

SMALL SCRAPS, BIG DIFFERENCE.



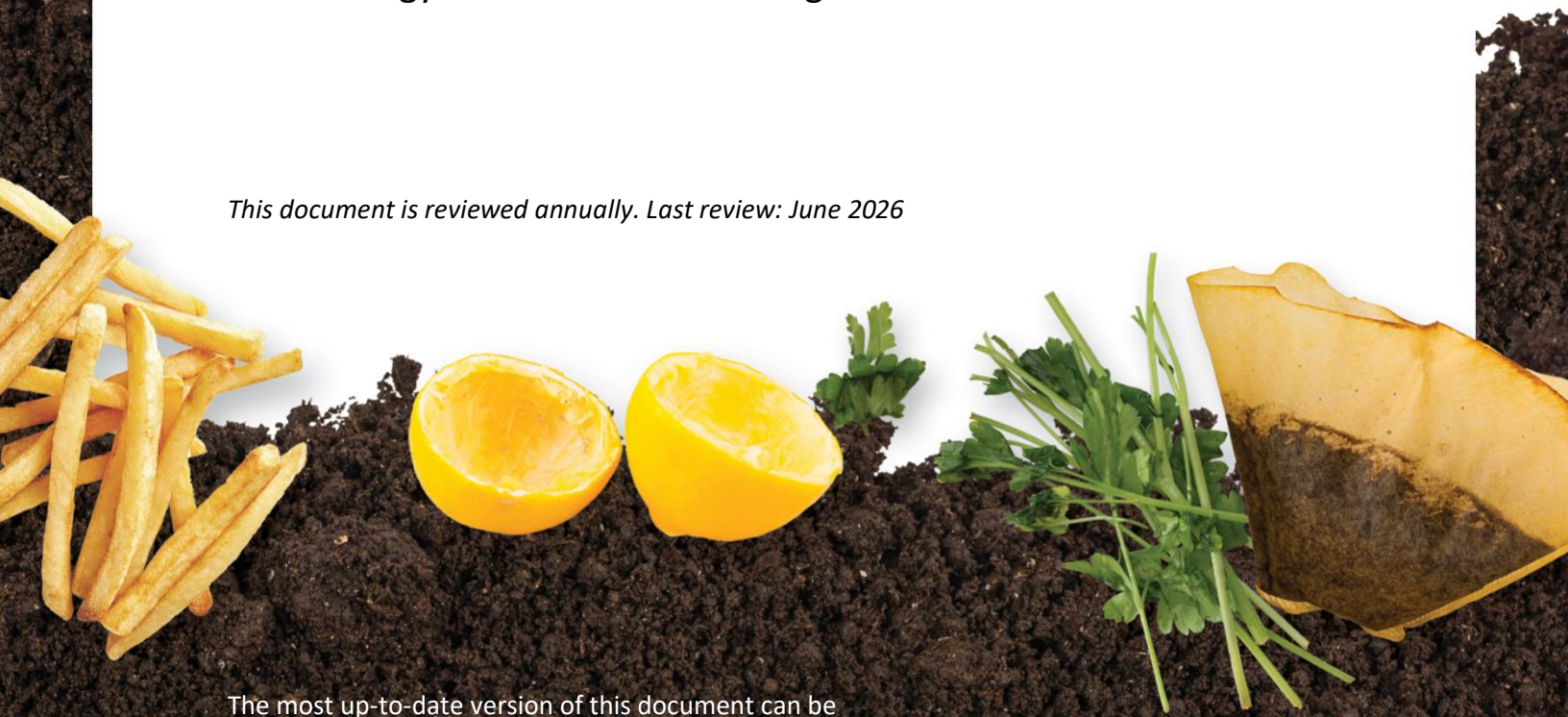




Organics Recycling Outreach Guide

Terminology to use when educating residents and businesses

This document is reviewed annually. Last review: June 2026



The most up-to-date version of this document can be found on the Minnesota Composting Council website: mncompostingcouncil.org

This document is meant to be a guiding document to be used voluntarily by waste educators both public and private, statewide. In 2016, a subcommittee of the Association of Recycling Managers created this document. The Minnesota Composting Council took over maintenance of the Organics Terminology Guide in 2021. Representatives from cities, counties, source-separated organics composting facilities, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and non-profits participated in the development of the guide.

