

Guidelines for Completing an Operations and Management

Plan for Food Scrap Composting

The “*Current Authorization Pathways for Food Waste Management*” table provides an outline of current food waste permitting options. Food scraps may be incorporated in an existing leaf compost facility or an Applicant may apply for a new compost facility and propose to include food scraps in operations. These guidelines were developed to assist municipalities and other individuals looking to begin a food scrap composting operation with creating a supplemental Operations and Management Plan (“O&MP”). Submittal of an O&MP will provide the Applicant a mechanism to clearly describe the proposed composting operation that will be reviewed by Department staff. The Department acknowledges that food scrap composting projects may serve as learning opportunities and thus the O&MP may require flexibility. The outline below provides topics that, at a minimum, should be addressed in the O&MP. If you have any questions or concerns with developing an O&MP, please contact Frank Gagliardo, Supervising Environmental Analyst – Western District, at frank.p.gagliardo@ct.gov or 860-424-3130 or Kevin Barrett, Supervising Environmental Analyst – Eastern District, at kevin.barrett@ct.gov or 860-424-3697.

A. Introduction

- a. Brief description of the Facility and current registrations/permits.
- b. Description of proposed composting project – including specific materials to be used in composting: leaves, woodchips, grass clippings, food scraps, etc.
- c. Brief explanation for purpose of composting project.

B. Methods of Composting

- a. Type of composting operation (aerated static pile, machine turned windrows, etc.).
- b. Description of compost pad(s) – existing or newly proposed.
- c. Compost pile/windrow dimensions.
- d. Number of compost piles/windrows at the Facility (both with and without the inclusion of food scraps).

C. Overall Process

- a. Where food scraps originate (hauler, residents, etc.).
- b. When, and how often, food scraps will be received at the Facility.
- c. Where food scraps will be received/stored before incorporation into compost piles/windrows.
- d. How often food scraps will be incorporated into compost piles/windrows.
- e. Estimated quantity of food scraps to be received monthly.
- f. Quantity (in cubic yards [“CY”]) of materials to be used in each composting pile/windrow (i.e. 4 CY leaves to 1 CY food scraps, or other).
- g. Desired carbon to nitrogen ratio (“C:N”) to be maintained throughout operations (i.e. 30:1, or other).
- h. Type of cover material, if applicable.

D. Testing & Monitoring

- a. Proposed monitoring of compost piles/windrows (i.e. moisture content, temperature, etc.) and frequency of monitoring.
- b. Proposed testing methods of matured compost, if applicable.

E. Site Controls

- a. Measures to reduce leachate generated from compost piles/windrows.
- b. Measures to reduce runoff and stormwater accumulation at the Facility.
- c. Measures to reduce/eliminate odors.
- d. Measures to prevent fires.

F. Emergency Response Protocols

- a. Hours Facility is staffed.
- b. Protocols to follow if a fire or other emergency is identified.

G. Schedule

- a. Tentative schedule of compost project operations, including estimated timeline to create mature compost.

H. Demonstration Project Participants

- a. Identify individuals who manage composting operations at the Facility and their history/knowledge of composting.