

Meeting #1 Agenda (July 5, 12-2 pm)

- I. Welcome and Overview of Agenda
- II. Introductions
- III. Overview of Workgroup Purpose and Logistics
 - a. Facilitation ground rules
 - b. Agenda committee to set agendas
- IV. Comments from:
 - a. Representative Beth Doglio
- V. HB 1799
 - a. Presenter: Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington (see PowerPoint and recording)
 - i. Q&A discussion included updates and progress in California's plan, mention of the [Use Food Well Washington Plan](#), similarities to California's AB2026, when enforcement will start, and responsibility of DES to enforce Compost Procurement Ordinances ([Ecology's determination for where businesses that have over 8 cy of organic materials will have to manage materials in 2024](#)).
- VI. Round-robin: Topic areas to be discussed for stakeholder process leading up a 2024 bill

Food Waste/Food Rescue Topics

- Recommend breaking apart food waste that can be rescued versus inedible food waste for landfill diversion
- Anaerobic digestion – how can we incentivize food waste anaerobic digestion in Washington state
- There are 600 organizations that deal with hunger relief (e.g. Second Harvest and Food Lifeline); will need to consider what capacity improvements would be needed to maintain level of safety and distribution
- How do we define compostable? What is consistent with FTC? Standards?
- Funding for and incentivizing community food hubs – consistent with Use Food Well plan recommendations
- Infrastructure for food rescue and standardization of operations
- Donation transportation – enhance or incentivize
- Local public health departments – figure out a way for them to be part of the system to educate donors and recipients of food (smaller food banks)
- Data labeling on food expiration
- Hear more from other states that have issued food waste bans and how it has worked out; would like data about actual capture rates
- School lunches – after recess and 20 minutes
 - If school lunch changes are to be discussed, recommend that someone from Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) be involved in discussion
- CA has recently done quite a bit on compostable plastics, which can be discussed
- Wasted food vs. food waste should be their own stakeholder process and bill

Facility Siting and Infrastructure Topics

- Capacity throughout state – how to expand throughout state and make it easier for new locations to open up
- Collection operations – getting materials picked up and to composting facilities; there is trouble finding space in urban areas for garbage and composting will make this even tighter. New space allocated in new properties is difficult – make it a land use issue in State’s eyes
- Need design for placement of containers for businesses and collectors. Trucks need to get in or maybe getting different trucks may be necessary for this
- Overall needs assessment for facilities. Trucks and drivers are also an issue in the industry. City drivers and trucks have unique skills
- Air permitting and facility permitting
- Siting organics management facilities is also determined by apple maggot free areas - no raw organics allowed to be transported in or through pest free areas
- Priority locations/permit support for infrastructure siting and development
- Needs Assessment – i.e., facilities, trucks, drivers, needed regulation and its costs; Facility Siting - Capacity/ Siting/ Inspection/ Permitting – including which ones take/don’t take food waste
- We should know the fee/costs/rates impact of expanding collection and facilities prior to passing additional legislation
- Design of all new facilities to allow for collection containers and trucks
- We should build out our collection and facilities at a local level as the demand increases in those areas

Contamination Topics

- The test conditions for methods for determining if something is compostable are likely not relevant to commercial composting conditions (temperature and time). There is the issue of turning compost into unwanted contaminated waste
- Contamination and certified compostable products
- Contamination in compost – challenge is cost associated with disposal and quality when plastic gets through in finished products; mandate on using compost as fill create an outlet for use of product (instead of fill dirt)
- Contamination reduction incentives and sanctions
- Statewide contamination education campaign
- Ban or restrict certain toxic chemicals
- Different organics processors have different lists of acceptable materials; how will this be factored into the DOE cut offs and other areas of the roll-out? For example, is compostable paper included in the 8- and 4-yd cut off dates? Just yard waste? Yard and food waste?
- Examination of upstream sources of contamination and ideas for addressing
- Packaging should have clear labels; is it recyclable/compostable or not?
 - Clear truth in labelling requirement on all packaging. The public can’t be expected to look at a multifaceted product and know if it is recyclable
- Enforcing consistency across the state (e.g. bin colors)
- Banning or restricting the types of stickers on produce