The document is supported or reviewed by representatives from the following organizations:

- Association of Recycling Managers
- City of Champlin
- City of Hopkins
- City of Minneapolis
- City of Roseville
- City of St. Louis Park
- City of West St. Paul
- City of (Hutchinson)
- Dakota County
- SMSC Organics Recycling Facility
- Dakota Valley Recycling (Cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan)
- Dem-Con Companies
- Minnesota Composting Council
- Minnesota Waste Wise
- NatureWorks LLC
- Waste Management of MN Inc./ Specialized Environmental Technologies / The Mulch Store
- Vonco II, LLC
- Resource Renew, the brand of Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD)
- Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management (PDSWM)
- Glacial Ridge Compost Facility (PDSWM)

Organics Recycling Terminology

Goal: To provide a style guide used statewide for printed and verbal communication with consistent terminology, symbols, and color. Organics Recycling or food scraps collection/pick-up programs generally accept all food scraps, napkins, paper towels and BPI certified compostable food-service items. This document covers various categories and detailed lists of items accepted, not accepted, and maybe accepted. Other information is provided where appropriate for program managers to be able to answer questions from residents, businesses, etc.

In Minnesota, there are two definitions of organics with slight differences; one appears in rule and the other is included in state statute. Source Separated Organic Materials (SSOM) is defined in Minn. R. 7035.0300, subp. 105a. Subp. 105. The definition in statue is for Source Separated Compostable Materials (SSCM) which is defined in Minn.Stat. 115A.03 Sub32a. The two definitions can be found in Appendix A along with additional information on how the definitions overlap and how they differ.

Program terminology

Overall program term: Organics Recycling or Food Scraps Collection/Pick-up/Drop-off

- Used as the title of a specific program or a title of the document: capitalize both words
- Used as a general term: lowercase all words
- Avoid using the terms compost/composting by itself
- Avoid using the term waste/wasted (e.g. Food waste)
- Promotional campaigns may use different tag-line to lead the audience to program content/intent.
  - Ex. Organics for composting; food scraps for composting
  - Recycle your organics (heading) with sub text to make sure it's clear the organics will be composted

Symbol/Logos

- Avoid using the recycling symbol to prevent organics being placed in a recycling cart.
- Evaluation of an organics recycling symbol may occur in the future with input from industry stakeholders.
- January 1, 2025, Minn. Stat. 325E.046 went into effect which bans the sale or distribution of products with these labels unless they are actually compostable. See MPCA's Compostable Product Labeling web page for more information.
  - Terms not allowed include but are not limited to: 'biodegradable', 'compostable', 'made from plants', 'made from corn starch', 'all natural', 'compostable in an industrial facility', 'marine degradable', 'soil biodegradable', 'oxo-degradable', 'industrially compostable', 'earth-friendly', 'environmentally friendly', 'green', 'greener alternative', 'decomposable', 'natural', 'sustainably sourced', 'non-toxic', 'sustainable', 'carbon neutral', 'climate-friendly'.
- Use BPI (Biodegradable Products Institute) logos to identify certified compostable food-service items.
  - BPI is accepted by all SSOM composting facilities in Minnesota. Use their logo when educating residents and businesses on compostable products.
  - BPI certifies products for compostability through scientific lab testing using the ASTM D-6400 or ASTM D-6868 test methods. Their process includes testing each component of a product to verify the product will fully and safely break down in a commercial-composting environment using a pass / fail degradation test.

Note that degradation times vary based on the composting process (static pile, aerated static pile, covered aerated static pile, etc.) and operations at each individual site.





- Logos from other testing bodies/approvers of compostable products can be found on products sold in our area; however they are not accepted by composters in Minnesota. There is no recognized test specification for home compostability in the US. These approving bodies often use test methods from different countries. Products showing only one of these other labels should not be promoted as accepted in organics programs in Minnesota at this time. More information about other testing bodies/approvers can be found in Appendix B.

