



Net Zero

Energy

Water

Waste



Joint Base Lewis-McChord Composting Facility – Turning Organic Waste Resources Into Valuable Products

Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) is turning organic waste resources into valuable landscaping and soil amendment products. Since 2006, JBLM has been diverting organic wastes such as leaves, grass, food waste, landscaping and land clearing debris, storm debris, stable waste, and biosolids (sewage sludge) from off-base landfill disposal or recycling facilities and composting it. During this time period, JBLM has diverted approximately 28,905 tons of organic wastes. A conservative estimate of cost savings for the amount of diverted organic waste is approximately \$2.6M. Since 2006, the JBLM Compost Facility has produced approximately 12,463 tons of compost products with an estimated value of \$187K. JBLM Compost Facility product is used either on base or sold to the public via auction. In 2012 JBLM compost was certified by the United States Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance program. This certification is the gold standard for compost product in the United States.



Screened Compost Product

According to a solid waste characterization survey conducted in 2012 it was determined that approximately 31% of the JBLM waste stream was organic waste that could be diverted and composted. The survey also identified sources and activities that generate organic wastes at JBLM. The survey information will be used to strategically direct future efforts to divert even more organic wastes to meet Net Zero Waste goals. Composting organic wastes at JBLM has proven itself to be a sound investment both environmentally and economically. The JBLM Composting Facility is a “community connector” with various interest groups that regularly tour the facility. The Composting Facility has received positive recognition by the Washington Organic Recycling Council who regularly tours with students from their Composting Operator course. The JBLM Composting Facility has operated successfully since 2006 and continues to meet the present and future needs of JBLM in support of the Army’s vision of “Net Zero Waste by 2020”.

Contribution to Net Zero



JBLM contributes to Net Zero Waste by diverting organic wastes such as leaves, grass, food waste, landscaping and land clearing debris, storm debris, stable waste, and biosolids (sewage sludge) from landfill disposal and off-base recycling by composting these resources into valuable soil enhancement and landscaping products for use on JBLM or for sale to the public by the JBLM Qualified Recycling Program.