

Compost Facility Operations/Comparisons September 12, 2012

Town of Bethlehem
Dan Rain, Recycling Coordinator



Town of Bethlehem Compost Facility

1244 Feura Bush Rd, Selkirk



Facility Summary

The Town's facility is well maintained and produces a good quality product, in the opinion of State officials and compost business representatives.



Facility Summary Cont.

Advantages include:

- Deals with leaf and brush collection in a beneficial and environmentally sustainable way
- 7-acre paved pad for the facility with a mown grass, weed-free buffer
- Town collects the input material, allowing good control over the raw materials
- Qualified and experienced operator and support staff



Facility Summary Cont.

Disadvantages include:

- Historical absence of a marketing plan
- Aging condition of Town owned equipment, and lack of certain equip.
- Site is geographically separate from Transfer Station and Highway Garage
- Constraints on site usage due to deed restrictions with the property's former owner
- Lack of ability to collect tipping fees from other municipalities



Facility Summary Cont.

Financials:

2011 expenses :\$358,943; Revenues were \$46,802.

NOTE: estimated savings far less than revenue-expense, because we would have to find & pay for another method of disposal.

Compost Sales in 2011:

4,337 yards sold total

Screened: 3,011 yds

Unscreened: 606

Woodchips: 277

Wood mulch: 443

Shoveled themselves (free): 3,790 residents (yardage above)

Yard waste tipped for a fee (does not include residents dropping off waste for free): 570



August 15, 2012:

Jean Bonhotal, Composting Specialist with the Cornell Waste Management Institute and one of the State's leading compost experts, visited the Town's facility.



She had several recommendations:

- Develop stronger relationships with private companies as potential customers
- Look for new applications and markets for compost such as roads projects/erosion control and re-vegetation, and top dressing sports fields in the fall
- Market compost to residents/homeowners more
- Consider offering bagged compost, perhaps have civic groups bag and sell it as a fundraiser, and to raise awareness
- Keep the prices of our products competitive with local nurseries/home and garden stores and other businesses

Oneida Herkimer Compost Facility

Utica, NY



Facility Summary

A site visit was conducted on August 14, 2012. The two-county facility is a large operation. Through tipping fees, compost sales and contracted grinding services they nearly break even financially.



Facility Summary Cont.

Financials:

2011 expenses : \$268,345; Revenues :\$258,290 .

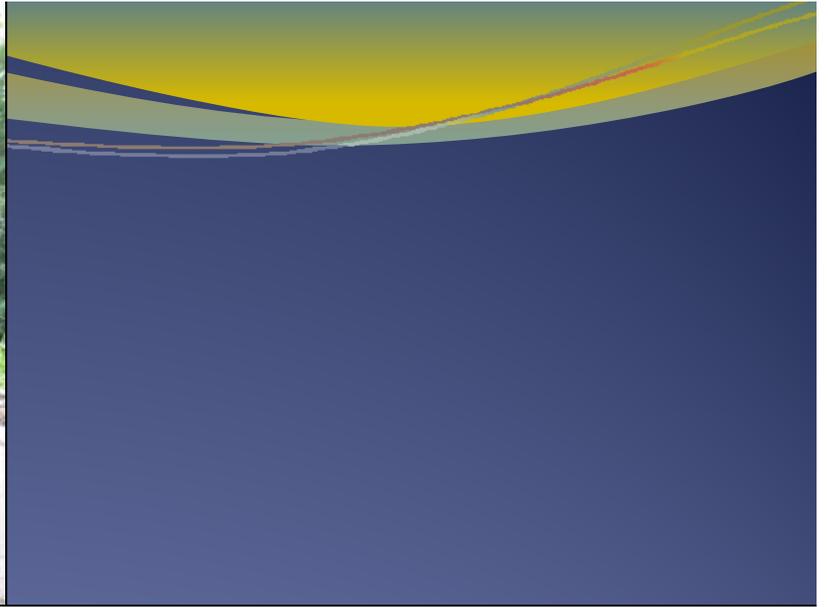
Compost Sales and Yard Waste Tipped in 2011:

Compost Sold: 9,373 cu yds (double Bethlehem's)

Bags of Compost Sold (1.2 cu ft size bags): 9,567

Yard waste tipped: 9,042 tons





Schenectady County Compost Facility

Glenville, NY



Facility Summary

A photograph of a composting facility. In the foreground, a yellow wheel loader is positioned next to a large pile of dark, rich compost. To the right, a yellow dump truck is parked. The ground is covered in a mix of soil and wood chips. In the background, there are green trees under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The title 'Facility Summary' is overlaid in a light blue, semi-transparent font at the top of the image.

A site visit was conducted on August 16, 2012. The facility is located on a large county-owned farm. Through tipping fees, a diversity of compost products, and contracted grinding fees they are in reasonably good financial shape.

Facility Summary Cont.

Financials:

2011 expenses : \$343,000; Revenues :\$223,000.

Compost/Products Sales details (in Cubic Yards):

Blended Topsoil: 1,540

Woodchip/Colored Mulch: 1,061

Combined Bagged Product: 985

Compost Sold: 955

Fresh Ground Removed: 10,944 (removed free after grinding to make space on site)

Bulk compost is actually Schenectady County's LEAST selling product, exceeded by blended topsoil, woodchip/colored mulch, and combined bagged products. Their tipping fee revenue exceeds all product sales revenue.



Suggestions for the Town of Bethlehem Compost Facility

The background image shows a compost facility. In the center, there is a small, dark-colored building with a red and white striped awning. To the left and right of the building are large, dark mounds of compost. The facility is surrounded by green grass and some trees in the distance under a clear sky.

- Evaluate a new rate schedule (i.e. possible annual permit fee, and/or residents paying some amount per yard; new bulk rates; raising some existing rates).
- Revise hours of operation, such as shortening the operating season, and/or reducing the number of days/week.
- Develop and implement a marketing plan for sales to contractors, residents, and municipal agencies.
- More long-term: Research adding new products such as blended topsoil, and/or bagged compost.

Q & A



For more info. on the Compost Facility or Recycling Programs in the Town of Bethlehem:

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