

Background and Overview

During the last [Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update \(2024-2028\)](#) Hamilton County identified a need for more food scrap composting capacity. To determine the best practices and criteria for building that processing capacity, Hamilton County commissioned the [Organics Processing Feasibility Study](#) (study). Following one of the recommendations from this study, ReSource is issuing this RFI seeking partners in a potential public-private partnership to build food scrap processing capacity.

The Organics Processing Feasibility Study estimated the amount of food scraps and carbon-rich sources available and the needed capacity for Hamilton County. This study also sought stakeholder input and found that a decentralized model of composting was preferred over one large composting facility. Consultants determined that three medium-scaled facilities each accepting 18,000 tons of organics (including 5,000 tons of food scraps) would adequately process the modeled volume of organics for Hamilton County.

Consultants also evaluated which methods of composting would provide fast processing of food scraps, generate minimal odors, and allow for a smaller footprint of processing area. Aerated Static Pile (ASP) systems seem to provide the highest benefits at the lowest cost, ideal for more densely populated areas like Hamilton County. This RFI heavily favors projects focusing on ASP systems but will consider alternatives if proposed.

Hamilton County strongly recommends that anyone responding to this RFI, refer to the [Organics Processing Feasibility Study](#) for more detailed data and findings including suggested composting recipes, case studies, and compost markets and applications.

1. Composting Sites

Potential composting sites should adhere to the following parameters (from OAC rule 3745-560-200):

- 250 feet or more from occupied dwellings
- 200 feet or more from surface waters of the state
- 300 feet or more from drainage wells/sinkholes
- 500 feet or more from the 100-year floodplain
- 500 feet or more from state/national wildlife areas, scenic waterways, nature preserves, state parks/forests, national parks/forests, and state resource waters

All sites should be within 50 miles of the center of Hamilton County.

- A. Organizations with existing compost operations should have a site with a minimum of six acres and a willingness to incorporate food scraps into the operation. This could include current Class IV yard trimmings composting operations.

Facilities with existing operations should include the following information in their Expression of Interest:

- Address(es) of site(s)
- Description of current operation.
- Description of site, surrounding area, size, zoning information, township or municipality. Include owner of site and if the site is a land trust, private owner, or other arrangement.
- Estimate of infrastructure needed to add food scraps to operation and associated costs (e.g. aeration equipment, in-vessel composting equipment, contamination removal equipment, etc.).
- Increased costs associated with adding food scraps to your operations.
- If you would operate with your staff or want to have an outside contractor operate.
- Anticipated roles, responsibilities, and financial investment of Hamilton County and partner.

Note: part of this RFI seeks interest from certified composting operators that wish to operate facilities. Should a partner wish for an outside operator, Hamilton County can work with the partner to find the right operator for your site.

- B. Partners with available land for composting but with no current composting operation should include the following information in their Expression of Interest:

- Address(es) of site(s)
- Description of site, including current use, surrounding area, size, zoning information, township or municipality.
- If you intend to operate the composting facility or have an outside contractor operate.
- Restriction on site use for composting if any.
- If partner has use for end compost product.
- If partner desires to sell or lease site.
- Anticipated roles, responsibilities, and financial investment of Hamilton County and partner.

2. Compost Operators

Businesses or individuals with certified compost operator training can also express their interest in participating. Compost operator partners do not need an existing or potential site to express your interest in operating a compost site. Partners should include the following information in their Expression of Interest:

- Name of business (if applicable)
- Contact name and information
- Certified compost operator training received
- Composting experience (including number of years composting)
- Preferred methods of composting
- Costs associated with your service or how you would generate revenue (e.g. tipping fee or sale of finished compost)

Hamilton County Partnership for On-Farm Composting

Please note, this RFI is separate from the Hamilton County Partnership for On-Farm Composting. More information on the Hamilton County Partnership for On-Farm Composting can be found [here](#).

Information Session and Questions

Hamilton County ReSource will hold a virtual information session for this RFI on April 1, 2026 at 12 p.m. Interested parties can [register here](#).

All questions regarding this RFI shall be submitted via email. Questions regarding this RFI can be addressed to ReSource@hamiltoncountyohio.gov and should be sent by April 9, 2026, 4 p.m. EST. Should interested parties wish to receive all asked questions and their corresponding answers, please request to sign up to this email list by emailing ReSource@hamiltoncountyohio.gov.

All responses to this RFI are due by April 30, 2026 at 4 p.m. Interested parties can submit responses by emailing ReSource@hamiltoncountyohio.gov or filling out the [Online Form](#).

Online Form to Express
Interest