



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF MUNICIPAL AND RESIDUAL WASTE

GENERAL PERMIT WMGR025
RESIDUAL AND MUNICIPAL WASTE COMPOSTING

Issued: February 10, 2018
Expires: February 10, 2028

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A. Description:

1. This general permit authorizes the composting and beneficial use of the following categories of source-separated wastes:
 - a. agricultural waste other than mortalities;
 - b. butcher waste other than whole carcass;
 - c. food processing waste;
 - d. pre-consumer and post-consumer food residuals;
 - e. yard waste;
 - f. land clearing and grubbing material;
 - g. untreated wood waste (wood waste materials cannot be derived from wood that was treated, painted, laminated or engineered);
 - h. gypsum wallboard;
 - i. paper;
 - j. cardboard;
 - k. waxed cardboard;
 - l. virgin paper mill sludge; and
 - m. spent mushroom substrate.
2. The beneficial uses of the finished compost approved in this permit are for use, marketing or distribution as a soil conditioner, soil amendment, fertilizer, mulch or for erosion control.
3. The finished compost is not considered a waste when it has satisfied the conditions of this permit and is ready for use, marketing or distribution as a soil conditioner, soil amendment, fertilizer, mulch or for erosion control.

B. Registration Requirements:

A person or municipality that proposes to operate under the terms and conditions of this general permit after the date of permit issuance must obtain a registration from the appropriate Department Regional Office (see attached list) prior to commencing authorized activities under this general permit. A completed application on forms provided by the Department, along with the application fee for a registration must be submitted to the appropriate Department Regional Office. No activities shall commence unless approved, in writing, by the Department.

C. Operating Conditions

1. The beneficial use of compost as a soil amendment is contingent upon compliance with this permit and, if sold, the *Pennsylvania Fertilizer, Soil Conditioner and Plant Growth Substance Law* of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. (Information relating to this law may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture by writing the *Bureau of Plant Industry, Division of Agronomic Services, 230 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408.*)
2. This permit requires the use of windrows, aerated piles, or enclosed (within) vessel methods of composting for pathogen control.

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- a. For the windrow method, the temperature of the compost during the composting phase of the operation shall be maintained at a minimum of 55°C (131°F) or greater for at least 15 days, and the windrows shall be turned a minimum of five times.
 - b. For the aerated or enclosed (within) vessel method, the temperature of the compost during the composting phase of the operation shall be maintained at a minimum of 55°C (131°F) for at least 72 consecutive hours.
 - c. The minimum curing time for the compost shall be at least 30 days after the composting processing is finished.
3. Approval to operate under this permit is limited to composting facilities that do not exceed (15) acres. The composting facility shall include waste material storage areas, the composting and curing areas, and the finished compost storage area (other than areas storing bagged product for retail sale).
 4. The finished compost produced for beneficial use may not exceed the limits for metals listed in Table 1, below. This determination may be based on the 95 percent upper confidence level for each metal. For each metal, the test shall be based on the "total" analysis conducted using the Test Methods for the Evaluation of Solid Waste (EPA SW-846). The facility is responsible for notifying the Department of any additional chemical constituents that may be found in any of the final compost the facility produces.

TABLE 1

Parameters	Total (mg/kg)
Cadmium	3.4
Chromium (Total)	87
Copper	290
Lead	160
Nickel	26

5. The finished compost shall contain no more than 1% of synthetic (i.e. man-made) inert material, and no more than 0.5% of plastic material, as measured using a four-millimeter (4 mm) sieve.
6. An analysis of a composite compost sample for the parameters in Table 1, and the testing requirement in Condition C.5., must be performed, at a minimum, using the following testing frequency:
 - a. Once per quarter for a facility with an annual compost production of 1 to 6,250 tons.
 - b. Once per two months for a facility with an annual compost production of 6,251 to 17,500 tons.
 - c. Once per month for a facility with an annual compost production of 17,500 tons or greater.

