

Source separated organic material drop-off sites

Aside from a limited number of curbside programs, much of the current interest in collecting source separated organic material (SSOM) is on a small scale, and in situations where residents are self-hauling material to a single collection point. These collection sites are not compost facilities, but serve as a place to consolidate SSOM so it can be efficiently transported to a compost facility. These sites are called Source Separated Organic Material Collection Sites by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), but are often referred to as “organics drop-off sites” or by similar names in local programs.

SSOM collection sites are transfer stations based on the definition in Minn. Stat. 115A.03, subd. 33, which states that: “*Transfer Station*” means an intermediate waste facility in which waste collected from any source is temporarily deposited to await transportation to another waste facility.

SSOM collection sites may be co-located at existing solid waste facilities, such as yard waste composting facilities (which may not compost food waste onsite), recycling facilities, and transfer stations. Other collection sites may be stand-alone, such as in a public park. The process for setting up an SSOM collection site depends on where it is located. The instructions for each of the two types of facilities are below.

Drop-off sites at existing permitted solid waste facilities

Existing permitted facilities, such as transfer stations or yard waste sites, are potential sites for the temporary collection and transfer of SSOM. Some of these facilities operate under a Permit-by-Rule (PBR), while others have full permits. An annual report is required from all of these facilities.

If a facility that currently has a solid waste PBR or permit through the MPCA would like to add SSOM collection as an activity at their facility, they shall do the following:

Facilities with a PBR

Complete the *Source Separated Organic Materials Transfer Facility PBR Notification* form ([document number w-sw3-42](#)).

Submit the form to: Solid Waste Permit Document Coordinator
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Facilities with a Permit

Contact a permit engineer at the MPCA to discuss the modification needed.

Drop-off sites in other locations

Many SSOM collection sites will not be affiliated with an existing facility such as a yard waste composting facility, recycling facility, or transfer station but will fit the definition of a *limited solid waste collection services transfer facility*. These facilities are regulated under Minn. R. 7001.3050, subp. 2, Item I. These organics drop sites exist in areas like parks, or in an enclosure in a parking lot or other similar locations.

These facilities are required to:

- Only accept material from residents who self-haul.
- Meet locational standards established in Minn. R. 7035.2555 and comply with local zoning requirements.
- Meet capacity and storage standards (under 40 cubic yards of material onsite at any given time and per day, stored in an impervious container). *Due to the nature of SSOM and the potential for nuisance conditions at larger volumes, the MPCA recommends that limited solid waste collections services transfer facilities maintain a capacity of 10 cubic yards or less on site at any given time.*
- Transport SSOM to a licensed, permitted, or otherwise approved facility.
- Notify the county's Solid Waste Administrator prior to establishing the facility and comply with any local registration requirements.

These facilities are not required to:

- Register with the MPCA
- Obtain a PBR or permit
- Submit a solid waste annual report

The MPCA will coordinate with the host county should any compliance issues arise.

Compliance with all applicable rules is required. Rules governing these sites can be found on pages 3 and 4 of this document.

Definition of SSOM

SSOM is defined in Minn. R. 7035.0300, subp. 105a, and includes source-separated compostable materials and yard waste (as defined under Minn. Stat. § [115A.03](#), except sanitary products and diapers), vegetative wastes generated from industrial or manufacturing processes that prepare food for human consumption, and compostable materials that meet the standards in ASTM D6400 and ASTM D6868, incorporated by reference under part [7035.0605](#).

Unless specifically permitted by the commissioner under part [7001.0150](#), source-separated organic material does not include animal wastes such as manure or carcasses, fish wastes generated from industrial or manufacturing processes, meat by-products generated from industrial or manufacturing processes, sanitary products, or diapers.

SSOM does not include septage or sewage sludge, as defined in part [7041.0100](#), subp. 49.

