

# Organics Management to Reduce Methane and Combat Climate Change Workgroup

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**Meeting #5**  
**September 16, 2021**



# Housekeeping

- Please mute your lines if not speaking
- If you are having technical difficulties, chat Sam Kwok
- Presentation portion of today's meeting is being recorded
- All our presenters will present and then we will have time for Q&A
- Please raise your hand by clicking on the “participants” button and clicking on the hand by your name if you have a question
  - I will call on people
- You can also put questions in the chat at anytime and we will answer them during the Q&A portion

# Meeting #5 Agenda

AGENDA	
2:00-2:10	Welcome and Agenda Overview
2:10-2:30	Continue Topic #2 Presentations and Policy Discussion: Sectors & Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Derek Ruckman, WasteXperts</li><li>• Q&amp;A (Workgroup Members &amp; Observers)</li></ul>
2:30-2:50	Policy 1: Starting January 1, 2027, require all jurisdictions to provide organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses and recycle organic materials using recycling facilities such as anaerobic digestion facilities that create biofuel and electricity and composting facilities that make soil amendments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workgroup Member Input: Strengths &amp; Concerns/Issues</li><li>• Observer Input</li></ul>
2:50-3:10	Policy 2: Early phase in: Require all commercial businesses and multifamily buildings (over xx units) to have an organics collections service <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workgroup Member Input: Strengths &amp; Concerns/Issues</li><li>• Observer Input</li></ul>
3:10-3:50	<b>Presentations:</b> Topic #3 Background: <u>Financials, Soil Health, and Regenerative Agriculture</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amy Clow, Washington State Department of Agriculture</li><li>• Ron Alexander, R. Alexander Associates</li><li>• Q&amp;A (Workgroup Members &amp; Observers)</li></ul>
3:50-4:00	Next Steps and Adjourn

# Work Group Structure and Role

**Purpose:** Improve organics management system in Washington in order to reduce methane and combat climate change.

**Role:** Using California SB1383 Law as a starting point, gather stakeholder input to inform policy tailored for Washington.

# Work Group Structure

- Made up of a diverse set of stakeholder organizations
- Each organization gets one seat at the table
- Others can join as observers (there will be a spot on each agenda for observers to comment or ask a question)
- Two meetings per month through end of year
- Meeting content will include:
  - Presentations of background info
  - Discussion of topics included in possible legislation:
    - If there is agreement on a topic, that will be noted
    - If there is not agreement, issues/concerns will be identified
- Copies of information from each meeting will be posted at: [organicsworkgroup.org/](http://organicsworkgroup.org/)

## Agenda Committee

- Local Gov't: Andy Smith
- Environmental: Heather Trim
- Waste Management: Brad Lovaas
- Composter: Majken Ryherd
- Any other interested sectors?

# Topics (revised per agenda committee input)

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|--|--|---|
| 1. Food waste source<br>reduction/diversion/rescue/<br>rescue groups (8/5 & 8/19)  | recovery/Incentives Equity (10/7 &<br>10/21)   | rates/tipping fees;<br>Infrastructure/New technologies,<br>Geographic issues/Apple<br>maggot/Localized/Rail (11/18) |
| 2. Sources (Yard/Food/Wood/<br>Dairies/Ag) & Sectors (Business/<br>Commercial/Industrial<br>sources/Multi-family/single family)<br>(8/19 & 9/16) | 7. Permitting/Air/Water/Odors/Monit<br>oring (include siting and current<br>facilities) (10/21 & 11/4)                           | 10. Targets/Performance standards<br>(12/2)   |
| 5. Financials/end-markets/<br>purchasing, Soil health/ nitrogen<br>cycling, Regenerative agriculture<br>(9/16 & 10/7)                            | 8. Education/Generator behavior<br>change/Source reduction/<br>Technical assistance/<br>Contamination/Labeling (11/4 &<br>11/18) |   |
| 6. Energy generation/Credits/<br>Carbon sequestration/Nutrient   | 9. Local governments/UTC (funding,<br>financing, collection, rates, etc.,<br>collection approaches,<br>embedded rates; disposal  |   |

# Sectors & Sources Presentation

# Policy Discussion



Policy 1. Starting **January 1, 2027**, require all jurisdictions to provide organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses and recycle organic materials using recycling facilities such as: Anaerobic digestion facilities that create biofuel and electricity and composting facilities that make soil amendments.

