

A COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS FOR MUNICIPAL COMPOSTING PLANTS

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ABSTRACT

The objective is to present and discuss some aspects of the economic feasibility analysis of a municipal solid waste (SW) composting plant (aerobic, windrows method). Not being a design guide, the paper considers the question: Given a city or a region generating T tons of SW (of known composition) per year, is it worth building a composting plant? Sustainability-related issues, such as the value of the discount rate, the treatment of 'free' grants, and the 'best' size of the plant (in view of waste reduction policies) are considered. An example application to a region is presented for estimating minimum required unit revenue for plant feasibility.