

Organics Management to Reduce Methane and Climate Change Workgroups

Meeting #5 Notes (September 16, 2-4pm)

- I. Welcome and Agenda Overview
 - a. Shared revised list of topics revised per agenda committee input

- II. Continue Topic #2 Presentations: Sectors & Sources
 - a. Derek Ruckman, WasteXperts
 - b. Speaker Q&A
 - i. Discussion included how they identify and separate materials in composting, looking for green and blue bags when separating compost, how they work with composting facility that doesn't accept compostable food ware (they do intense education, outreach and organization to change behavior) and ways to guarantee there are no contamination fees for properties.

- III. Continue Topic #2 discussion to discuss strengths and concerns for each policy
 - a. **Policy 1: Starting January 7, 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.**

Strengths	Concerns/Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Troy L.: Suggests looking at what New Jersey put into law. It's a phased approach based on tonnages produced and access to composters/digesters. Could help hybrid this approach. It also addresses the economic impact of the law as well. From NJ: economic control provision where ban is applicable only where the cost of the Class C Recycling facility is at least 10% more than the cost of current transportation and disposal.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Neil E.: Phasing in NJ has limits on distance from generator to processor. Maryland had similar requirements. Different on east coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Derek: Never liked the space constraints waiver. Most of the MFDs have space constraints.• Wendy: Need a coordinated infrastructure plan. Need more recruitment due to driver shortage.• Neil: CalRecycle has indicated jurisdiction grants for space waivers for MFDs subject to high scrutinized. Jurisdictions owe annual reports to establish 15-year plans for organics diversion.• Logan: Not just an issue of composting. It's also bins, carts and trucks, and a huge increase in things needed. Policy needs to have teeth for something that forces compliance (i.e., fines). Need to be cognizant of the costs to businesses. Composting facilities issues a big problem that needs addressing – state needs to help get new facilities up and running or help people expand.

due to density and geography. Created chicken and egg solution. In CA, jurisdictions set needs and infrastructure follows.

- [New Jersey bill](#)
- Logan: Phased approaches are good because education is more targeted. Would need to do analysis for office buildings since there is a high risk of contaminated or unused bins.
- Heather T.: How is onsite versus offsite handled in CA bill? Applies to materials sent to disposal.
 - Neil E.: Facility operators/generators that are creating disposal materials need to have a plan to adopt organics services.

- Shannon: About half of jurisdictions are providing services right now. Cities would have a concern about cart color compliance, but funding is needed for local government. If methane reduction is goal, then we need to focus on food. Cities would need to provide access, but is that a mandate? What are other ways to meet the requirement? Onsite? Backyard composting? Population waivers make sense, but there's concern with tonnage plus waiver. Food is heavy, which is why it's at the top of waste characterization studies. Do we have studies that show where the methane is coming from so we can be targeted?
 - Neil E.: CA has chart that shows conversation and methane. WARM model has factors built in that show different intensity of methane generation.
- Troy L.: Once we compost/digest the materials, we need to make sure we have end markets.
 - Derek: Believes SB 1383 requires the municipalities to also buy compost.

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

Strengths	Concerns/Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logan: CA passed earlier law in 2014 – long lead helped the rollout. Really good law and good reasons to do this but need a lot of partnership with cities and haulers. Would take a lot of education and money. Garbage trucks cost between \$200-\$300K. • Kate K.: City of Seattle did use phased approach. No organics allowed in landfill bound cart. Phased approach worked nicely. • Troy L.: A lot of measuring is done in tons rather than yards, especially once you get past front loaders and carts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logan: Solid waste is a lot easier to measure and track. Start with 4 or 8 cubic yards of solid waste or start with classifications that produce food waste and exempt businesses with under a certain amount of organic waste. Multifamily is difficult for outreach and education – stepped approach is good for that. A lot of potential for businesses that do not have composting. • Kate K.: Suggestion of using the total commercial waste volume measurements (as the thresholds) makes sense, particularly for those who are not yet separating. They likely wouldn't know the volume of organic waste they are generating. • Wendy: Need infrastructure for organics to go to. Multifamily aren't prepared for that type of contamination. Need education and outreach if you have accelerated timeline. • John C.: Concerns about speed of implementation. Getting carts is difficult. Also, very expensive. Need to do outreach BOMA or Seattle King County rental or to involve them. Sounds a little fast. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wendy W.: Consider costs to customers – small businesses, MF property manager, HOA. Cost to rate payer will be significant. Need to figure out how the costs will work and

- supporting it. Need transparency to get to the positive impact we are looking. Need to make sure we have a product at the end of the line that people will buy back.
- Logan: Haulers will take the brunt of rate increases. Need to make it clear that the law is coming from the State.
- Samantha W.: Concern about infrastructure capacity at composting facilities. What does that do to the market and integrity of the compost?

IV. Presentations to share background on Topic 3: Financials, Soil Health and Regenerative Agriculture

- a. Amy Clow, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- b. Ron Alexander, R. Alexander Associates

V. Speaker Q&A

- a. Discussion included costs for materials and infrastructure for safety and when Ron does audits for smaller cities are there enough uses for organics compost and for which materials. Sonoma County discussion included need for more CA's SB 1383 requirements, how important procurement requirement are, cost of not implementing programs which will result in methane leakage from landfills, desire for certain materials/nutrients and California's use of a GHG cap and trade funds for their [soil health program](#).
- b. Discussion about WA's HB 2713 included budgetary explanation behind governor's veto of section 4, need for government funded projects to use compost when possible, whether there are plans to introduce a bill with similar language like the vetoed section 4, resources in compost (food waste) from a circular economy point of view, figuring out a method to get nutrients harvested from farm fields back to farm fields (i.e., true circular approach), incorporating end market purchasing as part of bill packaging moving forward, language on whether composting is required in projects and tracking jurisdictions through purchasing and reporting.

VI. Next meeting: 10/7, 2-4pm

- a. Continue Topic #3 discussion and presentations for Topic #4

VII. Call for individuals interested in joining the food waste subcommittee

- a. Doodle by Friday, September 17, COB: <https://doodle.com/poll/pum947npv53szcpp>

VIII. Meeting notes and presentations will be posted on www.OrganicsWorkgroup.org