

## PROJECT FACT SHEET

**Project Title:** Compost Manure Incentive Project

**Project Website:** <http://compost.tamu.edu>  
<http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/water/quality/nps/compost>

**Project Lead:** TCEQ

**Funding Source(s):** TCEQ

**Supplemental Funding Source:** Partial funding for the project is provided by federal nonpoint source grants from the [EPA](#).

**Project Partner(s):** [TSSWCB](#) / [TCE](#) / [TWRI](#) / Compost Vendors

**Project Description:** The Compost Manure Incentive Project (CMIP) was initiated in September 2000 to manage elevated phosphorous levels in the North Bosque and Leon Watersheds. This project is TCEQ's portion of the overall Compost Program that includes the [Dairy Manure Export Support](#) (DMES) project. The goal of the CMIP is to create a sustainable market for manure-derived compost, so that private commercial composting facilities can be established and remain economically viable for the long term.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) uses a large percentage of the compost throughout the State to promote roadside vegetation. Better roadside vegetation aids in the prevention of NPS pollution from highway runoff—another benefit from the project. Other State and local government markets for use of the composted manure are being explored and developed.

To encourage other agencies to use the composted manure, TCEQ is offering a \$5 cash rebate for every cubic yard of dairy manure compost purchased by Texas state agencies, local governments, and other eligible users until August 31, 2005. Eligibility for the compost rebate program is open to all state agencies, as well as Texas cities, counties, regional planning agencies, special districts, school districts, and universities. Grantees are required to buy the compost from a vendor authorized by TCEQ. An application is available for governmental entities to apply for this rebate.

Private producers are also eligible to receive a reduced price to purchase dairy compost from TCEQ approved facilities. Through a program administered by the Upper Leon Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), private producers outside of the Bosque Watershed and within the Cross Timbers, Upper Leon, or Hamilton-Coryell SWCD boundaries can receive a reduced price of \$4 per cubic yard.

The CMIP also funds a major education and marketing effort for composted manure through a joint effort by TCE and TWRI. This project has surveyed markets for compost, organized an education and marketing campaign, and begun field trials and

demonstrations to document and publicize the effectiveness of the appropriate uses of compost in a wide array of landscaping, horticultural, and agricultural applications.

**Potential Project Benefits:** Removing manure from the watershed ensures that storm runoff will not carry nutrients to the North Bosque River.

**Current Project Status:** TxDOT compost bid lettings have surpassed 400,000 cubic yards. As of May 2003, more than 150,000 cubic yards of composted manure had been sold and delivered since the beginning of the project.