



The City of New York
BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION
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Daniel D. Brownell
Commissioner and Chair

Community Composting Pilot Program F.A.Q.

Eligibility Questions:

- 1. If my community composting organization only collects residential organic waste, do we need to execute an Agreement with BIC?**

No. The Agreement BIC is making available to community composting organizations only applies to those organizations that wish to collect and transport organic waste from commercial establishments, rather than residential.

- 2. Would any for-profit business (e.g. even one that has a documented agreement with a city agency) be eligible to participate in the community composting pilot program and enter into an Agreement?**

No. If you are not a non-profit organization with *501(c)(3) status*, and you are likewise not an *unincorporated* entity with a documented agreement with a NYC agency to utilize property owned by the City for the purposes of composting, you do not qualify to enter into an Agreement with BIC under the pilot program.

Transportation Questions:

- 1. Can I utilize my personal vehicle to transport organic material collected from a commercial establishment?**

Yes. Please provide the mandatory information requested in the Registration Form, Schedule A and Schedule B. Additionally, please upload proof of insurance and a copy of the vehicle's registration with the Registration Form.

- 2. Will my organization be allowed to utilize a rental vehicle (either a Zipcar or a car from a rental company) to collect and transport organic material from a commercial establishment?**

No. For the purposes of this pilot program, BIC will not allow the use of rental vehicles for the collection and hauling of commercial organic waste.

3. **Our organization would like to utilize bicycles and/or electric bicycles to collect and transport organic waste from a commercial establishment. Will I be required to provide any insurance or registration information for this mode of transportation?**

No. At this time, BIC is only requesting insurance and registration information for motorized vehicles. In the Registration Form, however, you will be required to inform us which methods of transportation you will use to transport organic waste, including bicycles.

Operational Questions:

1. **Will my organization be allowed to charge a fee to collect organic waste from a commercial establishment?**

Yes, but a customer cannot be charged above the maximum rates set by BIC. Please visit the following link for a list of the current rates:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/bic/html/trade_waste/max_rates.shtml.

2. **Will BIC impose a monthly maximum amount on the commercial organic waste composting organization can collect from commercial establishments?**

At this time, BIC will not be imposing a cap on the amount of organic waste collected from commercial establishments. However, BIC will monitor its regulation of organic composting transport as it grows and reserves the right to impose a threshold at a later point.

3. **Under the pilot program, will BIC impose a maximum capacity that a community composting site cannot exceed?**

BIC does not regulate the community composting sites. While we are not imposing a minimum or maximum capacity threshold for each community composting site, organizations should abide by all local and state rules governing such sites.

4. **How often will an organization be required to track and report their quantitative data?**

As part of the initial registration process, your organization will be required to submit certain quantitative information. Your organization will be required to submit quarterly reports. Please track the type and amount of commercial organic waste your organization is collecting. BIC will be providing you with a sample report you must complete.

5. **Can an organization who has entered into an agreement with BIC, sell the finished compost product?**

Yes. A community composting organization may use the profits it generates from the finished compost to cover any expenses associated with operation their organization.

6. **As part of the terms and conditions of the Agreement, it is my understanding that I need to notify BIC within 10 business days of any changes to the information that I provided in the online Registration Form. What constitutes as “notice”?**

Please contact BIC by either e-mail or mail if there any changes to the Registration Form.

7. **If my organization executes an Agreement with BIC, will I receive some form of documentation from BIC, which will allow me to demonstrate that I am allowed to transport commercial organic waste?**

Yes. Once your organization has met the eligibility requirements for the program and has completed the Registration Form for Community Composters, your organization will receive a fully executed Agreement by email, which will serve as your official notice to participate in the pilot program.

Registration Form Questions:

1. **Will my organization be required to provide a specific list of all the businesses that we are collecting organic waste from, and will we be required to update BIC each time we collect from a new one?**

In the Registration Form for Community Composters, please indicate which businesses you are planning to collect organic waste by providing the neighborhood and zip code. Please maintain a detailed list of the customers you plan to serve as you will be required to submit this information on a quarterly basis.