

# Fact Sheet: Determining the Category of your Compost Facility

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The compost rule (s. NR 502.12, Wis. Adm. Code) allows a wider variety and greater quantity of food residuals to be accepted at licensed compost facilities. The law allows the composting of source-separated compostable materials, which are defined below.

**This document distinguishes between the different sizes and types of facilities.**

## **Definition of Source-Separated Compostable Material (SSCM)**

“Source-separated compostable material” means compostable materials that are separated from non-compostable material at the point of generation for use in composting and are kept separate from municipal solid waste. Source-separated compostable material includes: food residuals; farm and non-farm crop residues; botanical residuals; aquatic plants; vegetative food processing residues such as those from cannery and brewing activities; fish harvesting and processing residuals; yard residuals; farm and herbivorous animal manure, excluding deer and elk manure, and associated animal bedding; clean chipped wood; clean sawdust; non-recyclable compostable paper; and other similar materials approved in writing by the department. This term does not include biosolids, domestic wastewater, sewage sludge or septage, high-volume industrial waste, rendering or slaughterhouse wastes, animal carcasses, other solid waste or hazardous waste.

| Type of Facility                                 | Facility Size                 | Requirements   | Required Paperwork  |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Any Source-Separated Compostable Material (SSCM) | Less than 50 cubic yards (cy) | NR 502.04(1)<br>NR 502.12(10)  | Performance Standards<br>Minimum Operational Standards<br><br>None  |
| Yard Residuals Only                              | 50 - 20,000 cy                | NR 502.04(1)<br>NR 502.12(8)<br><br>NR 502.12(10)<br>NR 502.12(11)<br>NR 502.12(15)(a)3 and 4<br>NR 502.04(3)(a) and (b)                       | Performance Standards<br>Locational Criteria (for new or expanding facilities)<br>Minimum Operating Standards<br>Minimum Design Standards<br>Monitoring and Recordkeeping<br>Upon closing, meet requirements<br><br>• License<br>• Initial Site Inspection for new or expanding facilities greater than 1,000 cy per s. NR502.04(2)<br>• Answer 3 questions on annual license renewal per s. NR 502.12(15)(b)   |
| Yard Residuals Only                              | More than 20,000 cy           | NR 502.04(1)<br>NR 502.12(8)<br>NR 502.12(10)<br>NR 502.12(11)<br>NR 502.12(12)<br><br>NR 502.12(15)<br>NR 502.04(3)                           | Performance Standards<br>Locational Criteria<br>Minimum Operating Standards<br>Minimum Design Standards<br>Additional Operational and Design requirements<br>Monitoring and Recordkeeping<br>Upon closing, meet requirements<br><br>• License<br>• Initial Site Inspection per s. NR502.04(2)<br>• Plan of Operation per s. NR502.12(13)<br>• Answer 3 questions on annual license renewal per s. NR 502.12(15)(b)  |
| Any SSCM (may include food scraps)               | 50 - 5,000 cy                 | NR 502.04(1)<br>NR 502.12(8)<br><br>NR 502.12(10)<br>NR 502.12(11)<br>NR 502.12(15)(a) 3 and 4<br>NR 502.12(15)(a)1<br>NR 502.04(3)(a) and (b) | Performance Standards<br>Locational Criteria (for new or expanding facilities)<br>Minimum Operating Standards<br>Minimum Design Standards<br>Monitoring and Recordkeeping<br>Testing Requirements (if accepting manure)<br>Upon closing, meet requirements<br><br>• License<br>• Initial Site Inspection for new or expanding facilities per s. NR 502.04(2)<br>• Plan of Operation per s. NR502.12(13)<br>• Answer 3 questions on annual license renewal per s. NR 502.12(15)(b) |
| Any SSCM (may include food scraps)               | More than 5,000 cy            | NR 502.04(1)<br>NR 502.12(8)<br>NR 502.12(10)<br>NR 502.12(11)<br>NR 502.12(12)<br><br>NR 502.12(15)<br>NR 502.04(3)                           | Performance Standards<br>Locational Criteria<br>Minimum Operating Standards<br>Minimum Design Standards<br>Additional Operational and Design requirements<br>Monitoring and Recordkeeping<br>Upon closing, meet requirements<br><br>• License<br>• Initial Site Inspection per s. NR502.04(2)<br>• Plan of Operation per s. NR502.12(13)<br>• Answer 3 questions on annual license renewal per s. NR 502.12(15)(b)  |

| Type of Facility   | Facility Size       | Requirements   |  | Required Paperwork   |
|--|---------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Farm processing on-site</b><br><u>crop residuals and manure</u><br>(no deer or elk manure)  | any                 | NR 502.04(1)   | Performance Standards  | None   |
| <b>Farm accepting from off-site</b><br>Composting on-site <u>crop residuals and manure</u> with off-site SSCM<br>(no deer or elk manure)                               | 50 - 10,000 cy      | NR 502.12(8)<br>NR 502.12(10)<br>NR 502.12(11)<br>NR 502.12(15)(a)3 and 4  | Locational Criteria (unless only accepting yard residuals or clean chipped wood)<br>Minimum Operating Standards<br>Minimum Design Standards<br>Monitoring and Recordkeeping  | None   |
| <b>Farm accepting from off-site</b><br>Composting on-site <u>crop residuals and manure</u> with off-site SSCM<br>(no deer or elk manure)                               | more than 10,000 cy | NR 502.04(1)<br>NR 502.12(8)<br>NR 502.12(10)<br>NR 502.12(11)<br>NR 502.12(12)<br>NR 502.12(15)<br>NR 502.04(3) | Performance Standards<br>Locational Criteria<br>Minimum Operating Standards<br>Minimum Design Standards<br>Additional Operational and Design Requirements<br>Monitoring and Recordkeeping<br>Upon closing, meet requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License</li> <li>• Initial Site Inspection per s. NR502.04(2)</li> <li>• Plan of Operation per s. NR502.12(13)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Farm processing on-site</b><br><u>Animal carcasses</u> (no deer or elk) and crop residuals  | any                 | NR 502.04(1)<br>NR 502.12(10)<br>NR 502.12(11)   | Performance Standards<br>Minimum Operating Standards (excludes size reduction requirements)<br>Minimum Design Standards  | None   |
| <b>Farm accepting from off-site</b><br>Composting on-site <u>animal carcasses</u> (no deer or elk) and crop residue with off-site yard residuals or clean chipped wood | 50 - 10,000 cy      | NR 502.04(1)<br>NR 502.12(10)<br>NR 502.12(11)   | Performance Standards<br>Minimum Operating Standards (excludes size reduction requirements)<br>Minimum Design Standards  | None   |
| <b>Farm accepting from off-site</b><br>Composting on-site <u>animal carcasses</u> (no deer or elk) and crop residue with off-site yard residuals or clean chipped wood | more than 10,000 cy | NR 502.04(1)<br>NR 502.12(8)<br>NR 502.12(10)<br>NR 502.12(11)<br>NR 502.12(12)<br>NR 502.12(15)<br>NR 502.04(3) | Performance Standards<br>Locational Criteria<br>Minimum Operating Standards<br>Minimum Design Standards<br>Additional Operational and Design Requirements<br>Monitoring and Recordkeeping<br>Upon closing, meet requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• License</li> <li>• Initial Site Inspection per s. NR502.04(2)</li> <li>• Plan of Operation per s. NR502.12(13)</li> </ul> |

Contact [DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov) for further information.

***Disclaimer:** This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.*

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