



Greenwaste

What is Greenwaste? Greenwaste refers to slash and brush generated from landscaping and tree care work. It can include weeds and other non woody plant materials and in some cases scrap lumber is included.

How is Greenwaste Recycled? Greenwaste is typically used as a feedstock for compost. Materials are ground up using any of a number of different technologies to reduce its size and produce “wood chips”. These chips are blended with manures, biosolids or food waste and are processed to produce a range of compost products.

Why Recycle Greenwaste? The primary motivation to divert greenwaste away from landfill disposal relates to its life once buried. Greenwaste consumes a large amount of space in landfills, as well as transport containers for waste, and is difficult to compact. Greenwaste also presents a potential methane problem as it decomposes, complicating long term care of landfills. The readily available uses for greenwaste make it an ideal candidate for recycling.

What Markets are Available for Compost? The largest market for compost in NM is supported by NMDOT. They have begun using these materials in erosion control and reseeded applications following road construction and maintenance projects. The advantage of this market is that it has the potential to exist literally anywhere there is a state road. NMDOT’s exemplary program can also be scaled for use in local road projects. Other markets for greenwaste compost include local landscaping efforts, golf courses and the general public.

What Type of Equipment is Available? Greenwaste processing equipment can be classified into three basic types: *tub grinders*, *horizontal grinders* and *hand-fed chippers*. Hand fed chippers are effective for only small quantities of greenwaste while the other two styles can handle large volumes. All equipment is maintenance intensive and require skilled operators with mechanical ability. The smallest machines are available for under \$50,000 with the largest costing nearly \$1 million. Currently there are a number of large scale grinders in operation in NM which cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000. This equipment is ideally suited for centralized processing, at a landfill for instance, but all is transportable and can be used almost anywhere. Keep in mind that with the larger machines specialized equipment is needed to feed materials. A small excavator with a thumb attachment or a loader with a grapple are a must.

Other Resources. The NM Environment Department, Solid Waste Bureau offers many resources related to greenwaste composting, including on-site consultation and technical assistance, as well as two classes each year which cover all aspects of greenwaste recycling.



Greenwaste Equipment Manufacturers

Vermeer

www.vermeer.com

Bandit

www.banditchippers.com

Morbark

www.morbark.com

PetersOn Pacific

www.petersonpacific.com

Diamond Z

www.diamondz.com