



Spillin' the Tea on Composting in Georgia

with

Pat Brownson | HDR

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Who We Are



Patrick Brownson
Solid Waste Engineer, GCC Board Member



Suki Janssen
Solid Waste Director, GCC Board Member



The Georgia Compost Council

- ✓ **Fully recognized** by U.S. Composting Council since 2024
- ✓ **Advocates and enables** proliferation of the composting industry
- ✓ **Encourages** the diversion and reuse of GA's organic residuals
- ✓ **Educates** industry and public on science, economics, and regulations
- ✓ **Always open** for new members!

State of Composting in Georgia



Composting in GA: The Feedstock



Category A

Yard trimmings, land-clearing debris, agricultural residuals generated and processed on site, untreated and unpainted wood



Category B

Agricultural residuals generated off site, herbivorous animal manure generated at a zoo, and/or source-separated organics

Feedstock Categories



Category C

Sewage sludge and biosolids



Category D

DAF skimmings or sludge generated from food processing and dewatered septage

Composting in GA: Facilities

Class 2

Accept Category A
and B feedstocks
(up to 500 tons per
month)

Class 3

Accept Category A
feedstocks

Category B
feedstocks (>500
tons per month)

Class 4

Accept Category A,
B, and C
feedstocks

Suki's site at ACC processes Categories A, B, and C, and is therefore a Class 4 composting facility.

Permitting Compost Facilities in GA

Permit by Rule (PBR)

Class 1 and 2 facilities need to comply with the operational standards laid out in Rule 391-3-4

Easier to Attain

Commonly held by Class 2 Facilities

Solid Waste Handling Permit (SWHP)

Class 3-6 facilities need engineered plans that comply with Rule 391-3-4

More expensive and stricter review

Commonly held by Class 3 and 4 Facilities

Compost Technologies in GA



Turned Windrow

- Combine feedstocks into large windrows
- “Turn” the windrows by breaking down the pile mechanically and rebuilding it
- Low maintenance, low cost
- Slow throughput (60+ days)
- Difficult to achieve an even blend of feedstocks



Aerated Static Pile (ASP)

- Build heaps of feedstocks over perforated pipes connected to blowers
- Blowers force air through the pile accelerating the breakdown of material
- Higher maintenance, higher cost
- Faster throughput (24-30 days)
- Accelerated pace means that pile monitoring is key to maintain moisture and temperature

Where Do We Grow From Here?



Compost where the feedstocks are (<50 mi radius)

- Municipalities that have voluntary food waste recovery programs (Athens-Clarke County)
- Metro Atlanta
- Wastewater Treatment Plants

GCC Advocacy



Engage with political groups to encourage the diversion of food residuals, and the rezoning of land to support new facilities



Educational outreach on how to compost, and how to get started, permitted, and run a successful and compliant facility



Encouraging smaller scale sites under PBR exemptions



Identifying opportunities for larger scale sites in areas where feedstock is plentiful, and lobbying these areas to make the feedstock available

GCC's Vision

Build legitimacy and outreach to serve as a thought-leader in the composting space



Identify stakeholders in composting and waste industries to collaborate and bring waste to new facilities



Advocate politically for feedstock diversion and a simplified track to starting a composting facility in GA



Educate the public about the benefits of composting, and ensure that the composting industry in GA is producing high quality soil amendment



So, What Can You Do?



Become a member!

Come to an event!

Be an advocate!

Buy Georgia compost!



Scan to get started!

GCC Resources



OUR CORE VALUES

Collaboration

Diversity

Integrity

Member Value

Fulfillment



GCC Chair: David Paull,
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GCC Secretary: Suki Janssen,
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