

Organics Management to Reduce Methane and Combat Climate Change Workgroup (2023)

Meeting #8
October 17, 2023



Meeting #8 Agenda: Facility Siting, Zoning, Permitting & Infrastructure

Welcome and Overview of Agenda

Overview of Workgroup Logistics, Purpose

Pierce Louis, CEO, Dirt Hugger

- Q&A

Tim O'Neill, President, Engineered Compost Systems

- Q&A

Steve Van Slyke, Compliance Director, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

- Q&A

Policy Feedback: Facility Siting, Zoning, Permitting & Infrastructure

- Workgroup Input: Strengths & Concerns/Issues

Next steps and adjourn

- Next meeting: **Wednesday, Nov. 1, 12-2pm**

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

Workgroup Purpose

Purpose: Divert organic material and improve the organic material management system in Washington in order to reduce methane and combat climate change.

Role: Gather stakeholder input to inform policy tailored for Washington about mandating composting and other organic waste diversion from landfill, waste and food donation, contamination, facility siting, and waste reduction, among other topics. This policy builds on HB1799, which set policies in motion, so that Washington can more fully develop its own version of California's SB 1383 and provide certainty for our residents, government agencies, and businesses to prepare for future actions.

Workgroup Structure

- Made up of a diverse set of stakeholder organizations
- Two meetings per month through end of year
 - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays
 - Exceptions include Tuesday, July 18 and Tuesday, October 17
- Meeting content will include:
 - Presentations of background info (recorded)
 - Discussion of topics included in possible legislation (not recorded):
 - 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

Workgroup Facilitation

Agenda Committee: We have formed an agenda committee that will meet before each meeting to help chose topic areas and speakers for each meeting's agenda.

- Committee members include:
 - Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington
 - Alli Kingfisher, Ecology
 - Brad Lovaas, WRRRA
 - Hannah Scholes, King County
 - Jay Blazey, Cedar Grove Composting
 - Kate Kurtz, City of Seattle
 - Travis Dutton, WSAC
 - Aaron Czyzewski, Food Lifeline

Facilitation: Julie Colehour and Sam Kwok of C+C have been hired by a group of stakeholders to facilitate this process. Funders include: King County, Zero Waste Washington, Food Lifeline, Lautenbach Recycling, Cedar Grove and Compost Manufacturing Alliance.

- Facilitation goal: Gather and accurately document all stakeholder feedback by topic area.

Meeting Topic Areas

- PAST:
 - Overview of HB1799 (Mtg #1, July 5)
 - Implementation of SB1383 in California (Mtg #2, July 18)
 - Local Perspective on Organics Program Implementation (Mtg #3, August 2)
 - HB1799 Implementation (State Perspective) (Mtg. #4, August 16)
 - Food Waste Prevention/Food Rescue (Mtg. #5, September 6)
 - Energy Generation/Credits/Carbon Sequestration in Soil (Mtg. #6, September 20)
 - Sources and targets (different materials); Geographic issues, including rates, collection approaches, apple maggot, etc.
- TODAY (MTG #8):
 - Facility siting, Zoning, Permitting & Infrastructure
- FUTURE: Policy Feedback
 - Contamination
 - Education
 - End Markets/Purchasing/Procurement
 - Funding/Financing/Rates
 - Policy Language Feedback (note adding a meeting 12/13, 12:00-2:00 to allow two meetings for policy language feedback)

Presentations



Policy Feedback



Facilities: Permits/Regulations/Operations/Siting

- Change permitting approach from a focus on composting technology/methods to technology-agnostic, science-based, and readily measurable compost process **key performance indicators (KPIs)**.
- Correct KPIs align with efficient facility operations and quality control, and do not add excessive data collection or busy work.
- Establish a tiered relationship between default VOC emission factors (EFs) and compost process KPIs.
- Only require **air emissions source testing** for facilities above: facilities' size X their default EF exceed regulatory thresholds (i.e. Title V).
 - The standard SCAQMD 25.3 source test method is costly (>\$60K) and provides a tiny snapshot of highly variable process. Much less expensive methods have been proposed and need to be further developed.
- Require standardized **odor assessment protocols** (surface sampling, odor panel, dispersion modelling) when responding to persistent problems.

Input: KPIs, Air Emissions Source Testing, Odor Assessment Protocols

Strengths/Concerns/Issues/Questions

Facilities: Permits/Regulations/Operations/Siting

- Increase manager and operator training requirements and certifications (use WWTP industry as a model).
- Require facilities to have a larger number (X?) of trained operators that have successfully completed either WORC (COTC) or CREF (CFOT) course, or similar, in proportion to facility throughput.
- Support Washington Organic Recycling Council (WORC), Compost Research & Education Foundation (CREF), and others in developing a more robust online training curriculum to provide CEU's and require annual CEUs for operators at compost facilities
- Develop professional trainings for regulatory agencies that uses compost process science to teach the relationships between KPI's and environmental impacts.

Input: Operator Trainings and Education

Strengths/Concerns/Issues/Questions

Facilities: Permits/Regulations/Operations/Siting

- Unified state-wide permitting
 - Add a compost air permit specialist position at D.O.E. to support all permitting agencies
 - Add capacity to permit coordination function and/or stream-line process
 - Create metrics or model permit to create more consistency
- Address 30% food threshold for Dairy Anaerobic Digester facilities
- Create new permit programs for AD for food waste anaerobic digesters, vermiculture and other methods
 - Address yield issues (or residual) in organic waste management facilities
- Change the air permitting structure from a notice of construction to another permitting structure (for organics at least). For example, a general permit that is based on approval of facility design and operations plan to achieve specific KPIs. Alternately, an option for permits with a renewal requirement could be less prescriptive.

Input: Statewide Permitting and AD

Strengths/Concerns/Issues/Questions

Facilities: Permits/Regulations/Operations/Siting

- Create incentives for siting of composting/anaerobic digestion and other organic recycling facilities for in:
 - Close proximity to material sources, to minimize the GHG impacts of hauling
 - Areas with higher rates of unemployment
 - Ag areas where the bulk materials can be readily used
- Add incentives such as bonus points for state grants and loans
- Other incentives?

Input: Incentives

Strengths/Concerns/Issues/Questions

Facilities: Permits/Regulations/Operations/Siting

- Address definition of “organic” materials

CA SB1383: “Organic waste” means solid wastes containing material originated from living organisms and their metabolic waste products including, but not limited to, food, green material, landscape and pruning waste, organic textiles and carpets, lumber, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, manure, biosolids, digestate, and sludges.

WA HB1799:

(29)(a)(i) "Organic materials" means any solid waste that is a biological substance of plant or animal origin capable of microbial degradation.

(ii) Organic materials include, but are not limited to, manure, yard debris, food waste, food processing waste, wood waste, and garden waste.

(28) "Yard debris" means plant material commonly created in the course of maintaining yards and gardens, and through horticulture, gardening, landscaping, or similar activities. Yard debris includes but is not limited to grass clippings, leaves, branches, brush, weeds, flowers, roots, windfall fruit, vegetable garden debris, holiday trees, and tree prunings four inches or less in diameter.

Input: Definition of "organic materials"

Strengths/Concerns/Issues/Questions