Municipal yard waste composting projects range from small part time operations handling a few hundred yards a year, to huge facilities processing tens of thousands of yards with several full-time employees. Whatever the scale, operators who understand the basics of the composting process can help ensure the program's success.

The 10 fact sheets cover the most important aspects of operating a composting facility. The emphasis is on fundamentals, since the specifics of equipment and technique will vary by facility. By understanding these fundamentals, operators can diagnose and correct problems as they arise. The troubleshooting sheet (Fact Sheet #10) provides a summary of common problems and remedies. A complete set of these fact sheets should be available to every compost facility worker and can also be posted on a wall for easy and frequent reference.


These fact sheets were developed with support from Westchester County, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell University. Thanks go to Tori Wishart and Nancy Dickson for their assistance with this project.

All material is protected by Section 107 of the 1976 copyright law. Copyright © is held by Cornell University. If you intend to use this material, please acknowledge its author and source.

This page was created on January 8, 1996.
This page was last updated October 2000.