

# Attachment 1 to Staff Report for Resolution No. 24-5428

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## Applicant

The applicant, Divert PNW Dev Co, LLC is a subsidiary of Divert, Inc., a company based in Concord, Massachusetts that creates advanced technologies and sustainable infrastructure to eliminate wasted food. The Divert Integrated Food Recovery Facility is a food waste processing and anaerobic digestion facility that is currently under development in Longview, Washington.

The facility plans to receive pre-consumer packaged, unpackaged and liquid food waste from commercial food retailers and producers. The proposed facility's operations are divided into two stages: food waste processing and anaerobic digestion. Divert's processing equipment will separate food waste from packaging to produce a nutrient rich liquid slurry, which will be added to the on-site anaerobic digestion tank where bacteria will break down the organic matter and convert the organic carbon into biogas. The facility will further process the biogas into renewable natural gas (RNG), which will be injected into an existing offsite natural gas pipeline. The solids, or digestate, resulting from the anaerobic digestion process will be collected and transported to a permitted composting facility that has not yet been identified at the time of this staff report. The non-recoverable residual waste from the depackaging process will be disposed of at Headquarters Landfill in Cowlitz County, Washington.

The Longview facility applied for a solid waste permit from Cowlitz County and a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit from the Washington Department of Ecology. Neither permit has been issued as of the writing of this staff report. Staff will continue to monitor the permitting process to ensure that the permits are issued and effective prior to authorizing the flow of food waste generated in the Metro region to this facility via the designated facility agreement (DFA).

Divert operates a similar facility in Albany, Oregon which depackages and processes commercial food waste into a slurry that it transports to a neighboring farm for anaerobic digestion. Packaged and unpackaged commercial food waste generated within the Metro region has flowed to the Albany facility since it opened in 2017, first under Non-System Licenses (No. N-180-17 and N-181-17) and currently under DFA No. 937405 that became effective on Sept. 1, 2021 (Resolution No. 21-5167). Under the DFA, the Albany facility has received nearly 5,000 tons of food waste per year from the Metro region. Thirty percent of this waste becomes residual during the depackaging process and is subject to the Metro regional system fee and excise tax. Staff anticipates a similar residual rate at the new facility. Divert has not indicated whether any of the Metro area food waste currently going to Albany will be routed to the Longview facility.