**“Organic waste” includes food, green material, landscape and pruning waste, organic textiles and carpets, lumber, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, manure, biosolids, digestate, and sludges.**

*Low population waivers (see next two slides).*

*Ecology has authority to adjust waivers, if targets are not met after xx years.*

# Application

## **Single-Family Home Residents and Multifamily Complexes of ≤5 Units:**

- Residents are required to subscribe to and participate in their jurisdiction's organics curbside collection service.
- Residents are required to properly sort their organic waste into the correct containers.
- Some jurisdictions will allow residents to self-haul their organic waste.

## **Multifamily Residents and Multifamily Complexes (>5 units), Businesses, \*Public schools and school districts, state agencies, special districts, and federal facilities that do not fall under a jurisdiction's authority:**

Must either:

- Subscribe to and participate in their jurisdiction's organics curbside collection service OR
- Self-haul organic waste to a specified composting facility, community composting program, OR
- Other collection activity or program.

*\* Or may contract for collection service independently*

# Low population waivers

Low population areas can apply for waivers:

- **Counties can apply for low-population waivers** (good for 2 years) for census tracts in unincorporated portions of county area. Qualifying census tracts must have a population density of less than xx people per square mile.
- **Counties that qualify as a rural county** may apply for an exemption (population of less than xx,000 people) until January 1, 20xx, or until 5 years after Ecology determines that the state's xx% organics reduction goal (target year 20xx) has not been met, whichever comes later.
- **Cities and special districts can acquire a low-population waiver** if they meet two criteria:
  - 1) they must have disposed of less than 5,000 tons in 20xx (based on the State Disposal Reporting System); and,
  - 2) they must have had a population of less than 5,000 people (based on U.S. Census data).

# Waivers for non-local entities and local education agencies

Non-local entities and local education agencies can apply for waivers if any of the following circumstances apply:

- 1) if generates a **de minimis amount of organic material**, the entity may receive a waiver from collecting material in the blue and/or green container. For example, if no food waste or green waste is generated on site for collection, then a green collection container for that material would not be necessary. However, a blue recycling container would still need to be provided for the collection of other organic waste, such as paper products and cardboard.
- 2) **has space constraints** that would prohibit the use of the green and/or blue collection container onsite, the entity may receive a waiver from collecting materials in one or both of those containers. This waiver is only applicable in limited scenarios and should decrease in use over the years.
- 3) If a **jurisdiction is granted a low-population or rural waiver and the non-local entity or local education agency is located in the area that is waived**, then the non-local entity or local education agency does not have to comply with the requirements outlined in 14 CCR 18986.1-18986.3.

Jurisdictions that receive a department-issued waiver still contribute to the state's organic waste recovery targets by implementing other sections of the regulations.

Input: Policy 1 - Starting January 1, 2027, require all jurisdictions to provide organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses and recycle organic materials.

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

## Policy 2: Early phase in: Require all commercial businesses and multifamily buildings (over xx units) to have an organics collections service

### Key questions:

- **What should the minimum multi-family building size be?**
  - Occupancy example: multifamily over 5 units?
  - Volume generation example: over 2 cubic yards of solid waste?
- **How should the approach be phased in?**
  - Example: starting with commercial and then staggering multifamily buildings?
  - How should the dates be staggered?

Example: Require all commercial businesses and >5 units multifamily buildings that generate over 2 cubic yards of solid waste per week to recycle organic waste

- **July 1, 2023: Businesses that generate  $\geq 8$  cubic yards of organic waste per week**
- **January 1, 2024: Businesses that generate  $\geq 4$  cubic yards of organic waste per week**
- **July 1, 2024: Businesses that generate  $\geq 4$  cubic yards of commercial solid waste**
- **January 1, 2025: Single family buildings and Multifamily buildings >5 units that generate  $\geq 4$  cubic yards of commercial solid waste**
- **January 1, 2026: Businesses and multifamily buildings >5 units that generate  $\geq 2$  cubic yards of commercial solid waste per week**

Input: Policy 2 - Early phase in: Require all commercial businesses and multifamily buildings (over xx units) to have an organics collections service

Strengths	Concerns/Issues



# Financials, Soil Health & Regenerative Agriculture Presentations