Usage of organics recycling/food scrap terminology

The use of these terms is completely voluntary and is meant for public education. Examples of educational materials in which this guide might be used include:

- Brochures and print materials
- Website content
- One-on-one education (phone, in person, email)
- Interviews for print or recorded media events
- Videos
- PSA (paid or free media – billboards, press releases, etc.)
- Social Media
- Media campaign (includes one or more from the above)

Color

Use the following colors for signs and other major documents:

- CMYK G-56 M00 Y-100 K-27 OR G-56 M00 Y-100 K-50 (for ADA compliance; added in 2023)
- PMS 370

Organics Recycling Program Types

Use the following terms when explaining a program to residents/the public:

- Organics Recycling for Composting. Materials are brought to a:
  - Large-scale/industrial compost facility/site
  - Industrial composting facility/site
  - Commercial composting facility/site
- Backyard composting
- Small-scale composting
- Community composting (not backyard)
- Food to People OR Food Rescue (promote to businesses only)
- Food to Animals (Regulated through the MN Board of Animal Health)
- Food to Animal Feed (promote to businesses only)
- Food for Industrial Uses (promote to businesses only)
- Vermiculture (vermicomposting)
- Organics/Food scraps for Anaerobic Digestion (AD)

Note: Food-based anaerobic digestion systems will accept an overlapping subset of materials as large-scale composting. This document will be updated when more is known about future AD systems in Minnesota.

- This document will not discuss AD systems that solely deal with waste water or animal feed, bedding and manure.

Layout for detailed descriptions

Outline

When describing the program, use sub-category and terms below – modifying for space allotments.

Material Category

- Choices for category title (if applicable)

Acceptable and non-acceptable materials for category

- Use these terms when explaining what items are or are not accepted in category

Organics Recycling/Food Scrap Collection for Composting
Large-scale / Commercial / Industrial compost facility/site

Material Category: Food Scraps

Check with your facility before finalizing educational materials. The following chart does not represent a complete listing of materials.

Accepted	**Not Accepted**	**Maybe** (depends on program/facility)

• Fruits and vegetables
  ○ Peels, pits, shells and rinds
• Meat, fish, shellfish and bones
  ○ Bones, scales and shells
• Dairy products
  ○ Yogurt, cheese, butter
• Eggs and eggshells
• Bakery and dry goods
  ○ Pasta, grains, beans and rice
  ○ Bread and cereal
  ○ Nuts and shells
  ○ Dough, pastries and pies
• Pet food
	• Grease or oil*
	• Chewing gum
	• Stickers on produce
	• Liquids*	

** Incidental amounts are accepted.*

Material Category: Paper *(choose one or more from below for a title or sub-category)*

- Soiled paper
- Food-soiled paper

1. Recyclable paper should be recycled, including unsoiled pizza boxes.
2. Messaging should be tied to paper products that are food related.
    - Composters mostly want the food but will accept food service packaging as a vessel to help divert food to the organics recycling/composting stream.
    - Molded paper items (paper plates, bowls, lunch trays, and clamshells) must be BPI certified. To receive BPI certification the product cannot contain any added PFAS chemicals (often used as a grease or oil barrier). PFAS chemicals are persistent in the environment and are very costly to manage at disposal facilities (including compost sites).
    - Facial tissues, toilet paper (used as a tissue), paper towels and cores from the bathroom.

- Some composters will accept these items, but prefer they are not promoted on educational materials to the general public due to potential contaminants that could come with them and because they cannot obtain BPI certification at this time.
- Verify with your composter if they will accept organics from bathrooms at public or commercial establishments. As noted above, composters top priority is to capture food scraps for composting. Some composters choose to accept other easily compostable items like tissues from the bathroom and others do not want this material. Some do not want due to possible other contaminants that may come from bathrooms and/or due to the ability for lighter tissues to easily become litter.

Check with your facility before finalizing educational materials. The following chart does not represent a complete listing of materials.

Accepted	**Not Accepted**	**Maybe** (depends on program/facility)

● Napkins and food-soiled paper towels
● Paper egg cartons (remove sticker labels)
● BPI certified plates, bowls and containers*
  • Cups, plates and bowls*
  • Containers*
● Paper bags (recycle if not soiled)
● BPI certified parchment and wax paper*
● Paper bags (recycle if not soiled)
● Parchment and wax paper*
	● Paper that can be recycled
	● Products marked PLA or labeled as "biodegradable" or other misleading terms included in the symbol/logos section on page 3, unless they are BPI certified.
	● Cartons (milk cartons, juice boxes, soup, broth and wine cartons)
	● Paper products (plates, boats, cups bowls) without BPI certification
	● Paper products used with chemical based cleaners
	● Refrigerated and frozen food boxes
	● Fast food wrappers - fry bags and burger/sandwich wrappers (unless BPI certified)
	● Butcher paper, parchment paper, wax paper, muffin cups (unless BPI certified)
	● Microwave popcorn bags
	● Ice cream containers
	● Asian take-out food pails (unless BPI certified)
	● Paper coated with foil
	● Wax/produce cardboard boxes
	● Wrapping paper and tissue paper (gift wrap/packing)
	● Shredded paper
	● Receipts
		● Pizza boxes from delivery**
		● Toilet paper (used as a tissue), Paper towels and tissues from bathrooms**
		● Facial tissues**

