

GENERAL PERMIT WMGM052

Self-Contained Organics Collection and Transfer Prior to Composting

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF MUNICIPAL AND RESIDUAL WASTE**

Issued: February 27, 2015

Amended: July 23, 2015

Expires: February 27, 2025

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A. Description.

1. The approval herein granted is limited to self-contained organics collection systems per the terms and conditions of this permit. The waste streams accepted for collection in the organics collection and recycling system shall be non-liquid waste¹ and limited to the following categories of uncontaminated wastes: source separated food scraps, fruit, vegetables, breads, meat, fish, soiled cardboard, waxed cardboard, paper cups, paper towels, garden clippings, manure, wood chips and shavings, hay and other organic materials.
2. The approval herein allows for no more than five (5) self-contained organics collection systems to be placed at each location unless approved in writing by the Department.
3. The permittee shall comply with the fugitive emissions regulations under 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 123 (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 the Fugitive Emissions Sections 123.1 and 123.2.

B. Determination of Applicability Requirements.

Persons or municipalities that propose to operate under the terms and conditions of this general permit, after the date of permit issuance, must apply for and 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 available from the Department must be submitted to the appropriate Department Regional Office. The application shall include information on the sites where the storage vessels will be placed and a detailed operating plan that describes the organics collection and recycling activities including types and volumes of collected organic waste that will be stored and transported to a composting facility and the screening of incoming waste for acceptance or rejection. A check shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania". No activities shall commence unless specifically authorized by the Department in writing.

C. Operating Conditions.

1. 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 Pennsylvania Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. §6018.101 et seq; and the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of 1988, 53 P.S. §4000.101 et seq.

¹ EPA Method 9095 (Paint Filter Liquid Test) as described in the EPA Publication No. SW-846

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2. As a condition of this permit and of the permittee's authority to conduct the activities authorized by this 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 to 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 materials, compost material, soils, water, or gases; take photographs; to perform measurements, surveys, and other tests; inspect any monitoring equipment; to inspect the methods of operation and to inspect and/or copy documents, books, and papers required by the Department to be maintained. This permit condition is referenced in accordance with Sections 608 and 610(7) of the Solid Waste Management Act, 35 P.S. Sections 6018.608 and 6018.610(7). This condition in no way limits any other powers granted under the Solid Waste Management Act.
3. The activities authorized by this permit shall not harm or present a threat of harm to the health, safety or welfare of the public or environment of this Commonwealth. The Department may modify, suspend, revoke and reissue the authorization granted in this 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 permit.
4. 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, creates a nuisance, safety or welfare of the public or the environment.
5. 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.
6. Hazardous waste, special handling waste, and other waste may not be received, mixed and/or stored or beneficially used with the organic material.
7. All activities conducted under the authorization granted in this general permit shall be conducted in accordance with the permittee's application. Except to the extent that the permit states otherwise, the permittee shall operate as described in the approved application.
8. Any independent contractors or agents retained by the permittee in the completion of activities authorized under this permit shall be subject to compliance history review by the Department prior to performance of any activities, as specified by the Solid Waste Management Act of 1980.
9. This permit does not authorize and shall not be construed as an approval to discharge any industrial wastes, wastewater, leachate or runoff the waters of the Commonwealth.

