

SWAC Subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting Meeting Notes from 6-24-08

Stakeholders Present: C.J. May, Princess Okieme, Abigail Maynard, Ginny Walton, Janice Ehle/Meyer, Dan Britton, Ailsa Becker

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: Home Composting Brochure, Status on Permit Priority Policy, Manchester Organic Land Care Composting Project and Home Compost Bin Distribution.

- The new [Home Composting Brochure](#) is complete and posted on the DEP website! There is no state money available for printing them for distribution at the New Haven Farmers' Market. CJ offered to see if he could get at least some (200?) printed at Yale.
- The Permit Prioritization Policy is still under review with Robert Isner, however he has committed to a re-assessment of the pending compost permit applications to make sure they are all assigned to an analyst and to re-set the proposed timeframes for issuance.
- The composting pilot associated with Manchester's organic land care project is progressing well. All of the windrows with various "recipes" were completed in February. Temperature & moisture monitoring will continue until a final product is produced, and then the different composts will be tested for suitability for application on the playing fields included in the OLC project. On a different project, Manchester distributed 185 Garden Gourmet home compost bins with re-directed SEP funds and Town funds. They purchased 175 bins at \$42.70 each for a total of \$7,472.50.

New Business and Discussion: New Internet Shortcut, New Compost Category in DEP On-line Store, Tour of Foodshare's Spoiled Produce Recycling Program.

- The new shortcut to the DEP Composting Webpage is www.ct.gov/dep/composting
- There is a new "Composting" category in the [DEP On-line Store](#) where all three of our organics videos and a "Let It Rot" book can be found. They are also cross-referenced under the "gardening category".
- The tour of [Foodshare's Spoiled Produce Recycling Program](#) located at the Hartford Regional Market was excellent. Foodshare receives donations of produce from area produce distributors and farmers, however, some of it is too spoiled to re-distribute to food banks. So, they turn the spoils into a veggie-slurry using a chopper-pump mounted on a 6,000 gallon concrete tank. Periodically (average about once a month), a 4,000 gallon vacuum truck is hired to evacuate the tank and bring the slurry to one of two small organic farms for composting. The equipment has gone through a couple of retrofits over the past five years, and if hind-sight were 20/20, certain things may have been done differently from the start. But, the current system is working well and is a cost-saving measure for Foodshare as well as a model recycling and pollution prevention effort.
- KC asked for suggestions on how to make the DEP Recycling webpages better, including new content, updating existing content and reorganization. Also asked for suggestions on strategy projects. Email KC.
- CJ wondered if DEP could have a written policy on NOT putting commercial/institutional food waste down the drain. Could help encourage source separation and demand for facilities that take food waste.

Share: Yale Food Waste Collection Pilot, UCONN, Organic Landcare Compost Use Workshop

- Yale will be starting a food waste collection program pilot this July in three dining halls and then move into full scale this fall. Their hauler is looking for other large generators of food waste along the route to ensure a full truck. He is still going to experiment with using the vac-truck for collection despite glitches in the trial earlier this year. It is questionable whether the vacuum truck will work in the winter on frozen food.
- The DEP P2 Group will be having a workshop for towns on compost utilization for organic land care.
- UCONN is exploring composting behind their dining halls instead of at a central location. Had questions about on-site composters. Recommended they stick to proven equipment. KC will send links.

Next Steps: Find \$ or volunteer to print home compost brochures and get them to New Haven area Markets.

Next Meeting: We are not meeting in July or August. Our next subcommittee meeting will be Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at 10:45 following the main SWAC meeting. Room TBA.