Organics Processing Plant operational process



Organics material from Christchurch green bins is unloaded from collection trucks inside the processing hall.



Material is blended with garden waste from the neighbouring Transfer Station, and additional carbon if required.



The material is then loaded into 18 enclosed composting tunnels.



Material goes through a shredder to break it down. A probiotic is added to accelerate the composting process.



Loaders move the compost from the enclosed tunnels to a covered outdoor area for screening. This photo shows the compost being lifted into the screening area.



The compost is screened – this separates the finer compost from sticks and other large material, which are known as tailings. The finer compost is then stored onsite for a maximum of 48 hours before being removed.



The majority of compost is moved off site and spread over paddocks at the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant as part of their native planting programme for midge control. The rest of the compost is sold to the commercial market, which is continuing to be developed.



The tailings are reintroduced to the process at the blending phase to create air space between the compost. This air flow is essential for the composting process.



For more information on the Organics Processing Plant visit