

SWAC Subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting Meeting Notes from 2-26-08

Stakeholders Present: C.J. May, Abigail Maynard, Steve Slipchinsky, Dave Goodemote, Myron Hirschman, Ginny Walton, Chris Field, Mark Cooper, C.J. May, Ann Berman, Sara Brenner

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 Permit Priority Policy, Manchester Compost Pilot, etc.

- The draft of the Materials Management and Compliance Assurance (MMCA) Permit Prioritization Policy is still in internal review and will be expanded to include recycling of other materials, not just organics.
- The first batch of vegetable slurry from Foodshare was delivered to Manchester for their pilot. Everything went well and one more load will be delivered this week. Goal is to make several different “recipes” of compost to use in their organic land care pilot, which will demonstrate substitution of compost for commercial/chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- DEP authorized Manchester to redistribute SEP money to purchase home compost bins for residents.
- Sale of compost bins through the DEP Store may be possible, but take more effort than it’s worth.
- DEP has asked Yale if they would participate as our partner in the NERC Event Composting pilot. 90% sure they will say yes, and we would use a football game at the Yale Bowl as the event in fall 2009.
- DPUC released a [decision](#) that approved 11 renewable energy projects to receive electricity purchase agreements. Projects 1,2,and 4 use either clean wood, C&D wood, animal manure or fats, oil, grease as fuel.

New Business and Discussion: Continuation of discussion on deliverables.

- Continue to concentrate mainly on education and outreach, because this is doable with no budget.
- Still want to establish a fund for municipalities to purchase home compost bins for residents. SEP’s are few and far between, and not always a nexus between violation and composting. Suggest we ask for a lump sum from the solid waste fee account, and/or look for guidance on how to establish a statewide SEP fund for compost bins into which violators can opt to place their SEP dollars. This money can then be distributed to towns that demonstrate a need and ability to distribute bins. **KC & Joe** to follow-up at DEP.
- Redirect \$19,000 of CRRRA SEP money that is in the Mercury account to compost bins. Dave to research.
- Tie home composting to Governor’s “Just One Thing” campaign.
- Scott’s Company may be interested in piloting food scraps and the Gore windrow cover system.
- CJ is expanding his “Recycling is Magic” magic show to include organic, i.e. turning food scraps into compost is like magic. He suggested performing this show at the Farmer’s Markets. There are professional magicians who would do it for a fee, CJ may be able to work a few into his schedule pro-bono.
- Continue efforts to put compost educational materials at farmer’s markets (brochure, handout). **Abigail** will speak to the person in charge of the markets from the Dept of Agr. Markets may be more receptive if approached by them instead of DEP; **CJ** will talk to the coordinator of the New Haven markets. **KC** will pursue revising/creating a brochure and getting it copied. Maybe can ask intern to work on it.
- Get news coverage (press release?) for noteworthy organics projects, such as the NERC pilot, Foodshare’s produce recycling program, a bin distribution, etc.
- Work on food donation as source reduction webpage. **Steve and KC** to start outline.
- It was suggested that everyone on the committee (who wants to) volunteer to help at the Yale/NERC event if it comes to be. Educate folks waiting in line about why we’re asking them to separate compostables, have a load of compost at the Bowl and tell people they can fill a bag to take home, wear coordinating shirts that identify recycling staff (or, as CJ suggested, go with the superhero theme).

Share: Mass Organics Summit is March 4th; NERC Annual Meeting/Conference is March 18-19.

Next Steps: Those who volunteered to make calls, research, etc, report back to committee next month.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 10:45 following the main SWAC meeting. Room TBA.