



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
LAND AND MATERIALS ADMINISTRATION
General Composting Facility Permit Reissuance -
Supplement

This announcement is to provide information about the pending renewal for permit MDE GP-CF01 **which is set to expire March 27, 2026.**

What is This Announcement About?

This permit is for composting sites that use an area larger than 5,000 feet to process and recycle materials such as yard waste, food scraps, and animal manure into distributed compost.

MDE is the regulatory agency responsible for preventing pollutants from composting operations protecting Maryland's rivers and lakes. This announcement provides information about the permit as well as the opportunity to participate in the permit process.

General Permits Versus Individual Permits?

This is a **General Permit (GP)** which is a standard document that covers multiple operations performing similar activities that have similar environmental impacts opposed to **Individual Permits** which are custom-crafted to the specific needs of one facility/operation. All applicants under the GP agree to operate their facility according to the permit's conditions which are approved for a period of 5 years. The application review process is completed within 90 days from when the complete application is first submitted. The following is required for a complete application:

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

What Community Benefits are Included in the Revised Permit

- Better Odor Control by requiring facilities to use a standardized tracking form to investigate and record weather and pile conditions whenever a neighbor files an odor complaint.
- Allow inspections by using drones to fly over sites, making it easier to spot potential problems and ensure environmental compliance.
- Water Protection by requiring facilities to use specially designed, sturdy floor pads and follow setback rules to protect groundwater.

What Changes are Included in the Revised Permit:

- Compost Facility Operation Plans will become enforceable conditions.
- The potential use of drones during inspections has been added.
- A revised Notice of Intent (NOI) and CFOP will be required for review within 15 calendar days of permit expiration.
- Statutory definitions for:
 - **Contaminated Feedstock** - raw material that contains more than 2% of man-made material and/or film plastic by dry weight
 - **Type 2 Feedstock** - generally includes food scraps, manure, dead animals, and food processing waste.
- Facility designs must now clearly specify whether they use Type 1 (yard waste and materials that pose a low level of risk) Type 2 or both types of feedstock.
- Operators must have a composting certification from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA).
- Floor pad for **Tier 1** and **Tier 2** facilities:
 - a. Must meet mandatory, legally defined distances that buildings and structures must maintain from property lines, streets, or environmental features like wetlands for unprocessed materials, active piles, curing, and storage areas.
 - b. Must cover active piles.
- Odor assessment forms must be completed and submitted with annual reports.
- Established a timeframe for continued coverage, consistent with regulation.
- New owners of transferred facilities must complete necessary information for coverage under general permit.

Provide feedback

Interested parties may submit questions or comments through **APRIL 5, 2026** to:

Tariq Massood, Land and Materials Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 610, Baltimore, MD 21230 or email: lma.wdd@maryland.gov, *If submitting an email, please include "Comment - GP01" in the subject line.*

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