

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

WASTE RECYCLING

(Tons)

CODE 633

DEFINITION

The use of the by-products of agricultural production or the agricultural use of non-agricultural by-products.

PURPOSE

- Protect or improve the quality of natural resources and the environment
- Provide or reduce energy use

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Where waste can be processed and recycled to prevent a resource problem or provide a conservation benefit.

Where the intended recycling activity is identified in a waste management system plan or an equivalent plan.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Comply with all federal, state, local and tribal laws, rules and regulations governing waste management, pollution abatement, health and safety.

The owner or operator shall be responsible for securing all required permits or approvals related to waste recycling, and for operating and maintaining any components in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Perform at least one analysis of the waste to determine the characteristics that are critical to its use and base the use of the waste on the analysis. Use a laboratory certified by a state recognized program that considers laboratory performance and proficiency to assure accuracy of testing results.

When manure or other wastes are used for plant nutrients the practice shall comply with NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Nutrient Management (590).

When wastes are used for animal feed the practice shall comply with the criteria in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Feed Management (592).

Manage residuals generated by waste processing and recycling activities in a manner that prevents degradation of natural resources and the environment.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider treatments that add value to agricultural waste and that meet local market criteria.

Consider recycling used containers by returning them to the suppliers or manufacturers that have a recycling program.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service [State Office](#) or visit the [Field Office Technical Guide](#).

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Consider recycling water used in agricultural produce processing.

Consider using organic waste for bedding, feed, mulch, energy production, or soil quality improvement.

Consider the net effect of waste recycling on greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for Waste Recycling shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose. The waste management system plan is to account for the use, recycling or disposal of all wastes produced or received by the agricultural operation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Records shall be kept for a period of at least five years, and include when appropriate:

- The dates and quantities of waste imported to or exported from the agricultural production system,
- Analysis of critical waste characteristics, and
- A description of how the waste recycled and the conservation benefit achieved.

The operation and maintenance plan shall include the dates of periodic inspections and maintenance of equipment and facilities used in recycling of the waste. The plan should include what is to be inspected or maintained, and a general time frame for preventive maintenance.