

Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association

Food Waste Collection & Composting
Workshop

Pennsylvania's Permitting Process

June 21, 2007

How does the DEP classify waste

- Three main class of waste:
 - Municipal Waste
 - Residual Waste
 - Hazardous Waste

Municipal Waste Definition

Garbage, refuse, industrial lunchroom or office waste and other material, including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous **material resulting from operation of residential, municipal, commercial or institutional establishments and from community activities**; and sludge not meeting the definition of residual or hazardous waste under this section from a municipal, commercial or institutional water supply treatment plant, waste water treatment plant or air pollution control facility.

Residual Waste Definition

Garbage, refuse, other discarded material or other waste, including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous **materials resulting from industrial, mining and agricultural operations** and sludge from an industrial, mining or agricultural water supply treatment facility, wastewater treatment facility or air pollution control facility, if it is not hazardous. The term does not include coal refuse as defined in the Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act. The term does not include treatment sludges from coal mine drainage treatment plants, disposal of which is being carried on under and in compliance with a valid permit issued under the Clean Streams Law.

Any waste generated at the following places are:

- **Municipal Waste**

- Supermarket
- Restaurant
- Convenient Store
- Households
- Municipalities

- **Residual Waste**

- Farms/Manure
- Food Manufactures
- Paper Mills
- Spent Mushroom Substrate (SMS)

Types of permit

- Permit Exemption
 - Residual food waste used in Ag.
- Permit-by-Rule (PBR) “Entry level” permit
 - Yard Waste composting
- General permit (GP) “Intermediate level”
 - Municipal food waste and other organics
- Individual Permit “Intense level”
 - Sewage sludge and other large facilities

Organic Recycling Partners

- Retailers
- Composters
- Department of Environmental Protection

DEP's responsibility

- Encouraging more food recycling (food waste ban)
- Develop an extensive organic recycling infrastructure
- Technical support
- Education/development of a peer support network
- Grants

Composter's responsibility

- Facility reliability
- To develop and maintain a consistent product
- Maintain a clean facility
- Reputable hauler

Retailer's responsibility

- Segregation of food waste from other waste streams
- Minimizing contamination
- Develop a working relationship with food waste recycling
- On-going employee training (in-house and outside classes)

Things to look for in a composting operation

- Type of permit and the waste they can receive
- The location of the facility and the general operation of the site
- Are the operators trained or certified in composting?
- Compliance history
- Contact DEP if you have questions about a potential partner.

Contact Information

Dan Lapato, Solid Waste Program Specialist

717- 772-3378

dlapato@state.pa.us