



## Compost Certification Letter

**What is compost?** A Biological way to speed up the decay process of organic material under the right conditions of oxygen, water, carbon and nitrogen.

**How is compost made?** A mixture of materials (feedstock) is piled up into 7 feet tall windrows and turned every other day to aerate and mix. Microorganisms consume digestible carbon and generate heat, carbon is converted to long-chain carbohydrates (sugars & Starches) to stabilized humic acid.

**Why use compost?** Provides N (nitrogen) and other micro nutrients plus copper, iron, manganese, zinc and other nutrients for healthy plants. Slows down the release of nutrients when used with fertilizers. Soil benefits of compost; holds water lowers water bills, holds micronutrients, and improves soil aggregation (erosion).

### Rate to Purchase

Free to anyone (does not have to be a Los Alamos County resident) with a \$3.00 per cubic yard loading fee

### Compost Material

|                                                                     |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Biosolids – Waste Sludge from the LAC/WR Wastewater Treatment Plant | 25% |
| Stable Waste – Horse Manure from the LAC stables                    | 25% |
| Green waste – Tree trimmings, leaves, grass clippings               | 50% |

### Regulations

CFR 40 Part 503 – Subpart B (Land Application of Biosolids)

### Pollutant Limits and Monitoring Frequencies

|                                                   |              |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) | once/5 years |
| PCB's                                             | once/year    |
| Mercury                                           | once/year    |
| Heavy Metals                                      | once/year    |
| Fecal Coliforms                                   | each windrow |

### Pathogen and Vector Attraction Reduction

Biosolids treated in an aerobic process for 14 days or longer at a temperature higher than 40° C with an average of 45°C.

Table 3 40 CFR Part 503 Annual and Cumulative Land Application Rates

| Pollutant | 503.13 Table 2<br>Cumulative Pollutant<br>Loading Rate<br>(kg/hectare) |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Arsenic   | 41                                                                     |
| Cadmium   | 39                                                                     |
| Copper    | 1,500                                                                  |
| Lead      | 300                                                                    |
| Mercury   | 17                                                                     |
| Nickel    | 420                                                                    |
| Selenium  | 100                                                                    |
| Zinc      | 2,800                                                                  |

| Sample Results for Biosolids<br>2024 |                                                      |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Metal                                | Biosolids<br>Concentrations<br>(milligrams/Kilogram) |
| Arsenic                              | < 0.05                                               |
| Cadmium                              | < 0.025                                              |
| Chromium                             | < 0.050                                              |
| Copper                               | < 0.1                                                |
| Lead                                 | < 0.05                                               |
| Molybdenum                           | < 0.05                                               |
| Mercury                              | < 0.0002                                             |
| Nickel                               | < 0.05                                               |
| Selenium                             | < 0.15                                               |
| Zinc                                 | < 0.94                                               |
| PCB's                                | < 0.15                                               |

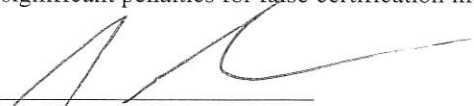
Fecal Coliform Limits – Class A < 1,000 cfu/gram Class B < 2,000,000 cfu/gram

Los Alamos Compost

Fecal Coliform Results - Windrow results so far have been 360 cfu/gram

Would not recommend using compost with biosolids on vegetable gardens

“I certify, under penalty of law, that the information that will be used to determine compliance with the management practices in 503.14 (e), the Class A pathogen requirements in 503.32 (a) and vector attraction reduction requirements have been met. This determination has been made under my direction and supervision. Operation, sampling and testing are performed by qualified personnel. I am aware that there are significant penalties for false certification including the possibilities of fine and imprisonment.”

X   
Joshua Silva  
Los Alamos County  
WWTP Superintendent

Date: 3-26-25

**If you have any questions regarding the Compost, Federal Regulation, and or testing requirements,  
please contact:**

**Joshua Silva, WWTP Superintendent or  
Marcos Ocanas, WWTP Supervisor at 662-8269  
Armando Gabaldon, Environmental Services Manager at 663-1922**