

Abbreviations and Definitions

active composting	The intensive phase of managed, aerobic decomposition of organic materials, where the addition of oxygen and moisture (if necessary) are maximized.
aeration floor, air floor	Location in MSW-composting facility where material continues to actively compost after it is discharged from the digester drum(s).
aerobic/ anaerobic	In the presence of oxygen/ Without the presence of oxygen
air-classification, air classifier	Process or machinery designed to separate particulate material according to its aerodynamic properties; typically used in the solid-waste materials-recovery field to separate out plastic from other heavier items.
ANOVA	Acronym for AN alysis Of V ariance, a statistical method for testing the significance of differences observed at one or more levels of comparison, by segregating the variation according to explained and unexplained factors.
biofilter	A blended ratio of organic materials constructed over a series of perforated pipes through which process air is pumped and distributed. Biofilters retain air in this media for a specified time to ensure the biological degradation (or “scrubbing”) of odorous compounds.
biosolids	Treated sewage sludge that has been dewatered to increase solidity, making for easier handling and transport.
bulking agent	Coarse material (such as wood chips) added to compost piles to provide porosity, and thereby air, which aids the aerobic decomposition process.
capture rate	The percent of material set out for recycling, out of the total quantity of recyclable material believed to be present in the waste stream.
City	New York City, also NYC
Class I compost Class II compost	Designation assigned by the DEC (prior to March 2003) to differentiate grades of compost, based on its ability to meet regulated, quality standards. Class I compost had less restricted end uses than Class II compost.
CN ratio	Carbon to Nitrogen ratio; a common indicator of compost maturity.

composting drum, digester, bioreactor	The large, rotary, kiln-shaped vessel in which the initial phase of MSW composting occurs.
Community District/ Sanitation District	One of the 59 administrative districts of NYC whose Boards advise Borough Presidents and City agencies on planning and services. Sanitation Districts, designated by the NYC Department of Sanitation for operational/administrative purposes are coterminous with community districts.
curing	The process whereby compost is aged and matured to form a stable end product.
DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
DEP	New York City Department of Environmental Protection
dewatered	The processes used by waste-water treatment plants to reduce the amount of water in sewage sludge. These include centrifuge, pressing, etc.
diversion rate	The percentage of the total waste stream collected for recycling as measured by dividing the weight of collected recyclables by the weight of collected waste, plus recyclables.
DSNY, the Department	New York City Department of Sanitation
FEL	Front-end loader
film plastic	Any type of plastic in sheet form, generally used for containers and packaging, such as shrink wrap and household garbage bags.
fines	Very small particles in a mixture of various sizes.
front-end residue	Items that are removed for disposal before entering the composting phase of a MSW-composting facility.
HDPE	High Density Polyethylene is plastic resin (#2) commonly used in bottles and containers.
ICI waste	Industrial, commercial, and institutional waste.
immature compost	Partially degraded organic material, which has not fully undergone the complex chemical and physical process of decomposition.
inerts	Very small pieces of non-degradable material, such as glass and plastic.

LDPE	Low Density Polyethylene is the plastic resin (#4) used primarily to make film for trash bags, food packaging, shrink films, and construction/agricultural films.
materials recovery	The process whereby recyclable materials are separated from non-recyclable items in the waste stream. Recyclable items are generally sorted into distinct categories to facilitate their input into subsequent manufacturing processes.
mpn	Most probable number in a laboratory sample; standard unit of measurement for pathogen analysis.
MRC	Materials-recovery and composting facility
MRF	Materials-recovery facility
MSW	Municipal solid waste
New York City waste	In this report, refers to the waste stream collected by the New York City Department of Sanitation. This stream is generated by residents and institutions (public universities, City offices, etc.), but does not include waste generated by businesses. The commercial waste stream in NYC is handled by private carters.
overs	Material greater in size than a given screen setting, thereby causing it to pass over the screen.
PET	Polyethylene terephthalate is a plastic resin (#1) commonly used in bottles and containers.
ppm	Parts per million
process air	In MSW composting refers to all air from the composting process that will require odor-control filtration before being released outside of the facility.
recovery rate	The percent of material actually recovered for beneficial, secondary use by the systems in place to accomplish this.
sort line	In a MRF, refers to the area(s) where materials are removed either manually or mechanically as they pass by on a conveyor.
source-separated	Term used to describe municipal, “curbside” recycling programs, where the responsibility to segregate designated items in the waste stream lies with the generator.

surge pile	Stock pile
TCLP	Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure is a laboratory procedure that simulates conditions in a landfill, whereby weak acids are washed over a given material to determine if any heavy metals leach (or seep) out.
tip fee	The per-ton price charged by a solid-waste-management facility (MRF, transfer station, landfill, incinerator, etc.) to receive and process material.
tip floor	Receiving area of any solid-waste-management facility where incoming trucks tip their loads.
tpd	Tons per day
trommel screen	Rotary, kiln-shaped screen that can be equipped with different sized openings (or settings) to segregate material by size.
tub grinder	Heavy-duty piece of equipment used to shred bulk wood waste.
unders	Material smaller in size than a given screen setting, thereby causing it to pass under the screen.
VOA	Volatile Organic Acids when present in compost indicate partial anaerobic fermentation, and are largely responsible for odors, as well as toxicity to plants.
wet tons	Standard unit of measure for biosolids that represents what the material actually weighs inclusive of water, as opposed to dry tons, which is what the material would weigh exclusive of water.
windrows	A row heaped up by, or as if by the wind. Refers to the elongated piles of compost formed to facilitate turning and aeration.
WPCP	Water Pollution Control Plants treat municipal waste water before discharge into the environment.

(This page intentionally left blank)