

SWAC Subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting Meeting Notes from 4-24-07

Stakeholders Present: Stephen Slipchinsky, Geoffrey Kuter, Delpha Vary, Liz Rogers, William Nelligan, Michael Lafebvre, Abigal Maynard, David Goodemote

DEP Staff Present: K.C. Alexander, Gene MacGillis, Joseph Schiavone, David McKeegan

Others who have expressed interest, but could not make this meeting: Lee Kane and Jennifer McDonnell (Whole Foods), Bruce Morton (Aquasolutions), Chris Field (GreenCycle), George Purtill (Old Maid Farm), Kristina Stefanski (Stop & Shop), Myron Hirschman (Garick)

Introductions: Exchanged names and reason for joining subcommittee. Please see attached list for complete contact information

Overview: DEP gave a brief overview of currently permitted composting facilities:

Leaf Composting Facilities	99
Brush/Clean Wood Processing GP	45
Grass (at leaf sites)	9
Volume Reduction Plants Existing	1 Food; 1 Sewage Sludge; 1 Wood Waste/Leaves
Volume Reduction Plants Proposed	1 Application Pending; 1 Actively Searching for Site
On-Farm Composting	22 total, 3 food (very small)
Sheet Leaf Composting	15 over the years, 4 this past year
Foodshare	1 at Produce Terminal
Prison	1 (1 ton/day)
Vermicompost Pilot (Commercial Food)	1
Schools K-12	Unknown number because unregulated. Mansfield Pilot resulted in School Composting Manual distributed statewide.

Discussion:

- Biggest barrier is that there is insufficient processing capacity in CT for food residuals.
- In order for commercial generators of food waste to participate in a program, organics recycling needs to be less expensive than traditional MSW disposal.
- Siting compost facilities is difficult because of buffers and acreage needed. Consider locating on farms where development rights have been sold because the land may be more affordable. Must use land for agricultural/farming purposes.
- DEP's Food Waste Generator Mapping Study gives us a picture of the low-hanging fruit (commercial, institutional).
- Redefine what a commercial composting facility is.
- Consider exemptions for small-scale and on-farm composters.
- Ease permitting burden for large-scale facilities.
- Home composting bin distribution, although not expected to make a significant impact on volume, could raise awareness and be an attainable short-term goal.
- Environmental Justice Bill will make it harder to site composting/organics recycling facilities.

Next Steps: Invite others who might be interested. Gather ideas for future agenda items.

Next Meeting: We agreed to hold subcommittee meetings following the regular SWAC meetings each month. Next meeting is May 22, 2007. Some people may elect to just come for the subcommittee meeting; however, the new shortened format for SWAC meeting will allow more time for committee work.