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7. Composting pads shall be constructed a minimum of four (4) feet above the seasonal high water table. The composting pad shall be constructed of concrete, asphalt or remolded asphalt. Composting pads constructed of earthen materials are also permitted provided they are no more permeable than 1×10^{-6} cm/sec in the upper most six (6) inches as confirmed by on-site testing. The composting pad shall be sloped to prevent the ponding of liquids.
8. The composting pad shall be capable of maintaining structural integrity under normal operating conditions, collecting all liquids and solids generated by the composting process and be capable of supporting vehicular traffic on the pad. The composting pad shall be inspected for uniformity, damage and imperfections during construction, installation and operation.
9. Structures or tanks used for enclosed (internal) vessel methods of composting shall be constructed in accordance with 25 Pa. Code § 299.122 (relating to storage tanks) and shall be maintained as per the manufacturer's requirements.
10. The access road to the facility shall be paved or surfaced with asphalt, gravel, cinder or equivalent material and be capable of withstanding the vehicular traffic. The access road shall be compacted and maintained in order to control dust and to prevent or minimize the tracking of mud onsite or offsite. A gate or other barrier shall be maintained at potential vehicular access points to block unauthorized access to the site when the facility is not operating.
11. Leachate generated at the facility shall be stored in a tank, container or impoundment designed in accordance with 25 Pa. Code Chapter 299 prior to treatment or reuse on-site, discharge to a POTW, or hauling off-site for treatment and/or disposal. The leachate shall be managed in accordance with The Clean Streams Law and regulations promulgated thereunder. All necessary permits for the management of leachate at the facility must be obtained prior to beginning composting operations.
12. All incoming waste, excluding land clearing and grubbing material and leaf waste, must be incorporated into the composting processes within 72 hours or within the time period prescribed in Conditions 13, 14, and 15.
13. Pre- and post-consumer food residual waste must be stored in closed, leak-proof containers. This waste may not be held in closed containers for more than 72 hours prior to being incorporated into the composting process.
14. Pre-consumer and post-consumer food residuals, food processing waste and manure are the only waste streams that may be accepted at the facility in liquid form. The liquid food waste and manure may be added during composting to achieve the appropriate moisture content and should not be used to the extent that these liquids will discharge from the bottom of the compost pile.
15. Butcher waste, which is the residual material generated from the processing or butchering of animals, must be stored in containers that are built in accordance with 25 Pa. Code § 299.121 (relating to containers). This material may not be stored for more

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than 24 hours before it is incorporated into the compost mixture. The butcher waste must be free from any diseases.

16. Gypsum wallboard may be added at a rate not to exceed 10% by volume.
17. Virgin paper mill sludge is defined as the accumulated solids resulting solely from the treatment of wastewater in the production of paper and pulp from virgin wood. This definition does not include waste sources from coating operations or sludge mixed with sanitary waste.
18. If spent mushroom substrate was used to produce finished compost, then a leachability evaluation shall be conducted on the compost using the Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (EPA method 1312) for chlorides and sulfates. The finished compost may not contain chloride levels in excess of 250 mg/l or sulfate levels in excess of 500 mg/l.
19. Liquid manure used off the farm and liquid food processing waste must be stored in tanks that are built in accordance with 25 Pa. Code § 299.122 (relating to storage tanks). This material may not be stored for more than seven days before it is incorporated into the compost mixture.
20. The operator of the facility must develop and maintain a plan for the alternative management of materials during periods when the facility is not in operation. Waste may not be stored for more than one year at the permitted facility.
21. The activities authorized by this permit shall not cause or allow conditions that are harmful to the environment, public health or safety, including but not limited to, odors, noise, or other public nuisances. The operator of the facility must develop and implement a nuisance minimization plan that will manage any circumstances that are harmful to the environment or public health. The operator shall control and minimize conditions that will attract, harbor, or breed vectors, create safety hazards, odors, dust, noise, or unsightliness and other public nuisances.
22. The facility shall not be located:
 - a. In the 100-year floodplain of waters of this Commonwealth;
 - b. In or within 300 feet of an exceptional value wetland;
 - c. In or within 100 feet of a wetland other than an exceptional value wetland;
 - d. Within 100 feet of a sinkhole or area draining into a sinkhole;
 - e. Within 300 feet measured horizontally from an occupied dwelling unless the owner has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 300 feet;
 - f. Within 50 feet of a property line unless the owner has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 50 feet;
 - g. Within 100 feet of a perennial stream;

