



CCSMM

CT Coalition for Sustainable
Materials Management

Agenda

Organics Infrastructure Initiative – Opening Forum

February 26, 2021

10 am - 1 pm

I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

II. Goals & Scope of the Organics Infrastructure Initiative

The **proposed activities** of the Organics Infrastructure Initiative will include:

1. Engaging with stakeholders on design and implementation of procurement opportunities for infrastructure and organics diversion services to support increased organics processing capability in the state, and to significantly increase accessible, affordable organics diversion from the MSW stream.
2. Facilitating municipal interest in hosting infrastructure.
3. Engaging with stakeholders on opportunities/efforts to improve the transparency, predictability, and efficiency of DEEP permitting for organics infrastructure.
4. Staying informed on legislative proposals that can strengthen organics diversion.

The proposed scope of **infrastructure and services** that will be addressed/considered in the Initiative:

- In scope: Donation programs, commercial-scale Anaerobic Digestion, commercial compost facilities, on-farm anaerobic digestion, and animal feed facilities
- In scope: Organics collection services including curbside and co-collection services, transfer stations, transfer station drop-off and technical assistance & enforcement for diversion mandates.
- Not in scope: biosolids/sewer sludge

Key Questions for Discussion:

- *Are the goals listed in the accompanying Notice, and the proposed activities (1-4) of the Organics Infrastructure Initiative, the right goals/activities that this Initiative should be focusing on?*

- *Is the proposed scope of infrastructure and services that will be addressed or considered in the Initiative the right scope to focus on to achieve the Initiative's goals?*

III. Permitting Support & Plans to Streamline Current Organics Processing Infrastructure and Opportunities

As part of CCSMM's Menu of Options, DEEP has identified several opportunities to improve the transparency, predictability, and efficiency of permitting processes associated with organics diversion. DEEP staff will present on the following topics:

- DEEP's plans to improve the organics permitting process going forward
- Best practices to minimize impacts of new infrastructure development on environmental justice communities; Connecticut's Environmental Justice program & Community Benefits Agreements
- DEEP concierge and pre-application assistance services available to applicants

Key Questions for Discussion:

- *What can DEEP do to help improve the transparency, predictability, and efficiency of permitting processes for organics infrastructure and services?*
- *How can DEEP, municipal hosts, and developers implement best practices to minimize impacts of organics diversion infrastructure and services on Environmental Justice communities?*

IV. Organics Processing Facilities – Developers' Perspectives

Scaling up accessible organics processing infrastructure will likely require constructing new infrastructure in locations across Connecticut. Forty-nine municipalities participating in CCSMM have indicated an interest in hosting organics infrastructure. A panel of developers will be invited to guide a discussion about the following questions:

Key Questions for Discussion:

- *What kinds of site characteristics do developers need, for what types of organics processing operations?*
- *What are developers' perspectives on what needs to be in place to attract investment/meet our goals?*
- *How can we promote statewide accessibility of organics infrastructure and services to help reduce transportation costs?*

V. Organics Diversion Services – Haulers' Perspectives

Scaling up accessible organics processing infrastructure will necessitate new types of services for affordable transportation of food scraps and organic materials. Many CCSMM member towns expressed interest in exploring residential food scrap programs; large commercial generators also need

affordable transportation for diversion of source-separated organic material. A panel of haulers will guide discussion on models and considerations for developing these services across the state.

Key Questions for Discussion:

- *What models or opportunities are there for affordable organics collection, including regional coordination and co-collection?*
- *What are haulers' perspectives on how to scale up collection and hauling services as organics infrastructure and capacity increases?*
- *What new equipment or infrastructure might be needed? Are there special considerations for hauling organic material?*

VI. Incentives & Procurement Strategies for Scaling up Organics Infrastructure & Services

There are a variety of strategies available for supporting investment in organics infrastructure and services, such as municipal-led RFPs seeking bids for organics diversion services on behalf of local schools and businesses; low-cost loans and incentives available for developers; and virtual net metering programs and long-term power purchase agreements for electricity (or, potentially renewable natural gas) and renewable energy credits generated by anaerobic digesters.

Key Questions for Discussion

- *What incentives and financing support is available for organics infrastructure and services?*
- *What procurement strategies have worked effectively to attract bids/investment from infrastructure developers or haulers?*
- *Should DEEP initiate a new procurement for long-term power purchase agreements for electricity and RECs from anaerobic digesters? Should/could such an RFP be coordinated with municipal RFPs for organics diversion services?*
- *What about procuring renewable natural gas (RNG) from anaerobic digesters—what considerations should inform any policy for RNG procurement?*

VII. Next Steps, Public Comment