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10. The maximum holding time for organics accumulation in the in-vessel composting bins will not exceed six weeks from the first placement of the waste.
11. In-vessel composting bins will be cleaned and re-conditioned in accordance with manufacturer's instructions after each trip to the recycling facility. Cleaning and re-conditioning will consist of containers and associated aeration piping cleaned with mild cleaning solution of a type recommended by the manufacturer, and a new layer of wood chips placed over the aeration header. Wood chips may be obtained from commercial composting facilities, local landscaping contractors or other sources approved by the Department. Engineered, treated or painted wood shall not be used to re-condition the vessel.
12. Upon cessation of the use of the organics collection system at the facility, the operator shall notify the Department, remove any wastes, or other materials which contain or have been contaminated with waste and shall provide for the processing and disposal of the waste or material in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Act, the environmental protection acts and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
13. Any waste generated from the collection, storage or transport of organic material prior to composting shall be managed in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Act of July 7, 1980, as amended, P.L. 380, No. 97, 35 P.S. §§6018.101 et seq. and the regulations promulgated there under.
14. The organics collection system shall incorporate an in-vessel composting bin which includes a biofiltration system using carbon to create an aerobic environment and designed to initiate composting.
15. A financial bond as specified in Chapter 287, Subchapter E is not required for organics collection systems operating in conformance with this general permit.
16. Rejected wastes and non-compostable materials shall be separated from the incoming wastes intended for composting, and shall be managed properly at a permitted disposal facility or recycled on a weekly basis.
17. An operational plan must be developed and implemented at the facility. The operational plan must include the following information:
 - a. A general site plan must be included which contains the following information for organics collection and storage:
 - (i) Access road
 - (ii) Tipping area
 - (iii) Location of composting vessels
 - (iv) Location of fences and gates limiting access to the facility
 - b. A narrative indicating the operational hours for receiving waste.

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- c. The volume of waste which is anticipated to be processed during the first year of operation.
 - d. A detailed description of the in-vessel compost system to include all piping, motors, blower units and control panels.
18. The operator of the facility where the organics collection and recycling system is located shall not cause or allow conditions that are harmful to the environment or public health or which create safety hazards, odors, noise, or other public nuisances or cause or allow the attraction, harborage, or breeding of vectors.
 19. Surface water runoff from the organics collection and recycling system shall be controlled and not cause surface water pollution or groundwater degradation and shall be managed in accordance with The Clean Streams Law and regulations promulgated thereunder and Chapter 102.
 20. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to supersede, amend or authorize to discharge any industrial waste, wastewater, leachate or runoff from the waste storage areas or enclosed vessels to the waters of the Commonwealth.
 21. The permitted facility shall not be located within the following siting restrictions:
 - 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 100 feet of a perennial stream;
 - f. Within 300 feet of a water source unless the owner has provided a written waiver consenting to the facility being closer than 300 feet.
 - g. Within 3.3 feet of a perched, seasonal or regional ground water table.
 22. Equipment used for the collection, storage and transportation of the collected organic material shall be maintained in good operating condition. Weekly inspections of each storage area including the in-vessel collection bins and associated mechanical aeration and filtration system and their surrounding environs are to be conducted to determine compliance of the terms and conditions of this general permit, and for evidence of failure.
 23. The operator of each facility where the organics collection and recycling system is located shall immediately contact local police or fire departments or other appropriate state or local emergency response agencies in the event of fire, spill, or other hazards that threaten public health, safety, welfare, or the environment.

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24. Any person operating under the provisions of this general permit must notify the Department, in writing, if the organics collection and recycling system facility is relocated or if new location(s) are to be included under this general permit. The information is to be submitted on a form provided by the Department 60 days prior to relocation. This notice is to be sent to the appropriate Department Regional Office.

D. Recordkeeping.

1. The facility operator shall maintain records of all material received at the facility for placement in the self-contained organics collection system. Records will include the name and facility address of off-site waste generators and haulers, the types of waste meeting condition A-1 and waste quantities expressed in either weight or volume. The facility will record the name of the permitted composting facility that receives the organic material for composting.
2. The facility operator shall maintain records of unacceptable wastes that are disposed of from the facility. The records shall include the disposal location and volume or weight of the waste that is disposed.
3. Records shall be maintained on site for five years and made available to Department representatives upon request.

E. Renewal.

1. A person or municipality that plans to continue the collection, storage and transportation of organic material prior to composting 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 application shall include a check made payable to the "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania" for the renewal application fee in the amount identified in Section A (General Information) of the Form 20 and must be submitted to the appropriate Department Regional Office. (see attached list)
2. 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.

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Annex A

**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 – 2511

- 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