**Must have BPI logo on product or product container.*

*** Some programs accept commingled organics and yard waste. Be sure to check with the composting facility your material goes to verify if they accept*

Material Category: Other Compostable/Household Food Related Items *(choose one or more from below for a title or sub-category)*

- Other compostable food-related items
- Other household food-related items

1. Recyclable items should be recycled.
2. Public messaging should be tied to products that are food-related. The list below is to help answer detailed questions received from residents. Appendix C provides additional information why some items are not accepted.

Check with your facility before finalizing educational materials. The following chart does not represent a complete listing of materials.

Accepted	**Not Accepted**	**Maybe** (depends on program/facility)
● Coffee grounds and filters ● Tea ● Houseplant trimmings ● Wooden items such as wood chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks ● BPI certified compostable products*: ○ Cups, plates and bowls* ○ Utensils and straws* ○ Bags* ○ Containers* ○ Bamboo products* ○ Bagasse products* ○ Single-use coffee pods*	● Recyclable materials (glass, plastic, paper, metal) ● Cleaning and personal care wipes ● Pet waste or litter ● Diapers ● Menstrual and incontinence products ● Non-BPI certified plastic (bags, containers) ● Products marked PLA or labeled as "biodegradable" or other misleading terms included in the symbol/logos section on page 3, unless they are BPI certified. ● Dryer lint and dryer sheets ● Dental floss ● Medicines ● Cigarettes ● Fireplace or BBQ ashes ● Charcoal or ashes ● Lumber and sawdust ● Rocks, soil and dirt ● Latex products (gloves, balloons) ● Rubber and rubber bands ● Wax (wax paper [unless BPI certified], candle wax, car wax, waxed bones) ● Tape of any kind ● Vacuum cleaner bags and contents ● Floor sweepings ● Paper Pull tabs (gambling) ● Textiles ● Feathers	● Yard waste** ● Cotton balls and paper swabs ● Animal bedding ● Hair and nail clippings (undyed and not painted) ● Nutritional supplement powders (no vitamins, minerals or pill form)

**Must have BPI logo on product or product container.*

***Some programs accept commingled organics and yard waste. Be sure to check with the composting facility your material goes to verify if they accept*

Material Category: Yard waste

1. Many organics/food scrap programs keep yard waste separate from organics. In these programs, the only yard waste accepted in organics/food scraps are plant trimmings or cut flowers that can be found inside all year round.
2. The list below is for commingled yard waste + organics/food scraps and yard waste programs in general.
3. Make sure to verify with the compost site receiving yard waste from your program what materials they will accept. Also verify with your hauler what they will accept and preparation requirements.
    a. Ex. A composter may accept trees or stumps to grind on site, but the hauler may not be capable of picking those items up or may have size preferences for branches or brush to fit inside the truck.
4. Residents may also have questions about noxious weeds, weed seeds and other invasive species like jumping worms.
    a. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources states that best practices for land - based invasive species and noxious weeds is to go to a composting facility that regularly takes temperatures to make sure the piles meet the process to further reduce pathogens (PRFP). This ensures the piles are hot enough to safely destroy the weed seeds, kill eggs from jumping worms, etc.
    b. This is the same messaging that should be used for residents looking to purchase compost. At the very least they should be purchasing compost from sites that meet PRFP to help prevent the spread of invasives. Better yet, they should be looking for compost from a company who participates in the US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program. The STA label on compost should provide an easy way for residents to have confidence in the compost they are purchasing.
    c. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources prohibits the possession or transportation of 20 types of invasive lake weeds without a permit. Learn more about the transportation of invasive species and aquatic plants.

Check with your facility before finalizing educational materials.

