



# Compost Distribution Policy

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Rhode Island Resource Recovery (Resource Recovery) Class A Rhode Island Compost (finished compost) is approved for use in certified organic crop production, and is a great addition to fields/grass, flowerbeds, and vegetable gardens. Using compost to replace or reduce reliance on synthetic fertilizers is also a cost-effective way to help the environment.

Pursuant to RIGL § 23-19-3 (17) and the Solid Waste and Recycling Services Agreement FY18-19, Resource Recovery may periodically make finished compost available to municipalities at no charge.

## MUNICIPAL GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

**Municipal Eligibility:** Finished compost will be available free of charge to those municipalities with a current signed Solid Waste and Recycling Services Agreement who have **also** delivered leaf and yard waste to Resource Recovery during the current fiscal year. When finished compost is available for free distribution to the aforementioned municipalities, Resource Recovery will provide notice and the municipalities will be allowed to pick up free compost for their use.

**Availability:** Upon Resource Recovery's announcement of available finished compost, up to 1,000 cubic yards of finished compost will be available on a first come, first served basis during the calendar year. Even after Resource Recovery has notified eligible municipalities, there may be periods where compost is not available.

**Requests:** Municipalities should direct requests to the Municipal Program Coordinator by email at [municipal@rirrc.org](mailto:municipal@rirrc.org) or by phone at 942-1430 x252.

**Use:** Finished compost must be used for a municipal project, such as use in fields, flower beds/planters, school gardens, etc. It may not be given away to residents or sold in any way.

**Approval & Pickup:** To the Municipal Program Coordinator, a brief written or verbal description of planned use must be given. Within 48 hours of initial request, the request will be approved or denied with notification by phone or email. Requests may be denied because the municipality is not eligible, the proposed use is not a municipal project, or wholesale needs are anticipated. Requests may be placed on hold if there is no finished compost available at the time of request.

**RI Public Schools:** When Resource Recovery is approached by a Rhode Island Public School for finished compost, we will direct them to their municipality first. The municipality may choose to help the school by donating finished compost as a result of their municipal-run compost operation or may agree to donate some of their own finished compost made available by Resource Recovery through the abovementioned municipal guidelines. If the municipality is unable to help the school by giving their own finished compost or allotting some of their finished compost from Resource Recovery, the school may ask Resource Recovery under the RI Public School Finished Compost Guidelines (below).

## **RI PUBLIC SCHOOL FINISHED COMPOST GUIDELINES**

**RI Public School Eligibility:** After municipal options are exhausted, RI Public Schools may directly approach Resource Recovery. Resource Recovery will make 500 cubic yards of compost available to Rhode Island Public Schools for use in school projects such as school gardens, planting trees, and other approved projects.

**Availability:** Upon Resource Recovery's announcement of available finished compost, up to 500 cubic yards of finished compost will be available on a first come, first served basis during the calendar year. This 500 cubic yards will be separate from the 1,000 cubic yards available to municipalities. Even after Resource Recovery has notified eligible municipalities, there may be periods where compost is not available.

**Requests:** After RI Public Schools have approached their municipality and the city/town is unable to help, schools should direct requests to the Municipal Program Coordinator by email at [municipal@rirrc.org](mailto:municipal@rirrc.org) or by phone at 942-1430 x252.

**Approval & Pickup:** To the Municipal Program Coordinator, a brief written or verbal description of planned use must be given. Within 48 hours of initial request, the request will be approved or denied with notification by phone or email. Requests may be denied because: the school has not applied through the municipality, the proposed use is not a school project, or wholesale needs are anticipated. Requests may be placed on hold if there is no finished compost available at the time of request.

**Use:** Finished compost must be used for a school project, such as use in school gardens, planting trees, and other approved projects. It may not be given away or sold in any way.

**Project Completion:** Upon completion of municipal or school projects, pictures of the process or finished project should be submitted to the Municipal Program Coordinator. These photos may be used to promote our Class A Rhode Island Compost.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Municipal Program Coordinator by email at [municipal@rirrc.org](mailto:municipal@rirrc.org) or by phone at 942-1430 x252.