

## Case Study

# Filtrex Partners with St. Louis Composting and St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District



In 2012, Filtrex International partnered with St. Louis Composting of St. Louis, Missouri and the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District (STL MSD) to help the STL MSD meet new requirements under their consent decree with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment to improve stormwater management and surface water quality in the metropolitan area due to nearly **400 combined sewer overflows**. The STL MSD partners with **58 municipalities** in the region and owns and maintains **3000 miles of stormwater sewers**.

Under the consent decree with the US EPA, STL MSD was obligated to spend approximately **\$7.5 billion** on stormwater and surface water quality improvement projects. As part of this program STL MSD standardized **compost-based bioretention systems** for all land disturbing activities 1 acre or greater.

St. Louis Composting brought in Filtrex International to train STL MSD on compost-based best management practices (BMPs) - particularly the performance metrics and supporting science behind these practices, how to understand and interpret laboratory reports on compost and compost-based bioretention soil mixes, and in developing compost-based bioretention specifications and engineering criteria requirements that would be implemented throughout the metropolitan area.

These applications became the standard in the Metropolitan St. Louis Region, leading to a sizable increase in interest in compost-based bioretention systems by STL MSD and the surrounding county and municipal governments. This *dramatically increased the use of compost* and allowed St. Louis Composting to be the leading supplier for these applications in the greater region, while also allowing STL MSD to meet its critical consent decree obligations and goals with the US EPA.

**Since 2012, approximately 2700 bioretention systems have been installed in the region using an average of 750 cubic yards of compost per installation, totaling 2,025,000 cubic yards of compost.**

In addition, the quality of compost and compost products provided by the industry in the region increased as STL MSD better understood specifics of compost quality, which allowed them to demand and ensure compliance, while also greatly improving water quality due the major influx of compost-based bioretention systems implemented across the greater metropolitan region.

### Learn More:

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[www.stlcompost.com](http://www.stlcompost.com)  
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