Accepted	**Not Accepted**	**Maybe** (depends on program/facility)
• Acorns • Branches • Brush • Garden plants • Grass clippings • Hay • Leaves • Mulch (no dirt or soil) • Pine cones • Pine needles • Prunings from bushes or trees • Tree bark • Tree debris • Twigs • Wood chips (no dirt or soil)	• Dirt or soil • Pet waste • Sawdust • Sod • Rocks	• Diseased plant material • Fruit from trees • Noxious weeds • Aquatic Plants • Stumps • Trees • Weeds gone to seed (this is not a concern since the PFRP process kills weed seeds)

Backyard Composting & Small-Scale/Community Compost Site

Review local unit of government regulations on backyard composting and small-scale/community compost site composting. Information provided below is general for an average backyard composter or small-scale /community composter who does some management of their backyard or small-scale compost pile.

People or communities who have larger compost piles and/or more actively manage (water, aerate) their pile can compost a larger variety of materials.

Material Category: Food

Accepted	**Not Accepted**	**Maybe** (depends on backyard composting skill level)
● Produce OR Fruits and vegetables ○ Peelings and shells ● Bakery and dry goods ○ Pasta, beans and rice ○ Bread and cereal ● Nuts ● Eggshells	● Meat and fish ○ Bones, scales and shells ● Dairy products ○ Yogurt and cheese ● Eggs ● Raw or cooked food with oil, grease, or dairy ● Fats, oils, or grease ● Chewing gum ● Stickers on produce ● Liquids	● Cooked meat scraps* ● Fruit pits ● Shells from nuts ● Pet food (meat based)

**Check your City ordinance to determine what items are allowed for backyard composting.*

Material Category: Soiled Paper/Food-soiled Paper

Accepted	**Not Accepted**	**Maybe** (depends on backyard composting skill level)
● Napkins, paper towels and tissues ● Paper egg cartons ● Paper bags (recycle if not soiled)	● All "not accepted" items in Large-Scale/Industrial Composting	● Compostable plates, bowls, cups and containers* ● Pizza boxes from delivery ● Compostable parchment and wax paper* ● Paper towels and tissues from bathrooms

**Check your City ordinance to determine what items are allowed for backyard composting. All food-service items in the Maybe category should be BPI certified.*

Material Category: Yard Waste

Accepted	**Not Accepted**	**Maybe** (**depends on backyard composting skill level)
● Leaves ● Grass clippings ● Twigs and pinecones ● Woodchips ● Houseplant or garden plants and trimmings ● Straw ● Sawdust (untreated wood only)	● Treated wood ● Sawdust (treated wood) ● Black walnut shells	● Weeds gone to seed ● Noxious weeds* ● Aquatic plants** ● Diseased plant material

Material Category: Other Compostable/Household Items

Accepted	**Not Accepted**	**Maybe** (**depends on backyard composting skill level)
● Coffee grounds and filters ● Tea bags (no synthetic filter or metal) ● Hair and nail clippings	● All “not accepted” items in Large-Scale/Industrial Composting	● Wood chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks ● -Compostable products*: ○ Cups, plates and bowls ○ Utensils and straws ○ Bags ○ Containers ○ Bamboo products ○ Bagasse products ● Animal bedding

**Must have BPI logo on product or product container.*

Food to Animals

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH) permits businesses who choose to feed food scraps to livestock or poultry. Visit their website to find which companies are currently licensed to collect and process food scraps for this purpose.

Accepted	**Not Accepted**	**Maybe** (depends on program)

• Produce OR Fruits and vegetables
  ○ Peelings and shells
• Dairy products
  ○ Yogurt and cheese
• Eggs and eggshells
• Bakery and dry goods
  ○ Pasta, beans and rice
  ○ Bread and cereal
  ○ Nuts and shells
• Pet food
	• Non-food items
	• Liquids
	• Grease or oil
	• Gum
	• Animal waste, litter and bedding
	• Plants and yard waste
		• Meat & Fish
		  ○ Bones, scales and shells
		• Coffee grounds, filters & tea bags (no synthetic filter or metal)

Organics for Food to Animal Feed

Local companies: Endres Processing and ReConserve of Minnesota

Accepted	**Not Accepted**
• Bakery and cereal grain by-products	• Meat, Fish, Bones • Produce OR Fruits and vegetables • Dairy products • Eggs and eggshells • Non-food items • Liquids • Grease or oil • Animal waste, litter and bedding • Plants and yard waste

Food for Industrial Uses

Industrial uses include: Rendering for fuel and processing for use in consumer products (e.g. powders for makeup, lotion, etc.)

