
Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by RaptorTexas - 2009/05/12 22:43

I'm in the corporate world and my corporation ships many tons of trash to the landfill each year. One of our goals in the next few years is to reduce our land fill waste by 25%. I'm talking about a facility that employs 15,000 to 20,000 people at one site. It has bothered me that the paper towel waste from restrooms accounts for such a high percentage (by volume) of our landfill destined waste. Since I raise worms myself and use some paper products in the mix, I've often wondered if there is any research showing vermicomposting as a viable means to process industrial volumes of paper waste. So, my primary question is: Can vermicomposting be used to process waste where the food/bedding is a very high percentage of already moist paper towels? We have cafeterias on-site that may provide some food waste but, my suspicion is that there wouldn't be enough food variety and microbial activity to sustain a worm population. Has anyone seen vermicomposting used in an industrial setting such as this?

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Re:Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by digger51 - 2009/05/13 07:24

I think it could be done. However, your company would have to make a division just for the vermicomposting. They would have to have a site for this where there is water available. It would take a full time staff to run and I don't see any return for the company. The higher ups would have to be very green minded to want to go that route. The possible return would be worm casting to sell. That would be down the road though. With the profit at any cost mentality that prevails in today's market place I just don't think any company would consider to take on such a task. The old way of life that I grew up on is no longer out there, where companies were more proud of their service. It seems to be more of a greed based system that prevails now.

Digger

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Re:Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by digger51 - 2009/05/13 07:25

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Digger

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Re:Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by RaptorTexas - 2009/05/15 00:19

Thanks for the insight; my company is "green" minded and has an entire department that is dedicated to environmental issues. I'm curious if there are any other companies or industries that utilize vermicomposting to process large amounts of paper waste. Do worms require a diverse diet? Is there enough biological activity in decomposing paper products to sustain a worm population?

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Re:Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by wellsworms - 2009/05/15 08:28

RaptorTexas wrote:

Thanks for the insight; my company is "green" minded and has an entire department that is dedicated to environmental issues. I'm curious if there are any other companies or industries that utilize vermicomposting to process large amounts

of paper waste. Do worms require a diverse diet? Is there enough biological activity in decomposing paper products to sustain a worm population?

Add some food waste from the cafeteria and you have a great combination just be sure to shred the paper. Is there room on the company property to compost / process this material outside

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Re:Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by RaptorTexas - 2009/06/01 20:59

Sorry for the delayed response; I've been out of town. Yes, there is room outside. However, the plant is in north Texas and I suspect the summer temperatures get too hot for worms as I have experienced in my own worm beds. I have three bins in a barn each about 8 ft. by 2 ft. and have noticed a huge reduction in their casting output in the summer and winter months. Therefore, I was assuming that an indoor/controlled environment would be more reliable.

I guess the biggest concern is being able to sustain a worm population where the food material is 80 percent restroom paper towel waste.

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Re:Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by digger51 - 2009/06/05 06:37

My best advice is to set up a test bin and see how it works out. I have found over the years that if you take action and stop planing you will get your answers pretty fast.

Good luck
Digger

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Re:Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by Peatar005 - 2010/05/11 08:25

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Re:Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by wellsworms - 2010/05/11 08:41

I would suggest that you contact the head of the janitorial staff and arrange to get some lavatory paper some kitchen waste mix it together and add worms you might be surprised at how well they eat it all.

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Re:Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by cathd - 2010/05/11 16:09

Then start looking around for other sources of 'food'. Does your site have any lawns or other landscaping- grass and prunings will provide food. and the castings you produce can be spread directly on site to improve the environment for

your staff.

You'd also be surprised at how much food is actually produced in a cafeteria- pre-consumer waste is often greater in weight than food consumed by the customer -especially if you prepare food from scratch. Get cafeteria staff to source-separate waste for a month or so to measure how much organic waste is actually produced.

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Re:Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by wellsworms - 2010/05/12 09:53

worms don't get bored with the same diet day in day out. they get use to eating one thing and are quite happy doing it . just one suggestion get some bath room towels from the janitorial staff and some kitchen waste mix it together feed it to the worms and see how fast it takes a given amount of worms to eat it

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Re:Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by hendlycruse - 2010/10/26 04:53

Information and solution meetings have very different goals and processes. Information meetings happen periodically and have just one person updating a group of any size. Solution meetings, on the other hand, happen when a group of up to nine experts get together to solve a problem. Ed Muzio, CEO of Group Harmonics, says using meetings for the right reasons will avoid frustration and wasting time

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Re:Corporate Waste Processing

Posted by wellsworms - 2011/10/15 15:11

you have a great resource there hand towels only sound like a great idea.B)

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