Rules governing limited solid waste collection services transfer facility

7001.3050 Permit requirements

Subp. 2. **Exclusions.** A solid waste management facility permit is not required:

- I. for a limited solid waste collection services transfer facility that directly accepts waste from individual residents that self-haul, provided the county where the facility is located, has determined that the facility is necessary due to limited availability of solid waste collection services, and:
 - (1) all waste is managed and stored in containers or roll-off boxes constructed of impervious material
 - (2) no more than 40 cubic yards of waste are stored on site at any given time
 - (3) no more than 40 cubic yards of waste are managed on site per day
 - (4) removal of waste occurs when the capacity of the container is reached or more often as necessary to prevent nuisance conditions

7035.2525 Solid waste management facilities governed

Subpart 1. **General requirements.** Parts [7035.2525](#) to [7035.2915](#) apply to owners and operators of all facilities that treat, transfer, store, process, or dispose of solid waste except as specifically provided otherwise in this part.

Subp. 2. **Exceptions.** Parts [7035.2525](#) to [7035.2915](#) do not apply to the following solid waste management facilities or persons, except as indicated:

- K. limited collection transfer facilities in compliance with part [7001.3050](#), subpart 2, item I, must only comply with parts [7035.2535](#), subpart 1; [7035.2555](#); [7035.2565](#), subparts 1, 3, and 4; and [7035.2870](#), subpart 2

7035.2535 General solid waste management facility requirements

Subpart 1. **Unacceptable wastes.** The owner or operator of a solid waste management facility must not accept the following wastes for treatment, storage, processing, transfer, or disposal:

- A. Hazardous wastes, categorized according to Minn. Stat. chs. 115B and 116, and Minn. R. ch. 7045, or wastes that have not been evaluated pursuant to parts [7045.0214](#) to [7045.0217](#)
- B. Sewage sludge, septic tank pumping's, sewage sludge compost, or sewage unless treated to meet the Class B pathogen reduction standards of chapter 7041
- C. Infectious wastes, unless approved by the agency
- D. Used oil, except as provided in subpart 5, item B
- E. Radioactive waste
- F. Wastes containing free liquids
- G. Free liquids

7035.2555 Location standards

Subpart 1. **Floodplains.** An owner or operator may not locate a new solid waste management facility in a floodplain.

Subp. 2. **Other location standards.** An owner or operator may not establish or construct a solid waste management facility in the following areas:

- A. within a shoreland or wild and scenic river land use district governed by chapters 6105 and 6120
- B. within a wetland
- C. within a location where emissions of air pollutants would violate the ambient air quality standards in chapters 7005, 7007, 7009, 7011, 7017, 7019, and 7028 and parts [7023.0100](#) to [7023.0120](#)

7035.2565 Groundwater quality, surface water quality, air quality and soil protection

Subpart 1. **Duty to protect water.** Solid waste management facilities must be located, designed, constructed, and operated to contain sediment, solid waste, and leachate and to prevent pollution of groundwater and surface water. The owner or operator must take corrective action as necessary to end continuing releases and to minimize or abate any resulting ground water or surface water pollution. As required by parts [7050.0150](#) and [7060.0600](#), the owner or operator must monitor the facility, surface water, and ground water as directed by the agency.

Subp. 3. **Air quality protection.** A person, who operates or maintains a solid waste management facility or permits the use of property for such, must operate and maintain the site in conformance with the agency air pollution control rules. Open burning is prohibited, unless a permit is obtained as provided in Minn. Stat. § [88.17](#) and the material to be burned complies with Minn. Stat. § [88.171](#).

Subp. 4. **Soil protection.** Solid waste management facilities must be located, designed, constructed, and operated to minimize the contamination of soils from solid waste. For this subpart, soil contamination does not include soil liners.

7035.2870 Solid waste transfer facilities

Subpart 2. **Delivery of solid waste.** No waste may be transported from a transfer facility unless the owner or operator has reasonable belief that the person or facility receiving the waste may lawfully do so under applicable federal, state, or local rules. Reasonable belief means that the owner or operator has verified that the person or facility receiving the waste holds a valid license, permit, or other approval, or that no such approval is required.