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- h. Within 300 feet of a water source unless the owner has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 300 feet;
 - i. Within 900 feet of the following, if existing prior to the date the Department received an administratively complete application, unless a written waiver is obtained from the current property owner of:
 - A. A building owned by a school district or parochial school and used for instructional purposes;
 - B. A park;
 - C. A playground.
 - j. In an area where the facility would adversely affect a habitat of a known endangered or threatened species.
23. Upon cessation of permitted operations at the facility, the permittee shall assure remove all wastes and provide for the processing, recycling, beneficial use, or disposal of wastes in accordance with the SWMA, the environmental protection acts and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
24. Storage of the produced compost shall be covered to prevent dispersal by wind or water erosion and in a manner that prevents fire or explosion. The produced compost may not be stored in a manner that causes ground or surface water contamination.
25. The local police, fire department, or other appropriate state or local emergency response agencies shall be contacted immediately in the event of a fire, spill, or other hazard arising from the storage and curing of produced compost that threatens public health, safety, and welfare, or the environment, and whenever necessary in the event of personal injury related to such storage.
26. The permittee shall develop and implement a Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plan (PPC) that is consistent with the Department's most recent guidelines.
27. All activities conducted under the authorization granted in this permit shall be conducted in accordance with the permittee's application. Except to the extent the permit states otherwise, the permittee shall utilize materials as described in the permit application.
28. The permittee shall comply with the fugitive emissions regulations under 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 123 (relating to standards for contaminants) issued under the Air Pollution Control Act, the Act of January 8, 1960, P.L. 2119, 35 P.S. §4005, and shall comply with all the applicable provisions of 25 Pa. Code §§123.1 and 123.2 (relating to prohibition of certain fugitive emissions and fugitive particulate matter).
29. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to supersede, amend, or authorize a violation of any of the provisions of any valid and applicable local law, ordinance, or regulation, providing that said local law, ordinance, or regulation is not preempted by the Solid Waste Management Act (SWMA), 35 P.S. §§ 6018.101—6018.1001; and the Municipal

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Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988, 53 P.S. §§4000.101, et seq.

30. As a condition of this general permit and of the permittee's authority to conduct the activities authorized by this general permit, the permittee hereby authorizes and consents to allow authorized employees or agents of the Department, without advance notice or search warrant, upon presentation of appropriate credentials and without delay, to have access to and inspect all areas on which solid waste management activities are being, will be, or have been conducted. This authorization and consent shall include consent to collect samples of waste, soils, water, or gases; take photographs; perform measurements, surveys, and other tests; inspect any monitoring equipment; inspect the methods of operation and inspect and/or copy documents, books, and papers required by the Department to be maintained. This permit condition is referenced in accordance with Sections 6018.608 and 6018.610(7) of the SWMA, 35 P.S. §§ 6018.608 and 6018.610(7). This condition in no way limits any other powers granted under the SWMA.
31. Any independent contractors or agents retained by the permittee in the completion of activities authorized under this general permit shall be subject to compliance history review by the Department prior to performance of any activities, as specified by the SWMA.
32. Failure of measures herein approved to perform as intended, or as designed, or in compliance with the applicable laws, rules, and regulations and terms and conditions of this permit, for any reason, shall be grounds for the revocation or suspension of the permittee's approval to operate under this permit.
33. The activities authorized by this general permit shall not harm or present a threat of harm to the health, safety, or welfare of the people or environment of this Commonwealth. The Department may modify, suspend, revoke, and reissue the authorization granted in this general permit if it deems necessary to prevent harm or the threat of harm to the public health, and the environment or if they cannot be adequately regulated under the conditions of this general permit.
34. The permittee shall comply with the terms and conditions of this general permit and with the environmental protection acts to the same extent as if the activities were covered by an individual permit. The Department may require an individual permit be obtained if the permittee cannot comply with the conditions of this general permit or is conducting an activity that harms or presents a threat of harm to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or the environment of this Commonwealth.
35. This permit does not authorize and shall not be construed as an approval to discharge any waste, wastewater, or runoff from the site of processing to the land or waters of the Commonwealth.
36. Best Management Practices shall be implemented to divert storm water run-on from the facility. Storm water runoff shall be managed in accordance with The Clean Streams Law and regulations promulgated thereunder. Prior to beginning construction at the facility, the operator must obtain all the necessary storm water management permits.

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37. The permittee shall maintain in force and affect a general liability insurance policy in accordance with 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 287, Subchapter E (relating to bonding and insurance requirements) to provide continuous coverage during operation of the facility and until the Department issues a final closure certification.
38. For facilities larger than five acres or facilities that manage a total volume greater than 6,000 yd³/acre, the permittee shall maintain a bond in sufficient guarantees in accordance with 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 271, Subchapter D (relating to financial assurances requirements) or 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 287, Subchapter E (relating to bonding and insurance requirements) to provide continuous coverage during operation the facility and until the Department issues a final closure certification.
39. Equipment used for the storage of authorized beneficial use material or compost shall be maintained in good operating condition. Daily inspections of each storage area and surrounding environs shall be conducted to determine compliance of the terms and conditions of this general permit and for evidence of failure.
40. Storage of authorized beneficial use material or compost by the permittee shall be in a manner that complies with the requirements set forth in 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 299 (relating to storage and transportation of residual waste).
41. The authorized beneficial use material and compost shall not be mixed with other types of solid wastes, including hazardous waste, municipal waste, special handling waste, or other residual waste, as the terms are defined in 25 Pa. Code § 287.1.
42. Analytical testing required by this general permit shall be performed by a laboratory accredited under the Pennsylvania Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Act, Act of 2002, 27 Pa. C.S.A. §§ 4101-4113.
43. Any waste generated from the composting process shall be managed in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. §§ 6018.101 -6018.1003 and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

