

# Illinois Composting Bill

## SB99 Fact Sheet

### Summary of SB99

SB99 is a bill that would allow food waste to be commercially composted in Illinois. This bill will open up the ability for investors to form food waste composting facilities, creating jobs in Illinois and selling Illinois-made compost all over the country. SB99 will divert waste from landfills, prolonging the life of Illinois' landfills and reducing gases which contribute to climate change.

### What is composting?

Composting is a process by which organic material is decomposed to create compost. The resulting compost is a valuable soil amendment.

### Purpose of SB99

Currently, the process to site a facility that composts food waste can cost several hundred thousand dollars, a prohibitive cost for fledgling businesses.

- SB99 exempts facilities that accept food waste for composting from pollution control facility requirements, regulating these facilities much like the large number of landscape waste composting facilities.
- SB99 outlines setback requirements for food waste composting facilities, outlining a minimum distance they can be located from schools and hospitals.
- SB99 creates a definition for "food scrap," and differentiates food scrap from garbage.
- SB99 does not exempt food waste composting facilities from any of the requirements for landscape waste composting, including site requirements and odor and nuisance control. Any facility which creates a nuisance can receive a hefty fine.

### Economic benefits

- This bill would make it easier for investors to begin large scale commercial food waste composting businesses, creating jobs for Illinois, and creating a new Illinois made product – food waste compost – that can be sold around the country.
- There are 267 food waste composting operations in the United States. Every state around Illinois licenses food waste composting facilities. If an Illinois restaurant, grocery store, or festival wanted to compost food waste, it would have to ship the food waste elsewhere.
- Several investors are developing proposals for food waste composting facilities in Illinois. Chicago Composts LLC, has a business plan to pick up food waste from restaurants and sell the end product compost. Without this legislation, facilities such as these cannot work to create new jobs and create a new product to sell in Illinois.

### Environmental benefits

- Organic waste represents over 1/3 of the waste brought to Illinois' landfills. Composting food waste reduces the amount of waste brought to a landfill.
- Compost is a valuable soil amendment that provides fertilizer and pest control to the soil.
- Decomposition of food waste through composting reduces greenhouse gases which contribute to global warming.