

# Rhinebeck Village Composting Facility Q&A

## (Turning Our Food Waste into Soil)

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Village Highway Department has been recycling yard waste into mulch at this site for over a decade and has been selling the mulch by the yard. Compost would be a second product.

### **Hours of Operation**

Year-round, Monday - Friday 7 am - 3 pm

### **How the Village Compost Program Will Work**

- Vegetables, meat, dairy, bones, etc. will be accepted
- Yard waste mulch will be added
- Staffed by Village Highway Dept
- Simple, local
- Free drop-off for residents
- Finished compost will be sold

### **Food Scraps Drop-Off**

Drop-off sites will be set up at the Village Municipal Parking Lot and the Farmers Market (the Village Board is requesting that the Town Board partner, in order to offer the program to all Rhinebeck residents and to provide additional drop-off locations at Rhinecliff and the Town Transfer Station). Once a week, the food scraps will be brought to the Highway Department site where they will be mixed with mulch & wood chips from the Village yard waste.

## **ABOUT THE SYSTEM**

Village Compost will be using an Aerated Static Pile system to compost food scraps. Village Highway Department staff will receive training on this system as well as compost management.

### **Why an Aerated Static Pile Composting System?**

- **Low-odor:** Food scraps are not left out exposed to the air. Residents will put their food scraps into lidded bins. Food scraps will be unloaded, and Village staff will directly incorporate scraps into a pile & covered with mulch.
- **Does not attract vermin:** Pile is insulated with a thick layer of mulch and aerated so it reaches 140°F.
- **Low-maintenance:** Once food scraps and mulch are added, the piles are monitored and the temperature is checked.

## How Aerated Static Pile Composting Works

In the most basic terms, an Aerated Static Pile has 5 components:

- A layer of yard waste (browns) is mixed with the food waste (greens) in a ratio of 3 to 1 and is laid over the perforated pipes located on the cement slab.
- A blower is connected to a timer, or to a temperature sensor, that triggers the blower fan.
- Air is drawn through the perforated pipes under the pile, uniformly distributing the air into the bottom of the pile, aerating it.
- The mulch traps heat and odors and protects the active core from birds, rodents, and other vectors.
- Microbes, doing their work, heat the pile to 140°F.

## COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

### Odor

The first step to preventing odors is careful management. The four important factors in composting are the material, water, oxygen, and heat. Without a careful balance of these four parts, the result may be stinky compost piles.

Odor mitigation begins with a daily sniff test. If any odor is detected, immediate steps will be taken to bring the conditions for the optimum microbial environment back into balance. Should the odor problem persist, an environmentally safe and effective odor eliminator which quickly neutralizes and eliminates odors will be applied by fine mist spray into the air around the pile.

### Lights

There will be no lights on the structure.

### Noise

The blower model is a single-stage, side-channel vacuum pump. It is comparable to a bounce house blower. It will operate on a timer. The blower will be housed in an insulated housing structure (about the size of a doghouse).

A blower typically produce 65-80 dB of sound depending on the model. The insulated housing structure will reduce the sound level by 5-10 dB, and potentially more depending on insulation thickness. **In addition, sound diminishes over distance.** The compost system will be located more than 50 feet from the nearest property line and more than 200 feet from the nearest house.

The following chart provides a comparison of dB levels to familiar sounds. The dB range of 60-70 dB (level produced within the structure) would sound like a refrigerator, a loud conversation, or a dishwasher.

