

## **1.0 COMPOST**

Composting is the biological process of converting organic waste under controlled conditions into a product that provides organic matter and nutrients to the soil. Compost improves soil texture, promotes new plant growth, can suppress some plant diseases, and can prevent soil erosion when used as cover for seeded grasses.

Yard trimmings compost utilizes organic waste from lawns and gardens—grass, leaves, and twigs—to create an effective soil amendment. Food waste compost uses food waste such as fruit and vegetable trimmings and kitchen preparation residuals. Together, yard and food wastes comprise nearly 22 percent of municipal solid waste.

## **2.0 EPA'S RECOMMENDED CONTENT LEVELS**

EPA's Recommended Recovered Materials Content Levels for Compost.

EPA recommends that procuring agencies purchase or use compost made from yard trimmings, leaves, grass clippings, and/or food wastes in such applications as landscaping, seeding of grasses or other plants on roadsides and embankments, as nutritious mulch under trees and shrubs, and in erosion control and soil reclamation.

EPA further recommends that those procuring agencies that have an adequate volume of yard trimmings, leaves, grass clippings, and/or food wastes, as well as sufficient space for composting, should implement a composting system to produce compost from these materials to meet their landscaping and other needs.

If the Architect/Engineer determines that use of certain materials meeting the CPG content standards and guidelines would result in inadequate competition, do not meet quality/ performance specifications, are available at an unreasonable price or are not available within a reasonable time frame, the Architect/ Engineer may submit to AF Contracting a written justification and supporting documentation for not procuring designated items containing recovered material using the Recovered Materials Determination Form.

### 3.0 DEFINITIONS

**Post Consumer Materials:** A material or finished product that has served its intended use and has been diverted or recovered from waste destined for disposal, having completed its life as a consumer item. Post consumer materials are part of the broader category of recovered material.

**Recovered Materials:** Waste materials and byproducts that have been recovered or diverted from solid waste, but do not include materials and byproducts generated from, and commonly reused within, an original manufacturing process.

### 4.0 SPECIFICATIONS

EPA recommends that procuring agencies ensure that there is no language in their specifications related to landscaping, soil amendments, erosion control, or soil reclamation that would preclude or discourage the use of compost. If, for instance, specifications address the use of straw or hay in roadside re-vegetation projects, procuring agencies should assess whether compost could substitute for straw or hay or be used in combination with them.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's "Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects 1996" <http://ntl.bts.gov/data/fp96.pdf> specifies compost as one of the materials suitable for use in roadside re-vegetation projects associated with road construction. These standards do not preclude the use of compost made from yard trimmings, leaves, grass clippings, and/or food waste.

In addition, EPA recommends that procuring agencies obtain the following specification and adapt it or another suitable specification for their use in purchasing compost products:

The state of Maine developed quality standards for compost products <ftp://ftp.state.me.us/pub/sos/cec/rcn/apa/01/001/001c560.doc> that are used by its agencies and/or purchased with state funds. Quality standards were set for six types of compost products ranging from topsoil (three classes) to wetland substrate to mulch (two classes). For each of these types of compost product, standards for maturity, odor, texture, nutrients, pH, salt content, organic content, pathogen reduction, heavy metals, foreign matter, moisture content, and density were established

45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing Facilities Excellence Plan for Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Patrick Air Force Base landscaping standards.

## **5.0 PRODUCTS**

### **PRS Materials, Inc**

PRS Materials produces EarthMate® compost. EarthMate® compost is made from biosolids, the organic byproduct of wastewater treatment. The biosolids are mixed with wood chips and composted to produce a rich soil amendment that adds organic material, macronutrients and micronutrients to existing soil.

PRS Materials, Inc  
200 Gilbertsville Road  
Gilbertsville, PA 19525-9000  
Toll Free: 1-800 432-3966  
Tel: 610-369-9339  
Fax: 610 369 1916  
E-Mail: [prsm@fast.net](mailto:prsm@fast.net)

See Compost Appendix for further details

### **Kellogg Supply Inc**

Kellogg's Garden Products incorporate sewage sludge as base for various organic mixes including Planter Mix, Top Dressing & Bedding Plant Mix composts.

Kellogg Supply Inc.  
350 West Sepulveda Boulevard  
Carson California 90745  
Tel: 310-830-2200  
Fax: 310 830-3760  
Email: [customerservice@kelloggsgarden.com](mailto:customerservice@kelloggsgarden.com)  
Website: <http://www.kelloggsgarden.com/index.html>

See Compost Appendix for further details

### **N-Viro International Corporation**

N-Viro Soil is a compost material that can be used as a soil amendment, for turf topdressing and turf establishment, as a feedstock in a topsoil blend and as a structural material.

Corporate Office  
N-Viro International Corporation  
3450 W. Central Ave. #328  
Toledo, OH 43606  
Tel: 419.535.6374  
Fax: 419.535.7008

E-Mail: [info@nviro.com](mailto:info@nviro.com)  
Website: <http://www.nviro.com/>

Florida Facility  
1990 Tomoka Farm Rd.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32124  
Tel: 904-253-7721  
Fax: 904-253-7538  
E-mail: [nviro@gte.net](mailto:nviro@gte.net)  
Website: <http://nvirosoil.com/LandHort.htm>

See Compost Appendix for further details

### **Cedar Grove Composting, Inc**

Cedar Grove Composting is an organic recycling company, turning grass, leaves and prunings into nutrient-rich compost.

Cedar Grove Composting, Inc.  
17825 Cedar Grove Rd. SE  
Maple Valley, WA 98038  
Toll Free: 1-877-764-5748  
Tel: 425-423-2395  
Fax: 425-432-7043  
E-Mail: [sales@emeraldnc.com](mailto:sales@emeraldnc.com)  
Website: <http://www.cedar-grove.com/main.htm>

See Compost Appendix for further details

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommend contacting these companies to discuss the EPA's recommended specification when circumstances dictate. See affirmative procurement requirements.