D. Recordkeeping:

1. The permittee shall maintain records of all analytical evaluations conducted in accordance with this permit, and records shall be made available to the Department upon request. Required records shall be retained for a minimum of 5 years. Records of analytical evaluations must include, at a minimum, the following for each sample: the dates of sampling and testing, sampling procedures utilized, name of the individual who collected the sample, the volume or weight of the sample, each parameter tested, the analytical results, the name of the analytical laboratory used, and the analytical methodologies employed.

The permittee shall maintain records of all waste accepted by the facility, and records shall be made available to the Department upon request. Required records shall be retained for a minimum of 5 years. Records of each source of incoming waste must include, at a minimum, the following: the name, address, and phone number of each source of incoming waste; the date of receipt; the quantity of waste received; the results of visual observations; and the name, address, and phone number of the destination of

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each outgoing shipment of waste or compost, and the weight or volume of each outgoing shipment of waste or compost. The permittee shall also maintain records of spills or releases that include, at a minimum, the following: the location, date, time, identification, and quantity of spilled or released material, and a description of how the material was cleaned up. The permittee shall also maintain records of all reports submitted to the Department or to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

2. The operator shall maintain records to demonstrate that all compost produced by the facility meets the time/temperature standards of Condition C.2. These records shall be provided to the Department upon request, and shall be maintained onsite for a minimum of five years.

E. Reporting Requirements

1. Any person that operates under the provisions of this permit shall immediately notify the Department via certified mail of any changes in: the company name, address, owners, operators, and/or responsible officials of the company; the physical or chemical characteristics of the waste; the process that generates the waste; compliance status; and the status of any permit issued by the Department or federal government under the environmental protection acts.
2. Persons operating under the provisions of this general permit shall submit to the appropriate Department Regional Office (see attached list), an annual report on the beneficial use activities conducted under this permit by March 1 for the preceding calendar year. The annual report shall include a summary of the waste received at the facility, a copy of any required analytical data, and a summary of the weight or volume of compost generated at, and distributed from, the facility for the previous year.
3. The permittee shall immediately notify the Department's Emergency Hotline by telephone at 800-541-2050 and the waste management program in the appropriate DEP regional office (see attached list) of any accidental spills and shall take appropriate immediate action to protect the health and safety of the public and the environment.

F. Renewal

A generator or supplier that plans to continue the operations authorized under this general permit, after the expiration date indicated on the approval for coverage page, shall file a complete application for permit renewal at least 180 days before the expiration date of this general permit unless permission has been granted by the Department for submission at a later date. The renewal applications shall be submitted to the appropriate DEP Regional Office (see attached list) and include, at a minimum, the following:

- (i) General Information Form (Authorization Application for a Residual or Municipal Waste General Permit Application),
- (ii) Form B (Professional Certification),
- (iii) Form 20 (Application for a Municipal or Residual Waste General Permit),
- (iv) Form 27R (Acceptance of General Permit Conditions), and

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- (v) Registration application fee in the amount identified in Section A (General Information) of the Form 20. A check shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

A copy of the renewal application shall also be sent to the Department's Bureau of Waste Management, Division of Municipal and Residual Waste, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, P.O. Box 69170, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9170.

In the event that a timely and complete application for renewal has been submitted and the Department is unable, through no fault of the permittee, to reissue the general permit or approval for coverage before its current coverage expiration date, the terms and conditions of the approved coverage will automatically continue and will remain fully effective and enforceable pending the issuance or denial of the renewal for permit coverage, provided the permittee is, and has been, operating in compliance with the terms and conditions of the general permit.

**Department of Environmental Protection
Regional Offices
(and Counties Served)**

- I. Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia.

Southeast Regional Office

2 East Main Street
Norristown, PA 19401
Phone: (484) 250 - 5960

- II. Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

Northeast Regional Office

2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790
Phone: (570) 826 – 2516

- III. Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York.

Southcentral Regional Office

909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200
Phone: (717) 705 – 4706

- IV. Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, Union.

Northcentral Regional Office

208 West 3rd Street - Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: (570) 327 – 3653

- V. Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.

Southwest Regional Office

400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745
Phone: (412) 442 – 4000

- VI. Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

Northwest Regional Office

230 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335-3481
Phone: 814-332-6848