ORDINANCE NO. 170054

An ordinance amending Sections 12.03, 12.19 and 12.24 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to establish definitions of terms relating to the recycling of green and wood waste materials and to provide for the recycling of such materials in certain zones either by right or through conditional use.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 12.03 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding the following definitions in proper alphabetical sequence to read:

AGRICULTURAL WASTE. All plant materials generated from the growing and harvesting of agricultural crops, vegetables and fruits.

CHIPPING/GRINDING FACILITY. Any facility which temporarily stores and/or processes source-separated green waste and/or wood waste by means of chipping, grinding, mixing and/or screening to produce a material of varying particle size. The material produced by the above described processes may be used as ground cover, biofuel, wood chips, animal bedding, worm food or other similar uses. This definition shall not include any chipping and/or grinding of green waste and/or wood waste conducted for noncommercial, nonprofit purpose.

COMPOSTING FACILITY. Any facility which processes source-separated organic materials to a stabilized state through controlled biological decomposition where the resultant material is beneficial to plant growth or soil structure when used as a soil amendment. Materials may initially be chipped, shredded, and/or screened on site prior to being composted. Composting may be conducted in an in-vessel system or in the open, such as windrow composting or aerated static pile composting. This definition shall not include any composting of green waste and/or wood waste conducted for noncommercial, nonprofit purpose.

CURING FACILITY. Any composting facility, as defined by this Code, where additional and/or final biological stabilization is attained after most of the readily metabolized material has been decomposed, and where no chipping, grinding, or screening of material takes place. This definition shall not include any curing of green waste and/or wood waste conducted for noncommercial, nonprofit purpose.

GREEN WASTES. All yard trimmings and/or leaves, grass clippings, agricultural wastes and vegetative landscaping materials generated from the maintenance of yards, parks or other similar facilities.

IN-VESSEL COMPOSTING. A process in which compostable material is enclosed in a drum, silo or similar structure where the environmental conditions are controlled and the compostable material is aerated and mechanically agitated. This process allows for accelerated decomposition.

LEACHATES. Any liquid which has come into contact with or percolated through composting or curing materials and contains extracted or dissolved substances therefrom, or any other liquid which has been generated by the decomposition process.

MULCH. A woody vegetative material used as a nonnutritive ground cover to control erosion, improve water retention and retard weed growth.

MULCHING FACILITY. Any facility which receives, temporarily stores and processes primarily source-separated carbonaceous wood waste and/or yard trimmings into a mulch. Examples of such materials include clean wood waste, tree and shrub trimming, leaves and other high carbon, low nitrogen material which decompose at a slow rate and have little leachate or odor-causing potential. Processing of such materials is achieved by chipping and screening to attain a uniform particle size and may include limited aging of the material to achieve a desired appearance. This definition shall not include any mulching of green waste and/or wood waste conducted for noncommercial, nonprofit purpose.

WINDROW COMPOSTING. The process in which compostable material is placed in elongated piles or windrows which are mechanically turned or aerated to encourage decomposition and to reduce odors.

WOOD WASTES. Any untreated and/or unpainted wood material such as pallets, plywood and other construction related scrap lumber, stumps and tree trimming.

Sec. 2. Subsection A of Section 12.19 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding a new Subdivision 15 thereto to read:

. . .
. . .
. . .

15. Curing, composting and mulching facilities, including all accessory buildings, as well as chipping and grinding facilities when conducted within a wholly enclosed building.

Sec. 3. Subsection C of Section 12.24 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding a new Subdivision 60 thereto to read:

60. Chipping and grinding facilities in the M2 zone where such facilities are not conducted within a wholly enclosed building.

Sec. 4. Subsection C of Section 12.24 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding a new Subdivision 61 thereto to read:

61. The following green waste and/or wood waste recycling uses in the A1 and A2 zones when conducted in accordance with the limitations hereafter specified:

(a) Types of uses:

(1) Chipping/grinding facility.

(2) Composting facility.

(3) Curing facility.

(4) Mulching facility.

(b) Limitations:

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of Sections 12.05 and 12.06, the uses set forth in Paragraph (a) of this Subdivision shall be conducted wholly within an enclosed building, or where deemed appropriate by the Zoning Administrator, within an area which is completely enclosed by a solid wall or solid fence which is at least 8-feet in height with necessary solid gates of like height.

(2) Where, pursuant to subparagraph (1) above, the required wall or fence has been erected in an area which adjoins a street, no material shall be stored within the enclosed area to a height greater than that of such wall or fence for a distance of up to 50 feet from such

wall or fence, unless the height of the wall or fence is 10 feet or more in height. When the height of the wall or fence is 10 feet or more, no material shall be stored within the enclosed area to a height greater than that of such wall or fence for a distance of 37 feet from such wall or fence. After the minimum setback of either 50 feet or 37 feet have been observed, materials may be stored over the height of such wall or fence as determined by the Zoning Administrator.

(3) The property upon which any use enumerated in this Subdivision is conducted shall be landscaped to a minimum distance of five feet measured at a right angle from the adjacent street, except for those areas which are necessary for ingress and egress.

(4) Hours of operation shall be tailored to and be compatible with adjoining uses.

(5) Signs displaying the name of the company and/or operator, address and hours of operation shall be posted at or near the main entrance gate to the recycling facility at all times.

(6) Wood waste and/or green waste recycling activities under this Subdivision shall not exceed the noise level set forth in Section 111.03 of this Code as measured from any point on adjacent property which is located in any "A," "R," "C," "P" or "M" zone.

(7) All wood waste and/or green waste recycling uses must comply with all necessary public safety requirements of Section 57.08.01 through 57.08.13 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. Such uses must not emit any odor or smell that is offensive to adjacent uses and must further satisfy all necessary requirements as set forth by applicable state and county agencies.

(8) No standing water shall be allowed to accumulate anywhere on the site.

(9) All leachates shall be collected, controlled, disposed of and shall not be allowed to remain at the site at any time.

(10) The minimum lot area requirements set forth in Sections 12.05 and 12.06 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code shall be complied with for any chipping and grinding, composting, curing or mulching facility located in the A1 or A2 zone.

(11) In addition to the findings otherwise required by this Section, before granting an approval the Zoning Administrator shall find that adequate safeguards are provided to control impacts resulting from residual waste materials, airborne transmission of dust particles, or debris from stockpiles, storage areas or roadways located on the premises.

Sec. 5 .....The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and cause the same to be published in some daily newspaper printed and published in the City of Los Angeles.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was introduced at the meeting of the Council of the City of Los Angeles SEP 20 1994 and was passed at its meeting of SEP 27 1994

Approved OCT 0 7 1994

CITY CLERK

BY _____
Deputy

Approved as to Form and Legality

APR 2 2 1994

JAMES K. HAHN, City Attorney,

By _____
MARJORIE HAMANO CURRIER
Deputy City Attorney

_____
ACTING Mayor

File No. C.F. No. 92-0846
CPC No. 92-0351
CNS1213920 10/13

City Clerk Form 23

Pursuant to Sec. 97.8 of the City Charter, approval of this ordinance recommended by the City Planning Commission

APR 7 1994

See attached report

_____
Director of Planning