

SWAC Subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting Meeting Notes from 1-22-08

Stakeholders Present: C.J. May, Abigail Maynard, Bill Nelligan, Tim Hawes

DEP Staff Present: K.C. Alexander, David McKeegan, Gene MacGillis, Joe Schiavone

Introductions: Please see attached list for complete and revised member contact information.

Old Business: Status on Subcommittee Recommendations to DEP; Greening DEP

- A draft of the Materials Management and Compliance Assurance (MMCA) Permit Prioritization Policy was shared with the subcommittee and input is being sought. In this draft, the policy gives recycling and/or composting permit applications priority, especially those that recycle source separated food residuals, soiled paper, and waxed corrugated cardboard. It would apply to any solid waste facility and to any ground water, surface water, industrial or agricultural discharge requiring a permit from MMCA.
- A copy of the DEP's Greening Accomplishments, as compiled by the Pollution Prevention (P2) Workgroup, was handed out.

New Business: Speaker for full committee; Compost pilot with town of Manchester

- We need a speaker on organics for the full advisory committee. It was suggested that Mark Cooper from the Scotts Company be tapped for his excellent Powerpoint presentation. KC will see if Mark is interested.
- An organic land care pilot is being carried out with the DEP and the Town of Manchester through a grant to the P2 program by EPA. Certain ball fields are going to be managed organically. Part of this pilot is to customize the town's leaf compost in order to gain better biodiversity in the final product. DEP is in the process of approving a composting pilot to allow Manchester to accept vegetable slurry from Foodshare, animal manures, and wood chips into the registered leaf composting facility to experiment with different "recipes", and to compare those products with compost made from just leaves.
- Internal DEP meeting with subcommittee chairs, bureau chief and commissioner's staff indicated that DEP management is looking to the subcommittees to provide work products/deliverables to help implement the SWMP. The subcommittee started brainstorming for ideas that would mostly support the education & outreach strategies in the plan.

Discussion: Ideas for deliverables

- Publicize home composting at farmer's markets. Provide them with a handout, encourage demonstrations. Work with Dept of Agriculture, because all markets register with them.
- Create a webpage on where to buy new, and how to make your own compost bin. Wesleyan student interns did an on-line search for bins that maybe we can add to list.
- Contact major distributors of popular type bins to see who is selling them in CT. Then, encourage local stores, such as Ace Hardware, Agway, IKEA, etc., to stock some bins. Add these stores to webpage.
- Continue pursuing SEP, Solid Waste Fund, or other sources for statewide bin distribution program.
- Can DEP sell bins through the DEP store?
- Find out if any companies that sell bins are on state contract. Can DAS do a state contract for bins?
- Research leftover food donation from special events. See if DPH prohibits it, and see what the Good Samaritan law says about it. Lots of food being wasted from all size meetings/events, divert to hungry? Combine with a new webpage for food donation as a waste reduction effort, to include innovative programs at Foodshare.
- Continue to pursue materials exchange, which would include food residuals for recycling.
- Publicize [International Compost Awareness Week](#).

Share: Yale is working with John's Carting & Garick to possibly bring food scraps to New Milford Farms. Wesleyan Univ. is using Compost Awareness Week to kick-off a campus community farm. Educating staff and students about connection between the farm and the cafeteria food scrap composting effort.

Next Steps: Continue working on deliverable ideas. Schedule speaker. Form workgroups?

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 10:45 following the main SWAC meeting. Room TBA.