

Ms. Sheila Carlson  
323 Lakeside Avenue, W. #400  
Cleveland, OH 44017

Dear Ms. Carlson:

Thank you for your e-mail of September 11, 2000, to President Clinton suggesting a nationwide ban on landfilling yard wastes. Your message has been forwarded to my office at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for response.

Management of municipal solid waste (MSW) has historically come under the authority of state and local governments. EPA currently does not have authority under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to establish any regulations requiring recycling, nor is EPA authorized to impose waste disposal bans. Since the management of MSW is regulated by state and local governments, these authorities are free to set their own waste management priorities. Priorities and philosophies for the management of MSW vary greatly around the nation B some communities have banned yard wastes from their landfills, while others have not.

Although the EPA can not dictate to the states and local governments how to manage their yard wastes, we are actively promoting alternative management methods. In particular, we have developed a number of documents regarding the cost effectiveness and environmental benefits of composting (yard waste recycling). I have enclosed one of our publications that may be of particular interest to you and your community leaders. This publication, entitled AOrganic Materials Management Strategies,@ clearly demonstrates that composting can be economically feasible for communities. Additional copies of this publication, as well as many other documents on composting, are available from our web site ([www.epa.gov/compost](http://www.epa.gov/compost)). These documents are also available by calling our toll-free hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

Perhaps the best way to encourage yard waste recycling programs in Cuyahoga County would be to work with your local officials or other individuals and

RO 14518

organizations that support composting. In particular, you may wish to contact the U.S. Composting Council (USCC), located in Amherst, Ohio. The USCC is a national non-profit organics recycling organization committed to the development, expansion, and promotion of the composting industry based upon science, principles of sustainability, and economic viability. They have a wealth of information and can be reached at the USCC Business Office, PO Box 407, Amherst, OH 44001-0407, telephone: (440) 989-2748, email: [admin@compostingcouncil.org](mailto:admin@compostingcouncil.org). Their web page address is: <http://www.compostingcouncil.org>

I appreciate your taking time to share your concerns and hope you will find this information helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Director  
Office of Solid Waste

Enclosure

RO 14518