jurisdiction to restrain by injunction the violation of this chapter. Such remedy shall be in addition to penalties otherwise prescribed by law and may be commenced by the Code Enforcement Officer, and/or his/her authorized assistants or deputies with the consent of a majority of the Village Board.

Local Law Filing

(Complete the certification in the paragraph that applies to the filing of this local law and strike out that which is not applicable.)

1. (Final adoption by local legislative body only.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto ascribed as local law number 1 of 20 26 of the (~~County)(City)(Town~~)(Village) of Waterford was duly passed by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Waterford on July 8, 20 26 in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

(Name of Legislative Body)

2. (Passage by local legislative body with approval, no disapproval or repassage after disapproval by the Elective Chief Executive Officer*.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, ascribed as local law number _____ of 20 _____ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____ 20 _____ and was

(Name of Legislative Body)

(approved)(not approved)(repassed after disapproval) by the _____

(Elective Chief Executive Officer)*

on _____ 20 _____ in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

3. (Final adoption by referendum.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, ascribed as local law number _____ of 20 _____ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____ 20 _____ and was

(Name of Legislative Body)

(approved)(not approved)(repassed after disapproval) by the _____ on

(Elective Chief Executive Officer)*

_____ 20 _____.

Such local law was submitted to the people by reason of a (mandatory)(permissive) referendum, and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the (general)(special)(annual) election held on _____ 20 _____ in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

4. (Subject to permissive referendum and final adoption because no valid petition was filed requesting referendum.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, ascribed as local law number _____ of 20 _____ of the (County)(City)(Town)(Village) of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____ 20 _____ and was

(Name of Legislative Body)

(approved)(not approved)(repassed after disapproval) by the _____ on

(Elective Chief Executive Officer)*

_____ 20 _____ . Such local law was subject to permissive referendum and no valid petition requesting such referendum was filed as of _____ 20 _____ in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

* Elective Chief Executive Officer means or includes the chief executive officer of a county elected on a county-wide basis or, if there be none, the chairperson of the county legislative body, the mayor of a city or village, or the supervisor of a town where such officer is vested with the power to approve or veto local laws or ordinances.

Local Law Filing

5. **(City local law concerning Charter revision proposed by petition.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, ascribed as local law number _____ of 20_____ of the City of _____ having submitted to referendum pursuant to the provisions of Section (36)(37) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of such city voting thereon at the (special)(general) election held on _____ 20_____ became operative.

6. **(County local law concerning adoption of Charter.)**

I hereby certify that the local law annexed thereto, ascribed as local law number _____ of 20_____of the County of _____ State of New York, having been submitted to the electors at the General Election of November _____ 20_____ pursuant to subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 33 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the cities of said county as a unit and a majority of the qualified electors of the towns of said county considered as a unit voting at said general election, became operative.

(If any other authorized form of final adoption has been followed, please provide an appropriate certification.)

I further certify that I have compared the preceding local law with the original on file in this office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original local law, and was finally adopted in the manner indicated in the paragraph 1 above.

Sabrina Hollands

Clerk of the county legislative body, City, Town or Village Clerk or officer designated by local legislative body

(Seal)

July 21, 2026

(Date)

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