



Commercial Organics Program Case Studies

Strengths and Weaknesses

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The following is a list of commercial organics program benefits (strengths) as well as common issues (weaknesses) and corresponding possible solutions.

Benefits to Organics Processing:

- Reductions in green-house gases
- Diversion of organic waste from landfills, therefore, reduce leachate production and free up limited landfill space
- Communities and commercial waste generators benefit from the lower tipping costs charged by farmers or compost sites versus landfills.
- Helps promote sustainable agriculture, by better management of the source of wastes and substitute the compost for petroleum-based fertilizers.

Issue	Reason	Solution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noncompostable inerts placed in the organics containers. • Separation and recovery challenges at point of generation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of education and awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hauler rejects loads of contaminated material or bills the generator for the cost of landfilling. • Program manager available to educate generators.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of storage space at generation site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage space for this activity not anticipated at time of construction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build space into new structures. • Reduce size of waste containers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food waste diversion project typically has higher collection costs than solid waste collection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of additional containers and service are likely to be greater than the original cost of one container of commingled materials. • A second collection trip is sometimes required. • Relatively low density of participating businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The generator must produce a sizable amount of organics. • Smaller generators must realize sufficient disposal cost savings due to a sizable difference between the tip fees for the landfill and the compost facility.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical resistance by many private haulers to provide this service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively small number of businesses that generate commercial organics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use employees of a non-profit group, the compost facility or a local government agency to explain the program to waste generators and urge them to request organics collection service from haulers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high moisture content of some food waste causes odor and leakage problems with both storage and handling. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove liquid before disposing or before transporting through compaction/quality control.