

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
COMPOSTING FACILITY**

CODE 317

Name _____
Legal Desc. _____

Ident. No. _____
County _____

A properly operated and maintained composting facility is an asset to your farm. This facility was designed and installed to reduce the pollution potential and improve the handling characteristics of organic waste solids. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this installation can be ensured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

General Recommendations

- Repair damage to the facility caused by high winds, heavy rains or snow, and loading and unloading equipment.
- Develop a compost mix that encourages aerobic microbial decomposition and avoids nuisance odors.
- Store a dependable source of carbonaceous material.
- Add bulking materials to the mix as necessary to enhance aeration.
- Maintain adequate moisture in the compost mix throughout the compost period but prevent excess moisture from accumulating in the compost.

- Manage the compost to attain and then maintain the internal temperature for the duration required to meet management goals.
- Turn the compost at a frequency that shall be appropriate for the composting method used and to attain the desire amount of moisture removal and temperature control while maintaining the aerobic process.
- Test the finished compost as appropriate to ensure that the required decomposition has been reached.

Specific Recommendations for This Project

If you need additional technical assistance to implement the operation and maintenance plan for this structure, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government).