

SWAC Subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting Meeting Notes from 11-27-07

Stakeholders Present: Ann Berman, Stephen Caruso, Mark Cooper, James Hogan, Janice Ehle/Meyer, C.J. May, Abigail Maynard, Steve Slipchinsky,

DEP Staff Present: K.C. Alexander, Ross Bunnell, David McKeegan, Joe Schiavone, Yvonne Bolton

Introductions: First time attendees – Ross Bunnell (DEP WEED), James Hogan (We Recycle!), Stephen Caruso (Oakleaf Waste Management)

Old Business: Status on Subcommittee Recommendations to DEP.

This was covered in the full advisory meeting. All of the subcommittee's recommendations were endorsed by the DEP and will continue to be pursued. The task of digitizing the three DEP organics videos is complete and have been added to the website for free [download](#) . With respect to the DEP leading by example concerning recycling, a subcommittee of the Pollution Prevention Workgroup is drafting a guidance document for how to be more "green" when holding meetings, events, etc. We are also working with the building management company to place recycling bins in public spaces of the building.

New Business:

Guest Speakers on Biodiesel

Connie Mendolia, Environmental Analyst with the DEP Office of Pollution Prevention gave a PowerPoint presentation. She covered how biodiesel is made, what feedstocks can be used, some generation rates of brown and yellow grease, who is using biodiesel in CT, how it fits into our climate change plan, recent legislation and regulatory issues. Her presentation will be available on our [subcommittee webpage](#).

Dr. Walter Krol, of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station's Analytical Chemistry Department covered the Station's research on biodiesel and more technical aspects of the issue. CAES has grown crops, extracted oil, produced biodiesel and analyzed its properties. In current and future research, they will look at over-wintering canola (using as a cover-crop) and increasing oil seed yield; better methods for determining metal content in oils; and reducing metal content in biodiesel. Dr. Krol's presentation will be available on our [subcommittee webpage](#).

Food Residual Collection and Composting

Mark Cooper from Scott's reported that they are interested in pursuing a food residual composting pilot. Stephen Caruso from Oakleaf Waste Management announced his partnership with Garick to pilot food scrap collections from retail businesses in the New Milford area and taking them to Garick for composting.

Discussion: Biodiesel

Lots of good questions and comments from the group, too many to summarize here (producer incentive account, biodiesel inventory, regulatory issues, fact sheet development, etc.). This will be an emerging field to watch.

Next Steps: Check back with the Clean Energy Fund on the progress of the two other biomass facilities. Continue working on recommendations. Schedule speakers on biomass for January if a decision by DPUC has been made.

Next Meeting: A new schedule for the 2008 meetings will be posted on the [website](#). Subcommittee meetings will follow the full advisory meetings.