

# Certificate in Compost Facility Operation

## Autumn 2017



**This course provides compost operators, regulators of facilities and anyone interested in starting a composting facility with the practical knowledge on how to compost properly, how to produce a high quality compost product and how to be compliant with all the regulations. The course was developed by Cré - Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Association of Ireland in co-operation with FÁS and Institute of Technology Sligo in 2007.**

To date 120 people have completed this course. Attendees on the course have been local authority/ Environmental Protection Agency enforcement staff, compost operators, compost facility developers and technology providers.

The course allows participants to satisfy the general Environmental Protection Agency requirement for a suitably qualified and experienced facility manager to operate a licensed composting facility.

### INTENDED FOR

- ▶ **Facility Operators** – for use in process management. The operating principles described in the course are designed to assist operators be more efficient and save money as they manage day-to-day operations.
- ▶ **Management** at all levels involved in the operation of waste facilities and those with a primary responsibility for complying with Environmental Protection Agency Waste Licensing requirements and conditions.
- ▶ **Planners and Decision Makers** – for use in understanding basic principles of compost facility operations. As planners and decision makers gain a better understanding of what is required for successful composting, they will be better equipped to support planning applications for compost facility projects.
- ▶ **Consultants and Designers** - for use in designing and assisting clients with the operation of their composting projects.
- ▶ **Regulators and Enforcement Agencies** - for use in understanding basic principles of compost facility operations, which will assist them in their role as regulators of compost facilities.

**The following is an abstract of John Gormley, Former Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's speech at the launch of the Certificate in Compost Facility Operation in 2008:** *"If we are going to have more facilities and bigger facilities we need people to operate them. Trained operators are better operators and all areas of activity benefit from skilled and knowledgeable staff-composting is no different. I commend all involved: Cré, the Institute of Technology Sligo; FÁS – all for the excellent work in delivering this training program. In particular, I want to congratulate the people who have completed the course and I say well done to all of you"*

## METHODOLOGY

The course is delivered by a team of approved tutors who have extensive national and international experience in the field of composting/waste management. Students are required to complete site visit reports for each composting facility visited. A comprehensive training manual (300 pages) and copies of all presentation will be provided to everyone. It will be taught in classrooms and there will be site visits to a number of composting facilities, such as a large green waste composting facility (windrow technology), a small green waste composting facility and two food waste composting facilities (In- vessel / Animal by Product Facilities). Students will undertake an exam after the end of the course.

## DURATION

The course will last 6 days, comprising three blocks of 2 days over a period of time.

## SITE VISITS

The course will include site visit to four different composting plants of different size and feedstock composted.

## CERTIFICATION

The course has been accredited as a Special Purpose Award Certificate, Level 6, 10 credits on the National Framework of Qualifications. It is equivalent to a 10 credit subject of a Higher Certificate in Science. Normally a Higher Certificate is taken over the first two years of full-time course in a third level institute and involves achieving a total of 120 credits. A Special Purpose Award is designed for a course in a specialist subject area which is not a component subject of an existing academic programme and is insufficient in itself to justify a full award at Level 6 (Higher Certificate) or other levels. The accreditation for this course is recognised nationally and internationally.

## COURSE CONTENT

### Definitions and Biology of Composting

What is composting?, What is compost?, Understanding the basic biology and principles of composting

### Composting Process

Tipping and receiving, waste acceptance procedure, suitable feedstocks, feedstock preparation, Initial composting phase, stabilisation and curing, screening, product testing & interpretation of results, blending, storage and packaging

### Composting Equipment and Technologies

Feedstock preparation equipment: shredders & mixers, Windrow turners, aerated static pile composting systems  
In-vessel composting systems & screens

### Health and Safety

Regulatory issues, risk assessment & monitoring and reporting

### Potential Environmental Impacts & Mitigation

Odour, Dust and bioaerosols, leachate, surface water, pests and vectors, noise, litter and fire control

### Compliance with Regulatory Framework

Waste permit, waste licence, animal by-product licence & certificate of registration

## Process Control

Techniques and technology, moisture, oxygen and temperature, quality assurance and quality control, HACCP for composting facilities, compost testing parameters: field tests, laboratory testing & troubleshooting problems

## Community Relations

Being a good neighbour, working with the neighbours, receiving and handling complaints, communications, tours, open houses, compost give-aways, working with the media to get positive coverage

## Compost Uses

QAS scheme, types of products and potential uses, value added products & their potential markets, understand product quality from end user stand point

## Facility Maintenance

Site: landscaping, utilities, hard standing, compost system, ancillary equipment & environmental management system

## COMMENTS FROM PEOPLE WHO COMPLETED THE COURSE

- ▶ *"From the site visits, I have taken different techniques on record keeping and house management to improve my existing site"* Kevin McCabe, Enrich.
- ▶ *"Our composting facility is just about to start operating and the course has given us virtually all the information and tools to ensure that we get off to a good start"* Pete Murtagh, Sligo County Council.
- ▶ *"We are at the start up stage-excellent for overall information"* John Prunty, Preseco Ireland.
- ▶ *"Broadness of speakers/items covered was excellent. Group exercises were a fantastic example of how everyone comes up with different ideas. The interaction was also an excellent way to meet and converse with others"* "I now have a great insight into the composting industry in Ireland" Katie O'Neill, Atkins Ireland Ltd.
- ▶ *"More than met expectations, excellently organised and delivered. The site visits were particularly useful and excellent to see some of the subjects/theory/equipment etc. in practice"* Andrew Wilson, Ballymun Regeneration.
- ▶ *"Difficult to make suggestions for improvements in what I consider the best of many courses I have attended"* P.J. Phelan, Phelan Services.
- ▶ *"Good diversity, good site visits, good group work and good visiting speakers"* Tara Griffin, CTO Greenclean.

## COURSE DATES

- ▶ If there are enough students the course will held in the Autumn of 2017. It will be last on 3 blocks of 2 days each over 2 months. The venues will be the Bewley Hotel, Newlandscross, Dublin, Clanard Court Athy, Kildare and the Ard Boyne Hotel, Navan, Co. Meath.

## FEE

- ▶ The fee includes all manuals (printed in colour) and tea breaks.
- ▶ Cré members - €1495
- ▶ Non members - €1595

## APPLICATION FORM & FURTHER INFORMATION

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