

Organics Management to Reduce Methane and Climate Change Workgroups

Meeting #4 Notes (August 19, 2-4pm)

- I. Welcome and Agenda Overview
  - a. Shared revised list of topics revised per agenda committee input
- II. Continue Topic #1 Discussion: Food waste source reduction/diversion/rescue/rescue groups
  - a. Process is to discuss strengths and concerns for each subtopic

**i. Subtopic #7: Improve the system (logistics) I: Improve donation transportation & increase access to cold chain management**

Strengths	Concerns/Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aaron C.: Affirmed what Heather presented. Hunger relief system in WA is at place where there is a need for improved and more efficient capacity and transportation. We can move hunger relief system to get it out to more communities. WA has 3 distribution centers: NW Harvest, 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest, Food Lifeline. From there, food can move directly into community or typically regional redistribution organizations. Larger food banks can take extra quantities and move into more local settings. Currently trying to add sophistication and investment to network. Right now, folks are doing a lot with a little. A policy consideration would be to enhance tax credit for donated food transportation, which would make it worth for people that could do it.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• John F.: Can you talk more about the empty trucks and how they could benefit this project?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Liz F.: Research on what efficiencies we can learn from supply chain principles and apply to food rescue operations. Discussion on empty space in trucks and food safety concerns. Empty space in trucks have food safety concerns. Before you gain system efficiencies, we need to have better shared data between food sources, standardization around practices and protocols. We also need more trucks but would want to use them efficiently. There's more involved in data collection, collaboration, and shared practices.</li><li>○ Samantha W.: What kind of trucks (UTC rules, etc.)? We need to think through the details (e.g., only cold storage trucks or long haul trucks). There are concerns about the type of truck before assuming that trucks would be viable. Also concerns about fees to pay for empty trucks going back the other way because fuel is expensive.</li></ul></li><li>• Christina W.: Need some parameters to safeguard emergency food system from people dumping unusable food to get the tax credits. Take into</li></ul>

consideration the conversation happening around progressive revenue reform. We don't want to impact ability to support human services.

## ii. Subtopic #8: Improve the system (logistics) II: Value-added food processing and manufacturing; Community food hubs

Strengths	Concerns/Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mary H.: Consolidation of processing facilities has caused bottle-necks so re-establishing smaller processors scattered around the state will help get small crops processed and help with repackaging of bulk foods. A lot of small processors were put out of business by large processors. There was a breakdown in systems during COVID-19, which demonstrated the need for having small processors in the system. Smaller farmers without processing puts a burden on restaurant who want to have locally grown food and farmers trying to supply them.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Liz F.: Need to think not only value add for farmers, but for surplus food from restaurants and other. Saw plenty of issues in pandemic where recovered food was the wrong size to get straight out to food banks. Need value add for recovered food and not just straight from the farm.</li></ul>

## iii. Subtopic #9: Provide alternative tax credits for food donation by farmers and add tax credit for social supermarkets

Strengths	Concerns/Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Liz F.: Think not only in terms of tax credits. Organizations/companies instead of completely donating their food can sell it at a discount. At the point of food being donated, it has the shortest shelf life. If someone were able to buy deeply discounted food, it'll have more shelf life on it and then the business still gets some value out of it. Removes the time to transport and distribute it.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Christina W.: Like the idea of having retailers create a range of affordability options for people so that they're getting the food</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>John C.: What type of tax credits? Washington state or federal? What would be crediting? Not sure property tax on credit. Could look at B&amp;O tax – partial exemption.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Heather T.: Push for federal tax credit. And a State tax credit would need to be defined. Recommendation is not specific, just a concept.</li><li>Vlad G-B.: It wouldn't reduce the total amount of property tax coming in, but it would increase it on everyone else based on</li></ul></li></ul>

more directly rather than having to wait for it to be donated to and processed/sorted by a food bank. Appeal around the additional business generated.

how taxes are split. Could do a property tax credit against B&O. Hybrid so that it's taken against B&O but it is a function of property taxes.

III. Presentations to share background on Sectors & Sources

- a. Andrea Lai and Emily Coleman, King County: King County organic material feedstocks and capacity
- b. Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington: Statewide feedstocks to facilities
- c. John Forde, Essex Properties: Multi-family challenges
- d. Mary Harrington, Ecology: Industrial feedstocks

IV. Speaker Q&A

- a. Discussion included available data for how much it costs per household for composting and recycling services (multi-family and single family), including tracking changes between households and calculation of cost especially during the pandemic; difference between properties given jurisdictions and hauler partners, especially challenges with haulers who work with municipalities to resolve issues; COVID-19 as a possible explanation for the commercial organics drop in 2020-2021; Ecology does not receive reports on industrial/commercial pre-processing waste, thus the need to identify food use in WA to understand food flow; there is some information on feedstocks to anaerobic digesters; and clarifying that in Ecology's Waste Characterization report, they define the "commercial" sector as both industrial and commercial, including anybody who is processing food.

V. Resources

- a. Department of Ecology – [2020-2021 Washington Statewide Waste Characterization Study](#)
- b. JLARC – [2020 Report on Tax Preference Performance Reviews](#)

VI. Next meeting: 9/16, 2-4pm

- a. Continue Topic #2 discussion

VII. Meeting notes and presentations will be posted on OrganicsWorkgroup.org