

# Code of Practice for Compost Facilities

## Fact sheet

### Introduction

The updated Code of Practice for Compost Facilities (Code) was approved in January 2022 for Class I and Class II Compost Facilities.

This fact sheet highlights key topics on the Code. Any questions can be emailed to:

[AEP.WasteRegulation@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AEP.WasteRegulation@gov.ab.ca)

### Feedstock and Amendments

#### **Inclusion of amendment and screened-out materials (i.e. unwanted non-organic materials) in permitting capacity**

The regulatory limit of 20,000 tonnes of waste includes organic materials (feedstock), unwanted non-organic materials (residuals), and amendments accepted at a compost facility.

Compost facilities cannot deduct residuals from the total amount of waste received to meet regulatory requirements.

### Facility Design Plan and Specifications

#### **Facility design capacity in Section 4(1) of the Code**

The quantity of feedstock and amendments accepted and processed at compost facilities are recorded by weight in tonnes. The design of capacity of processing areas and equipment are based in volumetric units (m<sup>3</sup>).

The design capacity of each processing area, and the entire facility will be determined based on the number of windrows and stockpiles that could be present at any given time at the facility. To calculate the maximum volume of each processing area, the maximum volume and dimension of piles and windrows will be utilized.

#### **Design and installation of groundwater monitoring system and groundwater monitoring for Class I Compost Facility requirements waiver**

The requirement for groundwater monitoring system and groundwater monitoring for a Class I Compost Facility may be waived by the Director, at the time of registration, if all the following requirements are met:

- the compost facility must be enclosed within a structure or vessel; and
- all storage and active areas of the compost facility must have two liners (one liner must be concrete or asphalt or synthetic), a leachate collection and removal system, and a leak detection system between the two liners.

### Groundwater Monitoring Program

#### **Collecting upgradient groundwater for a baseline sample**

An upgradient well can be used for a baseline sample, if it is representative of the groundwater prior to the start of operations at a compost facility.

#### **Four-year groundwater sampling plan submission for registration**

A Class I Compost Facility only needs to submit a baseline groundwater quality report to the Director prior to registration authorization and before the facility construction. The semi-annual samples collection over a four-year period is done after the receipt of registration authorization.

#### **Groundwater control limit and methodology for establishing groundwater control limits**

The groundwater control limit is the concentration of a groundwater monitoring parameter which, once exceeded, triggers certain measures to be taken. A minimum of eight data points is required to calculate the mean and standard deviation. The groundwater control limit is three standard deviation(s) above the mean. A groundwater control limit is established only for naturally occurring parameters.

#### **Groundwater monitoring program changes**

A Director cannot authorize any deviations to groundwater monitoring program. Any compost facility looking to deviate from the groundwater requirements outlined in the Code must apply for an *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA) approval.

## Operation of a Compost Facility

### Mandatory Certified Operator requirement

As per Section 25 of the Waste Control Regulation, a Class I or Class II Compost Facility are both required to be supervised by a Certified Operator during the hours of operation of the facility.

For more information about the requirements for certified compost facility operators, please check out the link: <https://www.alberta.ca/landfill-and-composting-facility-operator-certification.aspx>

### Feedstock acceptance and storage

All feedstock accepted at a compost facility shall be pre-processed, mixed with amendments, and incorporated into active composting piles within 48 hours upon receipt at the compost facility.

Alternately, in scenarios where this requirement cannot be met, the feedstock must be covered with a biocover layer of at least 15 centimetres (6 inches) thick or a waterproof cover that provides at least 1.8 metres (6 feet) of overlap of adjacent covers, and is securely anchored. See Section 6(1) of the Code for more details.

### Reporting and Record Keeping

#### Yearly tonnage report submission to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP)

The person responsible for a Class I or Class II Compost must submit a tonnage report to AEP using the [Waste Measurement System Materials Management Report Form](#) to the email the [aep.wastemeasurement@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aep.wastemeasurement@gov.ab.ca) no later than March 31 following the year on which the tonnage report is based.

### Transitions of Existing Facilities

#### Compost facilities operating before January 14, 2022

Existing compost facilities have until January 13, 2023 to comply with the new requirements of the Code.

Existing Class I Compost Facilities have 24 months to comply with the groundwater monitoring requirements in the Code.

Existing Class I and Class II Compost Facilities are exempt from complying with the liner design, environmental setback requirements, and the soil conservation requirements in the Code. See Section 24 of the Code for the transitional considerations and compliance schedule.

### Steps for Class I Compost Facility Registration application

The [Approvals and Registrations Procedure Regulation](#) (AR 113/1993) governs the information that must be submitted with a registration application. There are three stages to the registration process:

**Step 1:** The proponent submits registration application package including the information as listed in Schedule D of the Code to the Regulatory Approval Center at: [AEP.EPEApplications@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AEP.EPEApplications@gov.ab.ca)

**Step 2:** Review of the application package by AEP, and

**Step 3:** AEP makes a decision to issue a Registration. A Class I Compost Facility cannot start operation until registration has been issued by the Director.

### Steps for Class II Compost Facility Notification

The person responsible for a Class II Compost facility can submit a Notification as follows:

**Step 1:** The proponent submits Notification application to AEP including the information as listed in Schedule E of the Code to the Regulatory Approval Center at: [AEP.EPEApplications@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AEP.EPEApplications@gov.ab.ca)

**Step 2:** AEP reviews of the Notification package, and

**Step 3:** AEP acknowledge receipt of Notification. A Class II Compost Facility cannot start operation until an acknowledgement of receipt of Notification has been received.