

# Compost Facility Assistance



## Composting History

In March 1995, a State-wide ban of yard clippings in landfills and municipal incinerators took effect, along with a ban of open burning of yard clippings for any municipality with a population of 7,500 or more. In response to this and in response to the rising costs of sending yard clippings to traditional waste disposal facilities such as landfills, composting facilities, both public and private, are being proposed in many municipalities.

## Issues

Potential environmental concerns of compost facilities include water quality, odor, dust, water ponding, and noise. These potential problems can be avoided or mitigated through proper site design and operation.

## BA Staff Services

BA planners have provided consulting services to both municipalities and private developers in compost facility siting and review. Services offered include:

- \* assist local governments in developing composting regulations,
- \* perform site plan reviews of compost facilities, and
- \* assist private compost operators with the local government approval process.

In addition to expertise in traditional community planning issues, BA staff members have been leaders in developing local composting regulations. Staff expertise and training includes the Michigan Compost Council's Compost Operator's Certificate Program. Also, staff members have written several articles on composting directed at local government officials and planners.



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