



Spillin' the Tea on Composting in Georgia

with

Pat Brownson | HDR Suki Janssen | Athens-Clarke County

### Who We Are



**Patrick Brownson**Solid Waste Engineer, GCC Board Member





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## 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

# 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





- 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** 

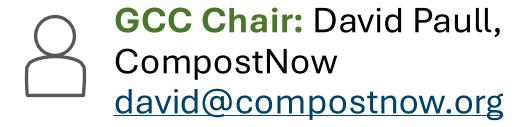
Collaboration

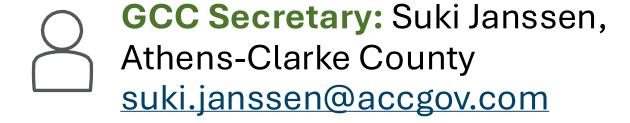
Diversity

Integrity

Member Value

Fulfillment





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