COMPOSTING IN WINTER

ISSUES AND OPTIONS
I have reached an age when if someone tells me to wear socks, I don’t have to.

Albert Einstein
CAN YOU COMPOST IN WINTER?

- Why not?
- What’s stopping you?
ISSUES

- Stuff freezes
- Hard to add water
- Difficulties to turn & mix
- Piles are colder – composting slows
- Screening is challenging
- Employee & equipment production is lower
- Safety
Winter Impact on Limiting Factors

- Bulk density – typically lower
- Moisture content – typically drier
- PFRP temperatures – ambient temperature influence
- C/N Ratio – can be lower nitrogen content
Windrows and Curing

- Inside hot
- Outside cold (frozen)
- Turning inside out
- Use snow for moisture
- Longer to compost and cure
- May need to kickstart in spring
Mass Bed

- Similar issues as windrow
- Large beds retain heat
Aerated Static Piles
Membrane Covered Aerated Windrows
Membrane Covered Aerated Windrows
Winter Options
GETTING OUT OF THE COLD
Winter Screening

- Starting Engines
- Hydraulics
- Belts and rollers
- Compost freezes to screens
- Colder it is – harder it is
- @ -30 – don’t bother
Yellowknife Example
Iqaluit Example
City of Whitehorse Example

- 20 Years
- SSO
  - Residential
  - ICI
- ASP
- Year Round
- 1 yr to produce
- High Quality
- Bagging plant
- $30 - $40 per tonne market value
Feedstock
Aeration
Curing, Screening, and Bagging
So?

Can You Compost in Winter?

• Of course you can.
• What’s stopping you?
Learning is experience. Everything else is just information"
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Jim Lapp