

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Composting in Georgia

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September 29, 2009



Regulations and Permitting



Types of solid waste composting permits in Georgia

Exempt

- Yard trimmings
- On-site agricultural waste
- On-site household waste

Permit-by-Rule (PBR)

- Applies to a facility processing no less than 75% (by weight) of solid waste generated at the PBR facility or facilities owned by the same person who owns the PBR facility

Full Solid Waste Handling Permit

Georgia's solid waste regulations



A solid waste handling permit for processing is required if...

Solid waste such as garbage, food industry by-products, industrial or municipal sludge, or solid waste other than yard trimmings are being composted



Requirements for Solid Waste Handling Permit

- **Application**
- **Siting**
 - Zoning, topography, floodplains, wetlands, hydrogeologic and site assessment
- **Design standards**
 - Capacity, equipment, storage time, types of waste, air quality, wastewater, fire protection, and disposal of surplus compost
- **Performance standards**
 - Supervision, compost, information posted, cleanliness and sanitation



Requirements for solid waste handling permit in Georgia

Administrative requirements

- Complete an application for a solid waste handling permit and a request for site suitability
- Provide documentation of public hearing(s) held by the host jurisdiction



Requirements for solid waste handling permit in Georgia

Application

Siting

- Zoning, consistent with the host jurisdiction's solid waste management plan, topography, floodplains, wetlands, stream, and hydrogeologic and site assessments

Design standards

Performance standards



Requirements for solid waste handling permit in Georgia

Design and operational plans (design)

- Prepared by a professional engineer
- Site design sheet (showing property lines, site topography, existing physical/land features, facility layout, access to facility)
- Facility layout (showing receiving area, mixing area, composting area, curing area, finished product storage area, stormwater control, wastewater control, pad design)



Requirements for solid waste handling permit in Georgia

Design and operational plans (operation)

- Description of incoming waste
- Storage and containment
- Processing of waste
- Contingency and emergency procedures
- Supervision and manpower requirements
- Closure plan
- Financial responsibility

Addressing Food Waste



- Stakeholder group convened in November 2006 to prioritize projects to encourage food waste diversion
- Outcomes of meeting:
 - Identified existing barriers to diverting food waste in Georgia
 - Lack of markets
 - Low landfill tipping fees
 - Logistical issues
 - Feasibility of locating site near feedstock
 - Obtaining Solid Waste Handling Permit
 - Lack of awareness
 - Brainstormed potential opportunities to overcome the barriers

Public-Private Partnership to Divert Food Waste in Georgia



July 2007: EPD awarded \$45K resource conservation grant

- Identified multi-pronged approach to address lack of awareness by local governments, regulatory barriers, and development of end markets for compost
 - **Work with Georgia DOT to promote use of compost**
 - **Provide training for local elected officials**
 - **Sponsor compost business investment forum**
 - **Review compost rules**



Resources Available

Access to Research

Searchable PDF of compost rule from each state

Compost Contacts

Definition File

Listserv

States with compost rules



Arkansas	Louisiana	New Jersey	Tennessee
California	Maine	New Mexico	Texas
Colorado	Maryland*	New York	Utah
Connecticut	Massachusetts	North Carolina	Vermont
Florida	Michigan	North Dakota	Virginia
Hawaii	Minnesota	Ohio	Washington*
Idaho*	Mississippi	Oklahoma	West Virginia
Illinois	Missouri	Oregon	Wisconsin*
Indiana	Montana	Pennsylvania	Wyoming*
Iowa	Nebraska	Rhode Island	
Kansas	Nevada	South Carolina	
Kentucky	New Hampshire	South Dakota	

States currently revising rules



Alabama

California

Florida

Georgia

Kentucky

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

New Jersey

New York

Ohio

Oregon

Pennsylvania

South Carolina

Virginia

Vermont

Washington

Wisconsin

Stakeholder Process



Third Party Facilitator

Representatives from:

- Trade Associations
- Government Agencies
 - Local, State and Federal
- Industry/Facility Operators
- USCC
- Generators/End-Users
- Research/University

Stakeholder Process



Survey

Three Facilitated Meetings

1: Identify pros/cons of current rule

2: Review strawman

3: Seek final recommendations

Prepare package for Board

Strawman



Tiered Permit Structure

- Feedstock (5 Categories)
- Permits
 - No permit
 - PBR
 - Permit

Feedstock Categories



- **Category A (Yard trimmings, land-clearing debris, agricultural waste generated and processed on-site, untreated and unpainted wood, or any combination thereof)**
- **Category B (source separated organics and agricultural waste processed off-site)**
- **Category C (Sewage sludge and biosolids)**
- **Category D (Fats; oils and greases; DAF skimmings; dewatered septage; and municipal solid waste)**

Design and Operation Criteria



- **Class 1 – Facilities composting, chipping, and/or mulching of feedstock category A, only, do not require and permit.**

Design and Operation Criteria



- **Class 2 – facilities may operate under permit-by-rule for feedstock categories A & B, provided:**
 - 1. Facilities composting 75% by weight feedstock generated by the operator/owner; or**
 - 2. Facilities composting less than 500 tons/month and less than 2 acres ins size.**

Design and Operation Criteria



- **Class 3 – Facilities composting feedstock categories A & B not meeting the requirements for permit-by-rule.**
 - 1. Design and operation plan prepared by a professional engineer.**
 - 2. Composting pad specifications.**
 - 3. Operating criteria for ensuring pathogen reduction.**

Design and Operation Criteria



- **Class 4 – Facilities composting feedstock categories A, B & C.**
 - 1. Meet class 3 criteria.**
 - 2. Comply with 40 CFR 501 and 503 standards.**
 - 3. Installation of a groundwater monitoring system.**

Design and Operation Criteria



- **Class 5 – Facilities composting feedstock categories A, B, C & D.**
 - 1. Meet class 4 standards.**
 - 2. Feedstock receiving and mixing area enclosed.**
 - 3. Mandatory odor control plan.**

Design and Operation Criteria



- **Class 6 – Facilities composting using an in-vessel method.**
 1. **Design and operation criteria dependent on the type of technology, equipment, and feedstock categories.**



For more information

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