

Compost Use Standards for Wisconsin

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Diverting Organic Materials from Landfills



- Organics: ~50% by weight of all landfilled material (2002 data)
 - Compostables (20%)
 - Wood (13%)
 - Recyclable Paper (13%)
- Loss of material resources
- Climate impacts
- Landfill stability issues

Composting of Source Separated Organics

- Interest from retailers, restaurants, institutions and municipalities
- Increasing demand for compost products
- Composting of non-vegetable food and compostable paper not well accommodated by existing Wisconsin regulations



Lack of Standards Hindering Progress

- AROW petition for rulemaking
- Existing low hazard exemption process – the “17-page Guidance Document”
- DNR proceeding with rulemaking but limiting scope to source-separated organics

Existing Examples of Standards and Testing

- Minnesota
- Washington
- Massachusetts
- US Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance (STA)
- WDNR S100 Standard
- Draft NR 528 Accumulated Sediment Rule

Minnesota Compost Use Standards

- In place for 12+ years
- Based on compost product quality as determined by testing for:
 - Stability
 - Inerts
 - Metals
 - PCBs
- Class I compost definition is based on 40 CFR Part 503 criteria and uses are unrestricted

Washington Compost Use Standards

- 4 classes of feedstocks defined
- Frequency of testing of composted material based on feedstock type and volume received
- Metals standards are ~1/2 the 503 standards, i.e., more stringent
- Standards for inerts, pathogens, stability
- If compost meets the standards, no longer a solid waste and not regulated as solid waste

USCC Seal of Testing Assurance

- A testing and labeling program; does not set standards (enrollees must comply with fed/state standards)
- Required testing frequency based on annual tonnage of compost product
- Test results must be disclosed; promotes compost as mainstream product, allows comparison of products

WNDR S100 Standards

- Minimum requirements for use of compost to meet DNR stormwater requirements
- Wide range of test parameters
- Metals standards are those for high-quality biosolids, i.e., federal 503 numbers

Range of Standards (examples)

- Arsenic in compost product:
 - MN, 503, S100: 41 mg/kg
 - WA: 20 mg/kg
 - Draft NR 528 (sediment): 8 mg/kg
- Lead in compost product:
 - MN, 503, S100: 310 mg/kg
 - Draft NR 528 (sediment): 250 mg/kg
 - WA: 150 mg/kg

WI Compost Facility Standards (NR 502.12, Wis. Adm. Code)

- Level of regulation based on feedstocks, size of facility
- Exemptions for yard, agricultural, and vegetable food wastes
- Use of compost from exempt sites is largely deregulated



Review of Compost Facility Standards

- Volume limit for vegetable food scraps onsite
- Incorporation of vegetable food scraps into yard materials
- Exempt category for non-vegetable food scraps (e.g., cafeteria plate scrapings)
- Source separated organic feedstocks not otherwise covered in current rule

Technical Advisory Committee

Sandy Syburg	White Oak Farm
Tom Dummer	Green Earth Compost Products
Robert Regan	Dane County Public Works
Eric Uram	Sierra Club
Kathy Powell	Recycling Connections
Dick Wolkowski	UW-Madison Soil Science Dept
Michelle Gerrits	Wisconsin DOT
Joe Van Rossum	UW Extension – SHWEC
Charlene Khazae et al.	Wisconsin DATCP

Timetable

- Work with TAC to draft rule 6 months
- Hearings and revisions 3 months
- Adoption by NR Board 2 months
- Legislative review 2 months

...Earliest effective date likely to be May 1, 2010

Questions?

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