

Fact Sheet  
Development Permit for a food waste composting facility  
Green Era Renewable Energy and Urban Farming Campus (Green Era)  
IEPA #0316715228

This fact sheet has been prepared with the intention to provide a summary of the principal facts considered in preparing the development draft permit for a food waste composting facility by the Illinois EPA's Bureau of Land. The draft development permit has been prepared in accordance with the requirements specified in 35 Ill. Adm. Code Part 807. Upon completion of development the facility will be required to obtain an operating permit from Illinois EPA's Bureau of Land. Food waste can only be accepted after approval of the operating permit application. Both development and operating permits are subject to the requirements specified in 35 Ill. Adm. Code Part 807.

## I. DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY

The facility encompasses an area of 8.905 acres and is located at 650 West 83<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, Illinois 60620. The facility consists of a 35,000 square foot Processing Building, a 5,600 square foot building for temporary storage of General Use Compost and wood chips (referred to as Pole Barn), four (4) hoop houses for indoor farming operations, a 1.64-million-gallon digester tank, a 320,000 gallon equalization tank, biogas equipment, a flare, a thermal oxidizer and associated piping and valves.

Food waste will be received from food processors (dairies, bakeries, potato chip plants, brewers, snack food fryers, meat packers and pet food manufacturers), grocery stores, restaurants, commercial and residential establishments that generate source separated post-consumer food scraps and source separated bagged kitchen waste from neighborhood curbside collection programs in the Chicago metropolitan area. The facility will receive approximately 80,000 tons of food waste per year. The average daily acceptance rate is 200 tons of solid food waste and 100 tons of liquid food waste. Solid food waste will be received at the facility in compactors, roll-off boxes, dump or walking floor trailers. Liquid food waste will be received at the facility in tankers that are sealed. All food waste will be received and processed within the enclosed processing building. The number of trucks accessing the facility (includes trucks delivering food waste, trucks removing food packaging and other non-digestible material and trucks transporting composted cake solids) will vary from 16 to 28 trucks per day.

The solid and liquid food wastes will be combined to form a pumpable slurry which will be treated in an anaerobic digester system. Free water from the digestate will be sewerred to MWRD's Stickney Water Reclamation facility and the cake solids will be used as compost. Biogas gas that is produced during anaerobic digestion of food waste will be injected into the local natural gas pipeline owned by Peoples Gas. A flare will be installed to combust excess biogas. Tail gas (consisting mostly of carbon dioxide and about 7% – 9% methane) will be directed to a thermal oxidizer which will combust the energy poor tail gas.

An Odor Control Plan provided in the application includes procedures designed to reduce occurrence of odors at the site, such as maintaining negative pressure in the processing building, ionizing the air within the processing building and drawing the treated air through activated carbon beds.

## II. CONSIDERED PERMIT ACTIONS BY ILLINOIS EPA'S BUREAU OF AIR AND BUREAU OF WATER

### A. Air

The facility has applied for a construction permit from the Illinois EPA's Bureau of Air. This construction permit establishes the emissions regulations, compliance and monitoring of air pollutants from the facility.

### B. Water

A general construction and stormwater permit is needed from the Illinois EPA's Bureau of Water.

## III. PROCEDURES FOR REACHING A FINAL DECISION

The Illinois EPA is accepting written public comments on the draft permit until Midnight December 19, 2022. If you would like to provide written comments, please email your comments to [EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov), RE: Green Era. Written comments may also be mailed to the Illinois EPA, attention Jeff Guy, Hearing Officer, P.O. Box 19276, 1021 North Grand Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62974-9276. Please reference 'Green Era' in your email or letter. Email comments originating on third party systems or servers intended for submittal of multiple emails of the same or nearly the same content will not be accepted without prior approval from the Illinois EPA Hearing Officer.

A repository of documents for these permitting actions is available at the Woodson Public Library located 9525 South Halsted Street, Chicago, Illinois 60628 and Illinois EPA offices located at 1021 North Grand Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62974-9276 and 9511 West Harrison Street, Des Plaines, Illinois 60016. The draft permits, public notice, and other pertinent documents are available on the Illinois EPA General Notices Webpage at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/public-notices/Pages/general-notices.aspx>. For information regarding the draft permit, please contact Sabrina Bailey, Illinois EPA Office of Community Relations, by email at [Sabrina.Bailey@illinois.gov](mailto:Sabrina.Bailey@illinois.gov).