



# Municipal and Large Scale Composting Facilities: Permitting

# So You Want to Start a Composting Facility...

- Municipality, County, or Privately Operated Entity
- Plan, Plan, Plan





# Planning Considerations



- How will you collect material
- What is your feedstock
- What is your commodities market
- Where will the facility be located
- Site feasibility study
- Size of site
- How much will it cost
- What type of permit do you need

- Dust control
- Odor considerations
- Leachate management
- Fire potential and fire controls
- Vector controls
- Recordkeeping



# Permitting Options

- I. Permit-By Rule Facilities
- II. Municipal Waste General Permit Facilities
  - I. WMGM015
  - II. WMGM017
  - III. WMGM030
  - IV. WMGM042
  - V. WMGM045
- III. Residual Waste General Permit Facilities
  - I. WMGR025
- IV. Annual Obligations
  - I. Annual Operations Report
  - II. Inspection Reports





## Permit-By-Rule for Municipal Waste Processing Facilities

Facilities and activities shall be deemed to have a municipal waste permit by rule if the following general requirements are met:

- Must be less than 5 acres.
- Must comply with Chapter 285 relating to storage, collection and transportation of municipal waste.
- Must have all other necessary permits.
- Must have a Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency (PPC Plan) consistent with Department guidelines.
- Must maintain daily records of the weight or volume of waste that is processed, the method and location of processing or disposal facilities for wastes from the facility and waste handling problems or emergencies.

## Permit-By-Rule Yard Waste Composting Facility

---

- Operated in accordance with PADEP guidelines on yard waste composting.
- Operator submits written notice to PADEP of name, address, and telephone number of the facility, individual responsible for operating the facility and a brief description of the facility.



## Other Types of Permit-By-Rule Facilities

---

Captive Processing Facilities

Septage Treatment Facilities

Incinerator Facilities

Mechanical Processing Facilities





## Municipal Waste General Permits

---

- WMGM015: Processing and beneficial use of wood and timber waste (i.e., tree stumps, limbs, clean wood, untreated and unpainted wood and pallets) and the leaf and yard waste as mulch and compost.





## Municipal Waste General Permits

- WMGM017: On-Farm composting of manure, yard waste, source separated food scraps from food markets, grocery stores, food banks, food distribution centers, school cafeterias and institutions, source-separated newspaper, and source-separated corrugated paper (cardboard).







## Municipal Waste General Permits

---

- WMGM030: Yard waste composting facilities between five acres and 15 acres.







## Municipal Waste General Permits

---

- WMGM042: Anaerobic digestion of animal manure on a farm mixed with (i) grease trap waste (collected from restaurants or grocery stores) and (ii) pre-consumer and post-consumer food waste from commercial or institutional establishments.







## Municipal Waste General Permits

- WMGM045: Processing and beneficial use activities performed by facilities that, at any one time, do not exceed (i) 5 acres and (ii) 6,000 cubic yards per acre of wastes as follows: 1. Processing by mixing or blending, screening and composting of (a) source separated food processing waste, (b) source separated pre-and-post consumer food wastes, (c) yard waste, (d) unpainted and untreated wood waste, (e) source segregated paper and cardboard, (f) land clearing and grubbing waste, and (g) agricultural waste on an active or abandoned mine site approved by the Department as part of a mine reclamation permit or project. 2. Beneficial use of the cured compost as (a) a soil additive, (b) a mulch for landscaping purposes, (c) a fertilizer in normal farming operations or mine reclamation activities, or (d) in the production of a manufactured topsoil.





## Residual Waste General Permits

---

- WMGR025: Composting and beneficial use of the following source-separated wastes: agricultural waste other than mortalities, butcher waste other than whole carcass, food processing waste, pre-consumer and post-consumer food residuals, yard waste, land clearing and grubbing material, untreated wood waste, gypsum wallboard, paper, cardboard, waxed cardboard, virgin paper mill sludge and spent mushroom substrate.



## Annual Obligations

---

- **Municipal and Residual Waste General Permits**
  - Annual Report due on or before June 30<sup>th</sup> each year
  - Will include:
    - › Waste received by County of origin
    - › Composted material recycled, or disposed
    - › Where the material was sent
    - › Financial assurance (review bonding worksheets)
    - › Compliance information review (review/update Form C, or complete C1 – no changes)
    - › Right of entry (review/update Form E)
    - › Radioactive monitoring summary
  - Permit administration fee: \$700

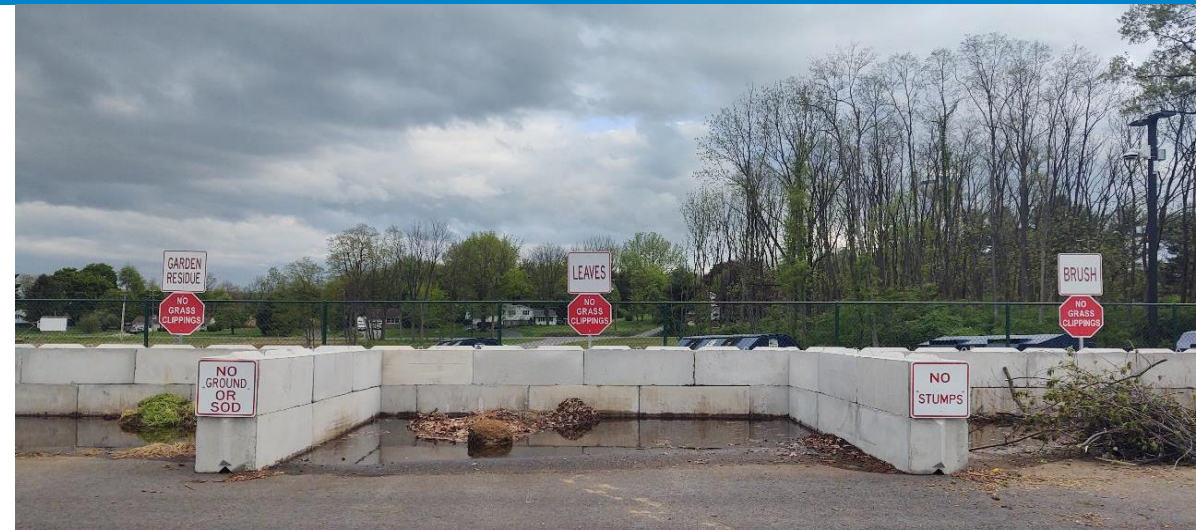


# Final Thoughts



- Site considerations
  - Site feasibility study
  - Odor control
  - Noise abatement
  - Aesthetics
- Engage the public
  - Public hearings
- Plan for expansion

- Funding
  - Possible State and Federal funding assistance (grants and loans)
- Permitting Approvals
  - Local and State permits may be required
  - Plan for design and permitting time
- Engage a professional for assistance, as needed





# Final Thoughts





# Questions





The Experience to Listen.  
The Power to Solve.

Ashley N. Dobak, P.E.  
Managing Engineer  
[adobak@bartonandloguidice.com](mailto:adobak@bartonandloguidice.com)  
717-512-3317  
717-737-8326, ext. 2317





ASSET  
MANAGEMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL



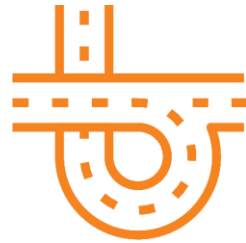
SOLID WASTE



FACILITIES



LAND SURVEYING



TRANSPORTATION



WATER RESOURCES



SUSTAINABLE PLANNING  
& DESIGN