

## Fact Sheet: Determining the Category of your Compost Facility

**PUB-WA-1588**  
**Rev. 2012**



Waste & Materials Management  
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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) NR 502.12(10)	Performance Standards Minimum Operational Standards  None
Yard Residuals Only	50 - 20,000 cy	NR 502.04(1) NR 502.12(8)  NR 502.12(10) NR 502.12(11) NR 502.12(15)(a)3 and 4 NR 502.04(3)(a) and (b)	Performance Standards Locational Criteria (for new or expanding facilities) Minimum Operating Standards Minimum Design Standards Monitoring and Recordkeeping Upon closing, meet requirements  • License • Initial Site Inspection for new or expanding facilities greater than 1,000 cy per s. NR502.04(2) • 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) NR 502.12(8) NR 502.12(10) NR 502.12(11) NR 502.12(12)  NR 502.12(15) NR 502.04(3)	Performance Standards Locational Criteria Minimum Operating Standards Minimum Design Standards Additional Operational and Design requirements Monitoring and Recordkeeping Upon closing, meet requirements  • License • Initial Site Inspection per s. NR502.04(2) • Plan of Operation per s. NR502.12(13) • 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) NR 502.12(8)  NR 502.12(10) NR 502.12(11) NR 502.12(15)(a) 3 and 4 NR 502.12(15)(a)1 NR 502.04(3)(a) and (b)	Performance Standards Locational Criteria (for new or expanding facilities) Minimum Operating Standards Minimum Design Standards Monitoring and Recordkeeping Testing Requirements (if accepting manure) Upon closing, meet requirements  • License • Initial Site Inspection for new or expanding facilities per s. NR 502.04(2) • Plan of Operation per s. NR502.12(13) • 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) NR 502.12(8) NR 502.12(10) NR 502.12(11) NR 502.12(12)  NR 502.12(15) NR 502.04(3)	Performance Standards Locational Criteria Minimum Operating Standards Minimum Design Standards Additional Operational and Design requirements Monitoring and Recordkeeping Upon closing, meet requirements  • License • Initial Site Inspection per s. NR502.04(2) • Plan of Operation per s. NR502.12(13) • 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> <u>crop residuals and manure</u> (no deer or elk manure)	any	NR 502.04(1)	Performance Standards	None
<b>Farm accepting from off-site</b> Composting on-site <u>crop residuals and manure</u> with off-site SSCM (no deer or elk manure)	50 - 10,000 cy	NR 502.12(8) NR 502.12(10) NR 502.12(11) NR 502.12(15)(a)3 and 4	Locational Criteria (unless only accepting yard residuals or clean chipped wood) Minimum Operating Standards Minimum Design Standards Monitoring and Recordkeeping	None
<b>Farm accepting from off-site</b> Composting on-site <u>crop residuals and manure</u> with off-site SSCM (no deer or elk manure)	more than 10,000 cy	NR 502.04(1) NR 502.12(8) NR 502.12(10) NR 502.12(11) NR 502.12(12) NR 502.12(15) NR 502.04(3)	Performance Standards Locational Criteria Minimum Operating Standards Minimum Design Standards Additional Operational and Design Requirements Monitoring and Recordkeeping 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> <u>Animal carcasses</u> (no deer or elk) and crop residuals	any	NR 502.04(1) NR 502.12(10) NR 502.12(11)	Performance Standards Minimum Operating Standards (excludes size reduction requirements) Minimum Design Standards	None
<b>Farm accepting from off-site</b> 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) NR 502.12(10) NR 502.12(11)	Performance Standards Minimum Operating Standards (excludes size reduction requirements) Minimum Design Standards	None
<b>Farm accepting from off-site</b> 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) NR 502.12(8) NR 502.12(10) NR 502.12(11) NR 502.12(12) NR 502.12(15) NR 502.04(3)	Performance Standards Locational Criteria Minimum Operating Standards Minimum Design Standards Additional Operational and Design Requirements Monitoring and Recordkeeping 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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## WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NOTICE OF FINAL GUIDANCE & CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to ch. 227, Wis. Stats., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has finalized and hereby certifies the following guidance document.

### DOCUMENT ID

WA-19-1588-C

### DOCUMENT TITLE

Fact Sheet Determining the Category of your Compost Facility

### PROGRAM/BUREAU

Waste and Materials Management

### STATUTORY AUTHORITY OR LEGAL CITATION

Ch. 289, Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 502, Wis. Adm. Code

### DATE SENT TO LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU (FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

October 14, 2019

### DATE FINALIZED

November 6, 2019

### DNR CERTIFICATION

*I have reviewed this guidance document or proposed guidance document and I certify that it complies with sections 227.10 and 227.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is not explicitly required or explicitly permitted by a statute or a rule that has been lawfully promulgated. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is more restrictive than a standard, requirement, or threshold contained in the Wisconsin Statutes.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph P. Van Rossum', is written over a horizontal line.

November 6, 2019

Signature

Date