



## Recycling Fact Sheet

# Organics Recycling

### *Definition*

Organics recycling refers to processing of organic materials that are then returned to use in the form of products such as mulch or compost. "Organic materials" include, but are not limited to, yard trimmings, food residuals, manures, agricultural crop residues, biosolids, and lumber.

### *Why is it important?*

In the U.S. 25-50% of the waste stream is composed of organic materials. Organics recycling saves costly landfill space, and provides products that can provide nutrients to the soil, reduce evaporation and soil erosion, suppress weed growth and moderate soil temperatures in the root zone.

### *Where can you take recyclables?*

Many municipal solid waste departments and a handful of private businesses now recycle organic materials in New Mexico. Curbside pick-up is typically not available and a tipping fee at a transfer station is usually charged.

### *Fast Facts*

- *Compost is alive! As many as 10 million microbes are present in one gram of active compost!*
- *Compost and compost extracts can help suppress plant pathogens.*
- *Bernalillo County Solid Waste Dept. in NM recycled over 12,000 cubic yards of organic materials in 2002.*
- *The compost process kills weed seeds and plant pathogens, thus pinon trees infected with the bark beetle can be turned into a viable product.*



### **For More Information . . .**

- <http://www.nmrecycle.org/nmoro.htm>
- Greg Baker, NM Env. Dept: Solid Waste Bureau, 827-2780
- Contact your municipal solid waste dept.
- Earth W.I.P.P. in Los Lunas, 864-9159
- Soilutions, Inc. in Albuquerque, 877-0220
- White Mountain Compost in Ruidoso, 378-1091

*Improving the Quality of Recycling in New Mexico*

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