

SCROLL DOWN

**10. COMPOSTING.** The ISWMP should describe the current composting activities and should address any plans for new or expanded composting.

**THE DIRT ON COMPOSTING**

*Composting is an aerobic degradation process that decomposes plant and other organic waste under controlled conditions. Programs may consist of yard wastes only (leaves and grass clippings) or may be a compostable municipal solid waste program, using yard wastes, food wastes, and other degradable organic matter. Composting procedures include collecting wastes, forming wastes into piles, and aerating the material until an organic-rich material is produced. Backyard composting is operated by individual homeowners with little or low technology equipment. Centralized programs are accomplished at a centralized location and operated by installation personnel using mechanical equipment to turn over (aerate) the pile. End uses include mulches and soil conditioners used in landscaping and gardens.*

a. Yard Waste Composting.

(1) State whether the program is a "backyard" type or centralized.

(a) If composting is a backyard program, estimate the quantity of yard waste diverted from disposal and the number of participants.

(b) If a centralized program exists, state the quantity of yard wastes collected, the frequency of collection, the size of the compost area, the management procedures used, the equipment used to aerate the piles, and end uses for the material.

(2) Identify alternative end uses for the compost product if a surplus exists.

(3) Describe any state permit/operational requirements for composting and discuss how they are implemented and monitored.

(4) Describe educational and promotional programs associated with composting or reference the section on Program Promotion (see Section 13).

(5) Determine cost avoidance associated with the diversion of yard waste from the solid waste stream and with the reduced purchasing of compost products from outside sources.

b. Municipal Solid Waste Composting.

(1) Describe the facility used to include building size, mechanical equipment, storage and processing areas.

(2) Describe the operating procedures and include the SOP as an appendix.

(3) State the facility's capacity in cubic yards and determine the monthly or annual tons of input and product.

(4) Provide details on the waste process stream, including any pre-processing for recyclables and non-compostable materials, and the MSW composting digester (in-vessel) systems or chambers for windrow piles.

(5) Describe end uses for the materials and identify additional end uses if surplus compost exists.

(6) Determine cost avoidance associated with the diversion of yard waste from the solid waste stream and with the reduced purchasing of compost products from outside sources.

(7) Describe educational and promotional programs associated with composting or reference the section on Program Promotion (see Section 13).

**MUNICIPAL WASTE COMPOSTING**

*MSW composting is a developing waste management technology and may not be in use at most installations. A large amount of manual and mechanical pre-processing may be required to segregate the compostable portion from the waste. The compostable portion (yard wastes, food wastes, and paper) can comprise from 30 to 60 percent of the waste stream. Removal of other recyclables may take place at the source, in a curbside collection, or as a pre-screening stage. MSW composting usually involves the construction of "digesters" or in-vessel systems or enclosed chambers for windrow piles with mechanical turning equipment.*