

## **SWAC Subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting Meeting Notes from 10-23-07**

**Stakeholders Present:** Ann Berman, Mark Cooper, Janice Ehle/Meyer, C.J. May, Abigail Maynard, Steve Slipchinsky, Virginia Walton, Guests from the C&D Subcommittee.

**DEP Staff Present:** K.C. Alexander, David McKeegan, Yvonne Bolton

**Introductions:** No new members this month.

### **Old Business: Status on Subcommittee Recommendations to DEP.**

- No progress to report on the use of an SEP to fund distribution of home composting bins.
- No progress to report on writing a policy giving organics recycling permit applications priority.
- The Home Composting, Grass Cycling, and Windrow Composting VHS videos have been transferred onto DVD as a means to preserve the programs, which were in an outdated format. Allyn Wilkinson of Wesleyan University Information Technology Services offered to convert them to .wmv files pro bono. Work should be completed soon. Next step is to generate a written transcript and work toward posting on the web.
- No progress to report on the RFP for the Waste Characterization Study.
- No progress to report on the promotion of food banks as a source reduction strategy, or on encouraging CT compost facilities to register on [www.findacomposter.com](http://www.findacomposter.com)

### **New Business: Guest Speakers on Biomass Projects Proposed for CT**

Dale Headman, Director of Project Development for the Connecticut Clan Energy Fund (CCEF), gave a PowerPoint presentation on the background of the CCEF, phases of the Project 100 process, and a summary of the three Biomass plants that were selected by Project 100 and the metrics for doing so. The three projects are 1) Plainfield Renewable Energy, Plainfield, CT, 30 MW, fuel source-wood from Silverculture and clean wood from C&D waste stream. No quantities given. 2) Clearview KofKoff Egg Farm, Bozrah, CT, 29.5 MW, fuel source – 77% clean wood, 23% poultry manure (by wt.). 3) GDI/Tamarack Biomass, Watertown, CT, 30 MW, fuel source-wood from clean wood chips (no C&D).

Mark Mirabito, Project Developer for Tamarack Energy, gave a PowerPoint presentation specifically on the highlights of this project. This is the only one of the three Biomass Project 100 projects to receive approval from DPUC and to secure an electricity purchase agreement with CT Light & Power. They are sourcing clean wood from 1) whole tree chips from timber harvesting, 2) used pallets, 3) urban wood waste including brush, stumps, branches, and yard trimmings, from municipalities, and 4) sawdust, bark and slab wood generated by sawmills. Looking for fuel from within a 60-minute or 50 mile radius from plant. Expect to use 1,000 tons of wood per day (300,000 – 310,000 tons/yr) based on 40% moisture. Chip spec will probably be 1 ½”, but may be larger depending on boiler technology manufacturer chosen. Hoping to use ash residue as fertilizer.

### **Discussion: Biomass, Scotts Tour.**

- Lots of good questions and comments from the group, too many to summarize here (ash utilization, wood sources, pollution control, wood from C&D, impact on landscape industry, etc.) Unfortunately not many large processors of wood were in attendance to hear their point of view, but one company did mention that these plants could negatively impact their landscape industry business. An issue from the energy company perspective is that C&D is not considered a class-1 renewable fuel source. If they could get the clean wood fraction of that stream designated as such, it would open up a new source, and perhaps mean that not as much urban and forestry wood would be needed to feed the plant. Lobbyists already at capitol.
- Tour of Scotts yard waste composting facility in Lebanon is scheduled for 10:00 – 1:00 on 11/14/07. Scotts will provide a light lunch. Details to follow via email.

**Next Steps:** Get specifics of Scotts tour to subcommittee. Continue working on recommendations. Schedule speakers on Biofuel for November.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at 10:30 following the main SWAC meeting. Room TBA.