Accepted: Used grease and recently deceased animals at farms

Visit Minnesota's E-Licensing platform to learn more about Rendering Plants: https://mn.gov/elicense/a-z/?id=1083-230918#/list/appId//filterType//filterValue//page/1/sort//order/

Vermiculture (a.k.a. Vermicomposting)

Vermiculture is the propagation of worms in an enclosed container for the purpose of decomposing organic materials. The term "vermicomposting" is commonly used to refer to this practice, however the worms' digestive tract utilizes anaerobic processes for decomposition and this process is distinctly not composting.

The end product of this decomposition process, worm castings, is not finished compost. Castings can readily be stored and finished into a compost, but fresh castings should not be referred to as compost. Worm castings are a highly valuable source of nutrients, microorganisms, and organic matter for soil amendment. A worm's digestive tract is one of the most biologically active environments on the planet and the high microbial activity is also present in the castings, this is an important consideration when handling or applying fresh castings as there is a high risk of bacterial impacts to plants or people. Potential biological impacts can be mitigated by finishing the castings into a compost.

Materials Accepted: Food and Select Non-Food Items

Accepted	Not Accepted

Try to feed an equal parts 'brown' and 'green' foods.
• Produce OR fruits and vegetables (only small amounts of citrus-based)
• Eggs, eggshells, paper egg cartons
• Bakery and dry goods*
  ◦ Pasta, beans and rice
  ◦ Bread and cereal
• Coffee/filters
• Tea bags (no synthetic filter or metal)
• Paper napkins, hand towels and rolls
• Plants clippings and yard waste (leaves)
• Shredded newsprint is OK
	• Meat, Fish, Bones
	• Dairy products
	• Nuts and shells
	• Salty or oily foods
	• Compostable plastics
	• Paper/fiber products not listed as accepted
	• Non-food items
	• Liquids (other than water to maintain moisture)
	• Grease or oil
	• Animal waste, litter, and bedding**

**Calorie dense feedstocks will be more slowly utilized by the worms. Limit the quantity of calorie dense feedstocks and blend well with other feedstocks to prevent unwanted fungal and bacterial growth.*

***Bedding materials may be appropriate for vermiculture if they do not contain manure.*

Appendix A: State Definitions

MN Statute 115A.03

Subd. 32a.**Source-separated compostable materials.** "Source-separated compostable materials" means materials that:

(1) are separated at the source by waste generators for the purpose of preparing them for use as compost;

(2) are collected separately from mixed municipal solid waste, and are governed by the licensing provisions of section 115A.93;

(3) are comprised of food wastes, fish and animal waste, plant materials, diapers, sanitary products, and paper that is not recyclable because the commissioner has determined that no other person is willing to accept the paper for recycling;

(4) are delivered to a facility to undergo controlled microbial degradation to yield a humus-like product meeting the agency's class I or class II, or equivalent, compost standards and where process rejects do not exceed 15 percent by weight of the total material delivered to the facility; and

(5) may be delivered to a transfer station, mixed municipal solid waste processing facility, or recycling facility only for the purposes of composting or transfer to a composting facility, unless the commissioner determines that no other person is willing to accept the materials.

7035.0300 - MN Rules

Subp. 105a. Source-separated organic material.

A. "Source-separated organic material" means:

(1) source-separated compostable materials and yard waste, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 115A.03, except sanitary products and diapers;

(2) vegetative wastes generated from industrial or manufacturing processes that prepare food for human consumption; and

(3) compostable materials that meet the standards in ASTM D6400 and ASTM D6868, incorporated by reference under part 7035.0605.

B. Unless specifically permitted by the commissioner under part 7001.0150, source-separated organic material does not include:

(1) animal wastes such as manure or carcasses;

(2) fish wastes generated from industrial or manufacturing processes;

(3) meat by-products generated from industrial or manufacturing processes;

(4) sanitary products; or

(5) diapers.

C. Source-separated organic material does not include:

(1) septage; or

(2) sewage sludge, as defined in part 7041.0100, subpart 49.

