Pacific Region Compost and Acceptable Materials
About Pacific Region Compost (PRC)

• Just across the street from the landfill
• Operates on about 27 acres
• Mulching yard debris since the 90s
• Started food waste composting in 2010
  • 1st facility in Oregon to become permitted to accept type III materials (food-proteins and dairy)
• PRC processes more than 100,000 tons of residential yard debris, residential organics and commercial food waste into compost each year.
• Material comes mainly from Linn, Benton and Marion Counties
Residential

Key Components:
Moisture * Air * Heat

• About a 90 day process
• Hand sorting on the front end
• Grinder for anything bigger than 8”
• Aeration by turning the piles, checking temp and moisture
• Screening process at the end
• Commercial and residential materials are initially composted separately. After about 3 weeks, comm is mixed with resi
The main difference here is that we are not physically moving the piles to aerate.

Also we collect liquid that comes off these piles since they contain so much food material.

After about 3 weeks, these piles are mixed in with yard debris-heavy windrows.

Key Components:
- Moisture
- Air
- Heat

Aerated Static Pile (ASP)
Other Details About the Composting Process

- 130-150 degrees F (pathogens, weed seeds)
- 3rd party soil control lab for testing
  - Nutrients, metals, pathogens, germination
PRC

- Curbside
- Restaurants
- Grocery Stores
- Retail Bagging
- Agriculture
- Garden Centers
- Erosion Control Projects
- Homeowners
- Public Parks
Bioplastics
An Idea Not Even a Compost Heap Can Love
By Shirley Perez West

As VP for Environmental Services, Rexius, part of Jack Hoeck's job includes turning food waste into a contaminant-free, marketable soil product. For a city that throws away up to 30,000 tons of food each year, it’s also a valuable public service. And converting mountains of leftover food scraps into rich garden compost, it turns out, is no picnic.

Nearly five years into their program, partners in Love Food Not Waste (LFNW) have reaped a few insights about collecting and composting food waste. First, it’s critical that what’s being collected doesn’t contain items that aren’t compostable. Second, not all supposedly biodegradable materials would supposedly break down along with the organic matter and produce energy or rich garden compost. Even bags lining food waste bins could be biodegradable. Brilliant!

Early on, home composters learned that bioplastic containers—supposedly an earth-friendly solution to the need for disposable takeout containers—remain mostly intact in even the healthiest compost pile. With and other LFNW partners sending food waste to Rexius’ Highmont facility, each load first lands on a bed of wood shavings, called a food pad, which absorbs moisture coming from decomposing fruits and vegetables. Next, Rexius Retail Yard supervisor Kevin Roemer and his team move the pile around with a tractor to look for contaminants. A staff member fills out a monitor form for each load, noting the number and description of picks—non-compostable items that must be removed.

“The big thing is waxed or plastic-coated cardboard,” says Roemer. “Rexius edits common food waste contaminants including milk cartons, to-go containers, and coffee cups.”

Want to support businesses doing the right thing when it comes to food waste? Find a full list of LFNW participants at: www.eugene-or.gov/759/Commercial-Food-Waste-Collection

Compostable bioplastics are created equal. Third, and perhaps most importantly, compostable plastics of any kind don’t add value to the end product.

“We thought it was a good thing,” says Hoeck of Rexius’ initial reaction to so-called compostable serviceware—cups, plates, containers and utensils made of plant-based plastics. “We promoted

Continued on Page 3
Other Common Contaminants

- Trash
- Plastic
- Compostables
- Unacceptable wood products
- Coffee cups
What Goes in the Cart?*

- Yard debris
- Food waste
- Food soiled paper (napkins, coffee filters)

*the answer to this question depends on where you live
This service enables many of our customers to close the loop with organics material, going from kitchen to garden, and back again.
Growth at PRC

Year

Inbound Annual Tons

2007 18,780
2008 18,361
2009 39,653
2010 59,616
2011 87,000
2012 120,000
2013 120,000
2014 118,000
2015 116,000
2016 119,000
Locations

1. Landscape Shoppe
2. Bark Place in Corvallis
3. ProBark
4. Tom’s
5. Public Area

Questions?