



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE**

**Summary of Solid Waste and Water Protection Permits and Approvals
That May be Required for Composting Facilities in Connecticut**

All permits or approvals for composting facilities must be secured prior to operation. DEEP strongly recommends that operators of composting facilities which do not require permits contact the DEEP Recycling program for technical assistance.

With Respect to Solid Waste Management Permits:

- Composting is considered a volume reduction activity.
- A composting facility requires a solid waste volume reduction permit only if the processing capacity of the facility exceeds 1 ton/hour or 5,000 cubic yards/yr.
- Stockpiling raw organic materials on-site for longer than 45 days constitutes disposal and would require all appropriate disposal facility permits.
- Composting facilities which process only leaves and sheet leaf composting activities are exempt from needing solid waste volume reduction and water discharge permits provided they register with and/or notify the department on forms specified by the Commissioner.
- Composting activities of source separated organic materials, such as food residuals, occurring at the location where they are generated do not need a solid waste permit. An example of this would be a university campus composting program. They may, however, need a water protection permit.
- Composting facilities are required to report to DEEP on such things as volume received, residue produced, markets used etc. Facility operators should consult their individual permit conditions and appropriate regulations for specific requirements.

With Respect to Water Protection Permits:

- The need for a wastewater discharge permit as it relates to composting facilities is typically decided on a case-by-case basis depending on size, location, and feedstocks accepted.
- Actual or potential discharge should be eliminated as a pollution prevention measure whenever possible.
- Composting activities at POTW's are generally regulated through NPDES permits.
- Registration for a storm water discharge general permit may be required.

Abbreviations

CNMP: Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

GSI: General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activities

NPDES: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

POTW: Publicly Owned Treatment Works

SSOM: Source-Separated Organic Material

Permit Summary Table

The following table is intended to guide staff and potential applicants as to the waste and/or water permits or approvals that may be required for specific types of composting facilities. The information provided herein is not to be relied upon as a complete description or interpretation of the provisions in any solid waste or water protection regulation. It is also not meant to cover every scenario that may arise. The DEEP strongly recommends that anyone who is currently operating or interested in establishing a composting facility become familiar with pertinent regulations and statutes, and contact the appropriate permitting division for technical assistance prior to final decision. Solid Waste Permitting: 860-424-3366; Water Permitting: 860-424-3018. It is also recommended that local authorities be contacted concerning potential municipal approvals.

Permit Summary Table

Type of Material	Where Material Is Generated	Where Material Is Composted	Type of Facility	Permit or Approvals Needed
Source Separated Organic Material*	On-site	On-site	Source Separated Organic Materials Composting Operation (enclosed)	Solid Waste Volume Reduction Permit only if >1 tph or >5,000 cy/yr
Source Separated Organic Material*	On-site	On-site	Source Separated Organic Materials Composting Operation (not enclosed)	Solid Waste Volume Reduction Permit only if >1 tph or >5,000 cy/yr; and GSI
Source Separated Organic Material*	Off-site	Off-site	Volume Reduction Facility (enclosed)	Solid Waste Volume Reduction Permit only if >1 tph or >5,000 cy/yr
Source Separated Organic Material*	Off-site	Off-site	Volume Reduction, Small Scale Composting or On-Farm Composting Facility (not enclosed)	Solid Waste Volume Reduction Permit only if >1 tph or >5,000 cy/yr; and GSI or CNMP**
Mixed Municipal Solid Waste	Off-site	Off-site	Volume Reduction Facility (enclosed)	Solid Waste Volume Reduction Permit only if >1 tph or >5,000 cy/yr; and certificate of need.
Mixed Municipal Solid Waste	Off-site	Off-site	Volume Reduction Facility (not enclosed)	Solid Waste Volume Reduction Permit only if >1 tph or >5,000 cy/yr; and certificate of need and GSI
Leaves	Off-site	Off-site	Leaf Composting Facility	Registration through Recycling Program
Leaves	Off-site	On-farm	Sheet Leaf Composting Location	Notification through Recycling Program
Agricultural Waste	On-farm	On-farm	On-Farm Composting Facility	CNMP**
Agricultural Waste	On-farm	Off-farm	Volume Reduction Facility or Small Scale Composting Facility	Solid Waste Volume Reduction Permit only if >1 tph or >5,000 cy/yr and GSI
Agricultural Waste	Off-farm	On-farm	Volume Reduction, Small Scale Composting or On-Farm Composting Facility	Solid Waste Volume Reduction Permit only if >1 tph or >5,000 cy/yr and GSI or CNMP**
Biosolids With Bulking Agent	On-site	On-site	Publicly Owned Treatment Works	NPDES Permit Amendment and EPA 503 Permit
Biosolids With Bulking Agent	On-site	Off-site	Volume Reduction Facility	Solid Waste Volume Reduction Permit, GSI <u>and</u> EPA 503 Permit

* SSOM means source separated organic material, including, but not limited to, food scraps, food processing residue and soiled or unrecyclable paper that has been separated at the point or source of generation from nonorganic material.

**Must demonstrate that composting is an integral part of the farming operation.

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