Other Organics Management Topics

- Funding – costs of labor, trucks, etc.; loans and grants
- Anaerobic digestion

- Incentivizing AD – needs to be procurement systems in place for long-term contracts to allow facilitation of growth of infrastructure required
 - Incentivizing end use markets for recycled organic materials (compost and digestate)
 - Permitting and enforcement should be discussed early
 - Mistakes from recycling – being careful not to repeat those mistakes and learning from those experiences
 - WA Ecology is sponsoring an air emissions study this biennium for CASP composting systems. Continuously aerated static pile systems.
 - Ecology recommends waiting until after completion of study for air permitting
 - It would be good to understand/highlight what less obvious or not directly related infrastructure needs are barriers to accomplishing organics composting at the necessary scale. For example, transfer capacity needs, basic solid waste infrastructure that will still be necessary, regardless of waste diversion.
 - Mandated composting for all residents, except low density areas
 - Mandated procurement
 - C&D waste including asphalt shingles
 - Exploring decentralized composting options such as community composting
 - Rate payer impact over time
- We should also know current and additional costs of both permitting and the enforcement of organics collection
- Report that WSU did on climate impacts of using compost in AG systems – but doesn't tell entire climate impacts story. Maybe Sally Brown at UW who can tell story from methane avoidance and soil sequestration potential. Get better sense of drivers and climate impacts.
 - Diversion from landfill – food waste has more potential than yard waste – good to understand nuance.
 - Preventing food waste in the first place is the most impactful options – what can be done there. More we can prevent – the less that needs to be rescued or composted.
- Leachate management – can be hard in wet months. How can we manage this? How we classify – in Canada is a liquid fertilizer – can be a good disposal option. Otherwise, it can be costly to manage and dispose.
- Training requirements for operators of compost facilities
 - Additional training? Discuss what might be needed/required.
 - Compost facility operator training is already required and can parameters can be found in WAC 173-250-220.
 - Training requirements for compost facility operators exists: <https://www.compostwashington.org/compost-facility>

Education Topics

- Discussion on how we move labels on capture rates beyond just providing service + education – these alone do not capture it all
- Important to recognize that when we are talking about California, the SB 1383 law was built on top of AB 1826, which passed in 2014 that also required composting. California is 10 years ahead in this process and having issues with implementation, especially when it comes to capacity
 - Need to talk about how cities will become aware of these requirements. Many cities don't know about this law or what is required to implement
- Grants for city/hauler customer education/outreach

Other Ideas for Topics

- It may be worth looking at waivers for businesses once the 4 CY solid waste threshold is reached in 2026. In California, businesses can get a waiver from the organics collection service requirement if they generate less than 20 gallons (or 10 gallons in some cases) or organic waste. On the data side at Recyclist, we see some cities with pretty high waiver rates. Developing some guidelines around waivers -- who exactly qualifies, and what sort of documentation is required to apply for or receive one -- has been really helpful in California for ensuring consistent waiver issuance across the state
- Science based regulatory approaches
- Work with cities and ratepayers – what is impact on rates to collect, move and process this?
- Look at lifecycle analysis of packaging – is it beneficial in the stream?
- Including stakeholders and full line of impact – need to make sure all voices are here
- Clarifying language in future law
- Would it be worth seeing if the Federal CRP program would allow farmers to put compost on land that is in the CRP program?
- Incentivizing vermiculture and other innovative ideas
- WA Ecology is sponsoring an air emissions study this biennium for CASP composting systems
- Bill draft should be done by Thanksgiving – to allow for the review & evaluation of the costs and timelines. CA took 15 years, several bills & rulemakings
- Implementation of 2022 OML – Organics 2.0 & new 2024 Law – State, local government including public health

VII. Next Steps and Adjourn

- a. Next meeting 7/18, 12-2pm
- b. Accepting agenda committee volunteers
- c. Workgroup and meeting #1 materials will be posted at OrganicsWorkgroup.org