The types of materials overlap, but the SSCM definition includes a few materials, notably diapers and sanitary products that are not typically accepted at most Minnesota based compost sites. The SSOM definition also includes a category of materials (under part B) that require permission from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for a composter to accept. In practice, this typically means a composter has included in the operations plan (part of their solid waste permit) that they have a plan in place to accept these types of materials. Most of the materials from the two definitions overlap. It is also noteworthy that both categories require the organics to be source separated.

Appendix B: Information on other testing bodies/approvers of compostable products

Logos from other testing bodies/approvers of compostable products can be found on products sold in our area. These approving bodies often use test methods from different countries and are not accepted by composters in Minnesota. Products showing only one of these other labels should not be promoted as accepted in organics programs in Minnesota at this time.

- Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA)
    - CMA took over 'approving' products from Cedar Grove (a compost site in Washington State). Cedar Grove is no longer approving products for acceptance at their site.
    - CMA products should not be promoted as accepted items to the general public at this time.
    - CMA is in the beginning stage of approving products for specific composting methods. After products are approved, they are added to an online list, however, no logo is put on the product themselves. This makes public education around CMA approved products very challenging.
    - Compost sites in Minnesota may accept CMA approved products from large events if the large event contacts the composter in advance.
- TUV Austria / OK Compost & seedling certifications
    - Formerly Vincotte / OK Compost.
    - TUV Austria / OK Compost and the seedling certification tests products to the European test method EN13432. This test method tests the product as a whole and not each individual component of the product like the BPI certification process does. Testing the product as a whole for a pass/fail percentage of degradation provides an opportunity for microplastics to enter composting facilities.
- TUV Austria / OK Compost Home compostable
    - There is no recognized test specification for home compostability in the US. The Compost Research & Education Foundation, BPI, and CMA have begun evaluating home composting to potentially develop a recognized test method and specification for the US in the next several years.
    - For now, residents may compost these items in their backyard compost bin at their own choosing, but they should not be promoted to go to commercial organics recycling facilities. Also note that some City ordinances may not allow these products in backyard compost bins.
- BNQ certification
    - The BNQ certification tests products to the ISO 17088 test method. Similar to EN13432, the ISO standard tests a product as a whole, not each individual component of a product leaving the chance for microplastics to enter composting facilities and operations.

- Marine biodegradable
    - There is a test method in the US, but no test specification (pass/fail) to verify biodegradation.
    - Test method is not applicable to fresh water and there is no salt water in Minnesota. It is unknown if these products would fragment into micro plastics in our soils and waterways.
    - A standard test specification should be developed before products are allowed to be labeled marine biodegradable in Minnesota.

Appendix C: Frequently asked questions on acceptability of products in large scale composting programs

There are many items that people may feel should be accepted for composting. It's important to reiterate that composters primarily want the food scraps. Most accept BPI certified compostable products as they help facilitate getting food scraps. If an item is not directly related to food and is not BPI certified, the easy answer is no, it is not accepted.

Some frequently asked items and the reasons they are not accepted at SSO composting facilities are detailed below.

- Cartons (milk, soup, broth, juice)
    - Cartons have two layers of plastic, and some have a layer of aluminum in them. The linings are not wax. The microbes will eat the paper portion and leave behind the plastic. Often the plastic has fragmented into microplastic.
- Diapers, menstrual and incontinence products
    - SSO compost facilities must request permission from the MPCA to accept these items. Many of these items contain microplastics and their packaging is made of plastic or plastic-lined material. To reduce the risk of receiving other contaminants associated with these products, most composters do not want to accept this material.
- Dental floss
    - Most dental floss contains microplastics.
- Dryer lint
    - A lot of clothing is synthetic resulting in microplastics in our dryer lint.
- Dryer sheets
    - Many dryer sheets use chemicals and contain microplastics.
- Natural textiles (cotton, wool, linen, silk)
    - Most composters will not accept textiles in any form. They would need to be cut into small pieces to increase surface area for microbes to consume the fabric. As composters primarily want food, textiles are not an item they accept.
- Pet waste, litter or bedding
    - SSO compost facilities must request permission from the MPCA to accept these items. Due to the potential for odors and challenges composting facilities may have from odors, many facilities do not want to accept this material.

- Shredded paper
    - Commercial toner cartridges contain microplastics.
- Wax items without BPI certification
    - Many wax products are made of petroleum-based wax which may not fully and safely break down in the commercial composting process.