



# Solid Waste Management Advisory Subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting

## Summary of Subcommittee Work March 2007 through September 2008

The Subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting has met eleven (11) times since the establishment of the full advisory committee in March 2007.

There have been 35 different stakeholders representing 28 entities, and 7 DEP staff who have attended those meetings.

We have had guest speakers on the proposed biomass projects in CT, and on the potential for biofuel production/processing in CT, as both issues may impact organics recycling. We also had a tour of the Scotts composting facility in Lebanon, and the Foodshare spoiled produce recycling program in Hartford.

The following is the progress that has been made on the recommendations members have offered to DEP:

Recommendation	Strategy Supported / Progress
Use an SEP or other monies to fund distribution of home composting bins	2-18; 5-1 Template language has been approved for use by waste enforcement staff to use in consent orders where the violator has agreed to fund and an SEP for compost bin purchase and distribution. As well, a template MOU between the DEP and the SEP fund recipient has been drafted to enable the implementation of such bin distribution.
Promote Food Banks as a source reduction strategy	2-5 DEP will be working to draft a webpage on this topic. It will give background on food donation, explain how it fits into the SW hierarchy, give references to good Samaritan law, list local food donation centers, highlight some Foodshare donation agreements w/business etc.
Re-format the home composting, grasscycling, and windrow composting videos into DVD format	5-1 This has been completed and all three programs have been placed on the website for <a href="#">free download</a> .
Establish a statewide on-line materials exchange. Encourage CT compost facilities to register on <a href="http://www.findacomposter.com">www.findacomposter.com</a> until we have our own exchange.	2-16; 2-17 Due to the spending freeze and staffing resources, although the Department supports this recommendation and will explore options, it is currently on hold. Any future effort will include organics.
Request that DEP develop a written policy that gives organics recycling facilities priority in the permitting process.	2-14; 7-1 The policy has been drafted and expanded to include recycling and composting facilities, as well as waste and water permits. The draft language is currently with the Bureau Chief of MMCA, Yvonne Bolton.
Request that organics be included in the RFP for the solid waste characterization study that the DEP intends to undertake. Organics data should include, at a minimum, 1) % organics disposed at/by specific disposal facilities and/or generators; 2) % organics disposed by generator type (commercial/institutional vs. residential), and 3)% disposed of organic waste type (food, soiled paper, yard trimmings, etc.) .	6-7 The Department has selected DSM for the waste characterization study. Contract language is being finalized. Implantation sometime next year. Several organics were included in the RFP and will become part of the final list of materials/wastes that the characterization study will address.

The following is a list of some other efforts DEP has/is making to advance organics recycling:

Project/Issue/Work Effort	Progress
Create a new Home Composting brochure	Completed, and posted on the <a href="#">website</a> . Also mentioned in the NERC, NOFA, and P2 View newsletters.
Place the “Don’t Trash Grass!” brochure on web.	Completed, and posted on the <a href="#">website</a> .
Wrap-up the Foodshare spoiled produce recycling project and put final report on website.	Completed, and posted on the <a href="#">website</a> .
Holding a half-day workshop for municipal turf grass managers on how to use compost to improve athletic fields.	Scheduled for September 25, 2008.
Partnering with NERC and Yale in a project to demonstrate the Diversion of Food Waste From Special Events.	A football game at the Yale Bowl during the 2009 season has been chosen as Connecticut’s event location. NERC and DEP will be attending an October 25 <sup>th</sup> game in 2008 in order to interview vendors, do a waste assessment, and gather information for the development of a food waste management plan for the event the following year.
Successful passage of legislation ( <a href="#">Public Act 08-186</a> ) that gives DEP the authority to approve solid waste demonstration projects. See Section 4.	Becomes effective October 1, 2008. Will be codified as 22a-208a(j) when statutes are published in 2009. DEP preparing the application forms and instructions for applicants to submit their proposals. \$1,000 fee. Organics proposals are eligible.
Make composting information easier to find in the DEP On-Line Store.	A new <a href="#">composting section</a> of the on-line store has been created which includes our three organics videos and a composting book.
Make composting information easier to find on the DEP website.	Created a new shortcut for the Composting & Organics Recycling home page. <a href="http://www.ct.gov/dep/composting">www.ct.gov/dep/composting</a>
Technical Assistance to Milford Oyster Festival	Arranged for volunteer to pick up oyster shells and deliver to CT Dept of Ag, Aquaculture for seeding new oyster beds.
Technical Assistance to New Milford Farms	Off-site odors have resulted in numerous complaints and media attention. Recycling staff responded as well as Air enforcement staff. Provided technical assistance with composting process management and compliance issues.
Website enhancement and updating	A major push is in the works to update existing pages, add new content, and make better links to all content on the recycling pages. Some updating has already occurred on the organics pages, and work is progressing on some new content.
Industrial Stormwater General Permit	Provided comments on the <a href="#">draft GP</a> that went to Public Notice and includes requirements for small-scale composting facilities. GP will likely go to public hearing.
Making the connection between organic land care and compost	Approved a pilot to allow Manchester to add vegetable slurry, horse manure, and wood chips to their leaf compost for evaluation of different “recipes” in organic turf grass management.