



## WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION?

When it rains, water runs off roofs, roadways, sidewalks and lawns picking up oil, metals, salts, pet waste, fertilizer, grass clippings and other materials.

This stormwater runoff ultimately flows into storm drains, which lead directly to our local rivers and streams.

## HOW DO COMPOSTING FACILITIES CONTRIBUTE TO STORMWATER POLLUTION?

- **Sedimentation-** sediment particles and organic matter washed away from compost materials enter local water bodies, covering important aquatic habitat features and contributing to the loss of wetlands.
- **Pollutant Loading** – excess nutrients and chemical pollutants get carried to local waterways by stormwater, causing nutrient imbalance, eutrophication, and overall habitat degradation.

*Composting facilities can negatively impact local waterbodies and wildlife through excess sedimentation, excess nutrients, and chemical pollutants.*

*This publication provides composting facilities best management practices (BMPs) on how to manage these facilities responsibly, to mitigate the illicit impacts of stormwater runoff.*

| WHAT?                           | HOW?   | WHY?   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Site Configuration</b>       | Aim to use natural slope of the land to separate stormwater and wastewater. Ensure slope still allows for plant growth to control sedimentation and stormwater runoff. | Strategic site configuration can limit the quantity of runoff carrying harmful pollutants into our waterways.  |
| <b>Exposure Reduction</b>       | Eliminate or minimize the amount of composting material exposed to precipitation. Roof structures are best, but tarps and canvas can act as a temporary solution.      | Covering your compost materials from precipitation will reduce the amount of sediment, dissolved solids, nutrients, pathogens, and heavy metals washed into our stormwater system.   |
| <b>Vegetative Cover</b>         | Add native vegetation around your composting site.   | Sediments, phosphorus, and other organic matter in stormwater can be reduced by adding native vegetation that slows water flow and promotes infiltration.  |
| <b>Rainwater Capture System</b> | Add rain barrels or other rainwater harvesting system to roofed facilities to capture precipitation.   | Capturing reduces the amount of stormwater runoff and provides facilities with a useable source of water for moisture control, dust control, or any other facility need.   |
| <b>Rain Garden</b>              | A shallow plot in the landscape filled with soil or mulch and various types of wetland-friendly native plants.   | Rain gardens capture, hold, and filter contaminated stormwater runoff. Water that enters the rain garden is slowly filtered by the native vegetation to reduce the amount of suspended solids, excess nutrients, heavy metals, and other pollutants entering our waterways. Rain gardens can also enhance the habitat and aesthetic qualities of your landscape. |

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