

HB2574: Natural Organic Reduction

House Committee on Business and Labor | March 1, 2021 | Katrina Spade





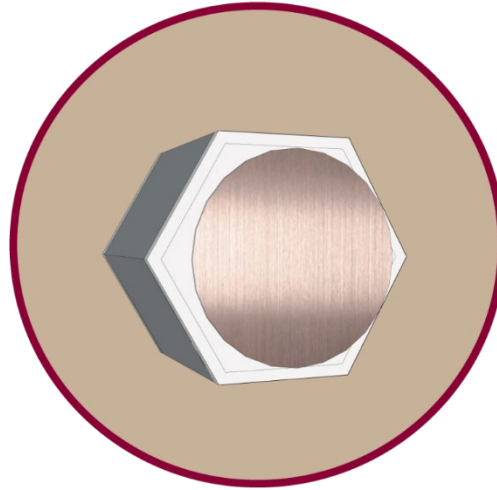
Natural organic reduction (NOR)

A managed biological process used to convert human remains into soil.

This soil can be given back to families for use on gardens or donated to conservation land.

NOR is a new form of death care that helps contribute to environmental health.

The Recompose Process



1. We start with a blend of wood chips, alfalfa, and straw.
2. The body is laid into a vessel, covered with this mixture, and aerated to provide oxygen for beneficial microbes.
3. In one month, all that remains is a clean, usable soil.

Like Ashes, but Soil



	Fuel	Activator	Result
Cremation	Natural gas	Fire	Ashes
Natural Organic Reduction	Wood chips	Microbes	Soil



Washington State Senate Bill 5001

- Authorized “the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.”
- Supported by funeral directors, hospice staff, individuals, and religious leaders
- Also authorized use of alkaline hydrolysis in WA State
- Went into effect May 1, 2020

Proven Safe and Effective



Pathogens: destroyed by high temperatures



Heavy Metals: made less soluble through binding



Pharmaceuticals: reduced through decomposition

Proven Safe and Effective



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Environmental Benefits

Natural organic reduction uses:

- 1/8 the energy of conventional burial or cremation
- saves one metric ton of carbon per person who chooses it

One metric ton of carbon is equivalent to:



1102
POUNDS OF COAL
BURNED



2481
MILES DRIVEN BY AN
AVERAGE
PASSENGER
VEHICLE



127,532
SMARTPHONES
CHARGED



Vision

Demand for NOR

- Recompose has 20,000 members signed up for our email newsletter
- Precompose, our prepayment program, has 626 members
- Recompose has heard significant interest from Oregonians, including over 750 members of our email list
- Recompose is also pursuing legalization in California, Colorado, and New York in the upcoming 2021 legislative session

Public Interest

Creates additional choices for consumers and businesses

Sequesters carbon and builds healthy soil

Soil donation and meaningful use

