



FACT SHEET

Reissuance of General Composting Facility Permit (GP-CF01) Current permit is in effect from March 28, 2021 - March 27, 2026

Authorization: § 9-1725 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR 26.04.11.11)

General Permit Purpose: This permit is for composting facilities that use a large area (more than 5,000 square feet) to process and recycle organic materials, such as yard waste, food scraps, and animal manure, into compost that can be distributed. The permit ensures facilities manage and recycle these materials properly and safely.

Permitting Cycle and Application Processing: General Permits (GP) are approved for a period of 5 years, and have standardized language and applications that cover similar activities that have similar environmental impacts. Unlike **Individual Permits** which are custom-crafted to the specific needs of one facility, General Permits are standard documents for similar activities with similar environmental impacts. All applicants under the GP agree to operate their facility according to the permit's conditions. The application review process is completed within 90 days from when the application was submitted.

Application Materials: General Permit applicants must submit the following:

- A Notice of Intent form.
- A Composting Facility Operations Plan (CFOP).
- A site plan.
- A checklist confirming compliance with site design requirements.

Summary of Proposed Changes to the Revised Draft Permit

PART I - Coverage Under the General Permit

- Suspension and Revocation changes include:
 - Replacing "Department" with "Maryland Department of the Environment."
 - Clarifying that "the terms in the CFOP become permit conditions and are enforceable."
 - Replacing "Substantial deviation" with "Deviations."
- Right of Entry
 - A new condition is added to permit the potential use of unmanned aircraft systems during inspections (i.e. drones).

PART II – Required Information

- Requires, within 15 calendar days of permit expiration, existing permittees shall submit revised Notice of Intent (NOI) and CFOP to the Department for review.

PART III – Conditions for the Design, Construction, and Operation of the Facility

- Feedstock Authorized: Added "Contaminated Feedstock" definition and authorized definition for Type 2 feedstock. Type 2 feedstock is generally food scraps, manure, animal mortalities, food processing residuals.
- Facility Design: Clarified as "Type 1 and/or Type 2 feedstock."
- Supervision: Included COMAR 26.04.11.09B, requiring MDA composting certification for operators.
- Pad Requirements: Defined separate pad requirements for Tier 1 and Tier 2, referencing COMAR 26.04.11.08.
- Unprocessed Feedstocks, Active Composting Piles, Curing, and CompostStorage: Incorporated all remaining COMAR 26.04.11.08 setback requirements. Active Piles (L) also requires covering per COMAR 26.04.11.09.
- Nuisance Odor Prevention: Added a condition for using an odor assessment form.
- Record Keeping/Reporting: Requires submitting odor assessment form(s) with the annual report.

PART IV – GENERAL CONDITIONS

- Expiration or Renewal: Added "at least 60 days before the permit expires" per COMAR 26.04.11.11.
- Transfer of Ownership: Requires new operator to submit necessary information for new general permit coverage.

Provide feedback

Interested parties may submit questions or comments through **APRIL 5, 2026**, by submitting a written comment or comment via email to:

Tariq Massood
Land and Materials Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 610
Baltimore, MD 21230

or email to: lma.wdd@maryland.gov, *If submitting an email comment, please include "Comment - GP01" in the subject line.*

Visit MDE's [Composting](#) website to access the draft permit