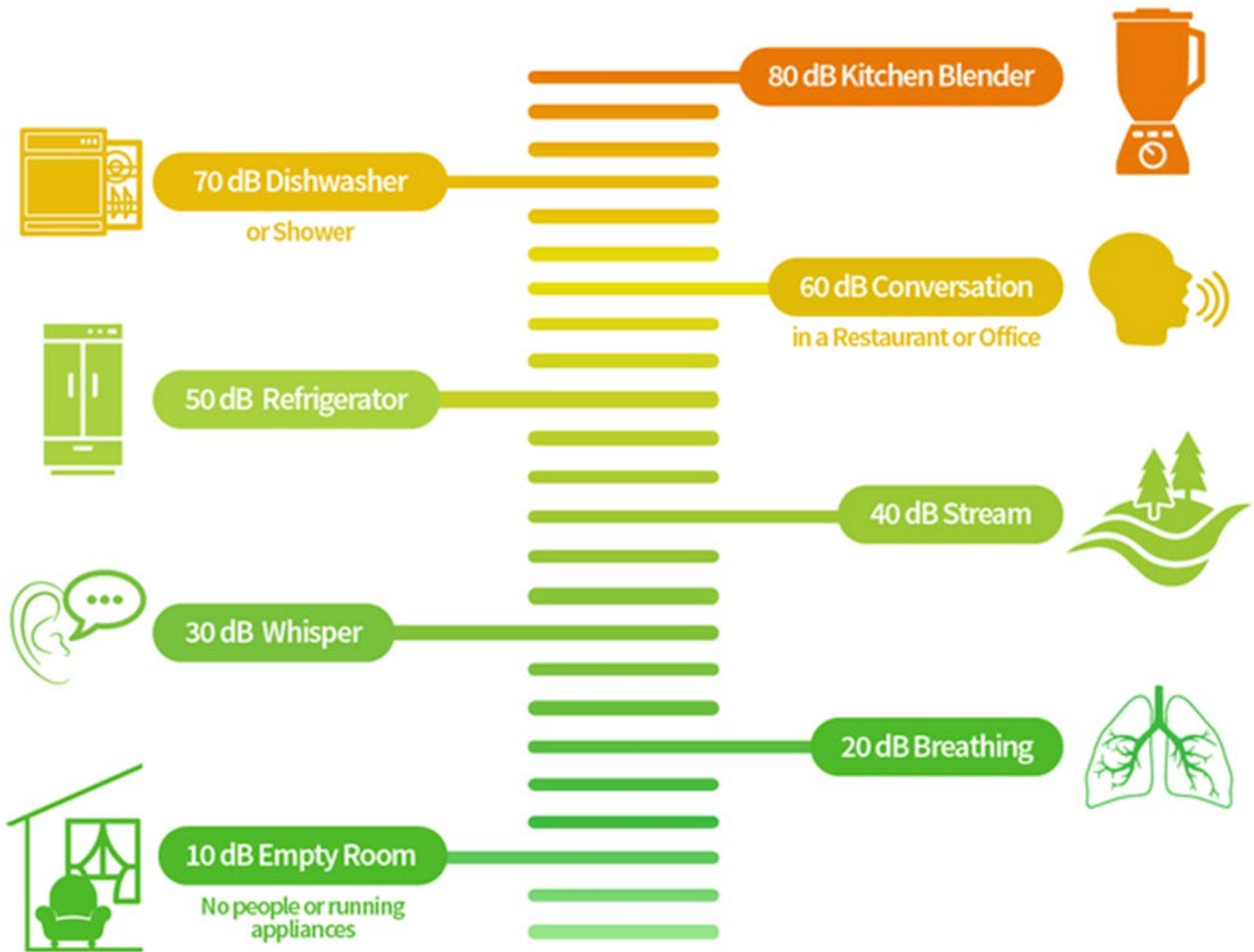


Chart source: <https://www.sylvane.com/blog/how-loud-is-a-decibel/>

## QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

- Step 1:** Text or call Kyle Eighmy, the Village's Superintendent of Public Works on his mobile: 845-392-8026.
- Step 2:** Document the complaint via an online form hosted on the Village website. It will ask for date/time, type of issue, weather conditions, and your contact info.
- Step 3:** If issues persist, contact the Village Clerk or Mayor Bassett.
- Step 4:** If the issue is still not resolved, a complaint can be filed with the DEC Materials Management Division: 845-256-3000.