



Solid Waste Management Advisory Subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting

Report to the Full Advisory Committee Update - November 27, 2007

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

There have been 25 different stakeholders and 5 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 to celebrate America Recycles Day.

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 DEP supports this effort and will actively seek funding to provide a bin program. Timing depends on availability of funds, but having it in place for spring or fall 2008 would be ideal.
Promote Food Banks as a source reduction strategy	2-5 DEP supports this recommendation and 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 free download .
Establish a statewide on-line materials exchange. Encourage CT compost facilities to register on www.findacomposter.com until we have our own exchange.	2-16; 2-17 The Department supports this recommendation and will explore options. An informational meeting has already been held with a company that offers a materials exchange web service (design, hosting, maintenance). Any 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 DEP supports this recommendation and writing such a policy will be completed in the first quarter of 2008.
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.) The subcommittee would like the opportunity to review and comment on the RFP prior to public notice/solicitation.	6-7 The Department agrees with this recommendation and will include the subcommittee(s) in the RFP process.