

**QUANTIFICATION PROTOCOL FOR  
AEROBIC COMPOSTING PROJECTS:**

*Technical and Policy Issue Summary*

Submitted to:

Alberta Environment

and

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

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## ***Background***

In conjunction with the development of the protocol document, a listing of key technical and policy issues were tracked for discussion as part of the technical and stakeholder review processes. The following document provides a listing of the key issues for discussion. Many of the issues have both a technical and policy component and are listed under both sections, as required.

## ***Summary of Technical Issues***

The following technical issues may be considered as part of the technical and stakeholder review processes:

- Agricultural feedstocks may require special consideration. They may be high in nitrogen and under certain active composting processes may result in material nitrous oxide emissions. (Ref: 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Volume 4, Table 10.17)
- Are there any possible downstream uses of mature/stable compost that would result in increased emissions in the project case?
- Use of the IPCC default methodology for the calculation of emissions from landfilling of materials as a means of ensuring precision, accuracy and practicality.

## ***Summary of Policy Issues***

The following policy issues may be considered as part of the technical and stakeholder review processes:

- Agricultural feedstocks may require special consideration. Although there is the risk of minor over-estimation of nitrous oxide emissions, does this warrant special treatment given the other benefits of composting?
- The maturity/stability of the compost is assessed using CCME guidelines. Are these standards acceptable within the Alberta context? A flexibility mechanism is provided to allow other assessments of maturity.
- Exclusion of emissions upstream for electricity production as they are covered by other regulations.
- Accounting for emissions from landfill using the IPCC default methodology given the precision, accuracy, practicality and permanence of the emission avoidance.