



Pre Conference Workshop HALF DAY
1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Designing Compost Operations with Simple Math

One of the most common answers in the composting industry is “It depends!” You may have some of these questions about your site (or future site): I’ve got a couple of acres over here, how much can I store? How much material can you process using a loader vs a straddler turner? How much space do I need to store my compost through the winter? It depends! If you’re already running a site, you may find yourself wondering what the original designer was thinking when they designed a certain part of the site. And now, it’s your job to figure out what you can do with that space or create a whole new one. We’ll go over what you need to answer these questions.

In this half-day workshop, you’ll gain practical skills to understand the space that materials require across your site, how equipment throughput impacts flow, and how to calculate capacities based on volumes, mass, and time. We will use simple math (+ – x ÷) to understand the capacities throughout various areas on a site. I’ll walk you through realistic examples and calculations, helping you to calculate later how your site operates or could operate better. This workshop will use US/imperial units and I’ll provide metric conversion factors. This workshop is designed for site managers, general managers, design consultants, engineers, entrepreneurs, planners, and others looking to improve their understanding of how to visualize the potential and limitations of facilities. You’ll leave with the tools to calculate and visualize how your composting operation can succeed.

Instructor:

Jorge Montezuma - PE, Wanu Organics

Fee: \$295.00 for USCC members, \$350.00 for nonmembers

Duration: 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Date: February 2, 2026

CCOM™/CCP™ PDHs: 3.5

Agenda

- Composting overview and math review
- Feedstocks, piles, bulk densities, and equipment
- Break
- Pile calculations & site throughput
- Group exercise (sizing composting areas)
- Short presentations and Q&A

About the Instructor

Jorge Montezuma is a national composting consultant and educator with over 14 years of experience—in operations, consulting, and government. He has worked in more than 50 composting projects across the country and visited over 110 small and large composting sites. Jorge holds engineering degrees from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and NC State University.