ORGANICS STAKEHOLDERS WORKGROUP

Composting Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting August 30, 2017 at NHDES, Concord, NH

Scribe: Lauren Noether, NHDES SWMB

9 am Welcome, review, and focusing remarks by Pam Hoyt-Denison

No revisions were suggested for the prior meeting's notes that by Pam Hoyt-Denison e-mailed out.

Pam explained that the group will be breaking out into 3 focus subgroups today: Rules/Regulatory; Education/Outreach an NRRA Pilot project. In future, may need a 4th group on Quality Standards or the like. Each group will meet in a breakout room and attempt to come up with action plan and perhaps deliverables. At the end of the meeting will come back together and report back to larger group.

Two further potential meetings have been set already but can meet sooner or on different dates if smaller focus groups wish: Sept 27 and October 25.

Each stakeholder will chose a subgroup, understanding that this does not limit participation in other issues or groups. Pam will facilitate Rules/Regulatory, Tara will facilitate Education/Outreach and Melanie Doiron will facilitate the NRRA Pilot.

Each sub-group will develop recommendations relative to the focus. NHDES will ultimately review the subgroups' recommendations in light of NHDES' authority and mission. NHDES has the statutory obligation to develop rules and BMPS for composting, including meat and dairy. At this point inorganics may be initially beyond the scope of the legislative mandate. Statutory charge is composting of organics and food waste. Sludge and bio-solids are regulated by Water Division. If "disposed" at solid waste facility, under current laws, then regulated under Solid Waste Management rules. We need to synchronize these rules, understanding everything interrelates.

<u>Rules/Regulatory group</u> will work on developing requirements for composting facilities, siting, design and operation. What regulatory controls are appropriate? NHDES will listen to recommendations and seek to plug them into rules, the writing of which is a fine art as the must dovetail into the existing permitting scheme

<u>Education/Outreach</u> will focus on identifying training needs and groups in need of education then develop systems for training and outreach. This subgroup will also identify resources available to assist and where there are deficiencies. NHDES does not have the resources or ability to solely develop or to conduct education and outreach but can help find and develop partners for this. NHDES will need help getting the word out on new rules and opportunities.

<u>NRRA Pilot group</u> will look at potential pilot site(s) and explore BMPs to be employed. What are the obstacles and how does the pilot site demonstrate working through these? Odor problems are something we must be mindful of when exploring pilot sites. In short, consider the surroundings, setting and chose a site that has a chance of success and public acceptance.

Groups break up at 9:45 am for focused discussions

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EDUCATION & OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE

Scope & Purpose: This group will work to identify composting education and outreach needs (including but not necessarily limited to public education, operator training, and feedstock generator training), develop a proposed plan of action or recommended actions to address those needs. The group will should also consider and identify possible resources that would be needed to fully implement the plan. Since there will no doubt be resource deficiencies, the work group may also be asked to address possible measures to cure deficiencies that are barriers to accomplishing plan goals.

Members: Identify who each member is and what group they represent. Answer the questions: Why they chose this sub-committee? What do they hope to accomplish within this group? And what they feel their role may be?

Initial Tasks

- Identify who needs to be trained. (ex. Homeowners, TS Operators, Institutions, etc.)
- Identify resources for training. (ex. SWOT Program for TS Operators, RPC, NEWMOA, NERC, etc.)
- What are the education needs?
- Where are the deficiencies in the state for composting? Composting Education?

Members:

Tara Albert – Solid Waste Operator Training & Certification Coordinator, NHDES

Janet Bowen/Chris Behling - EPA Region 1, Food Waste Reduction

Cynthia Nelson - NHDES P2 Program representing hospitality (hotels, restaurants, brewery) & grocers association and past environmental school teacher, experience with other feedstocks including spent grain

Olivia Saunders - UNH cooperative extension, works with Master Gardiners in all areas of the state who can provide education to homeowners, has developed outreach tools, experience with biosolids and also soil testing

Rachel Worthington - runs Star Island composting and sustainability. Interested in food waste reduction and bring awareness to commercial kitchens, worked with schools/farms in S. America and is bilingual, has produced signage & education campaigns for tourists & residents

Sara McGraw – Outreach manager for NRRA in NH K-12 schools, experience with hands-on exercises, making connections/cross-training opportunities with schools & municipalities

Dave Morrill – Production Schedule Coordinator at Badger Co. in Gilsum, is expert in composting, MBA project involved putting together a business plan/model for composting facilities in NH, implemented composting program at Bagel Works

Josef Quirinale - food director at Keene State, ex officio of college president's sustainability Council, GM of Dining Services, Received EPA Award for Food Reduction/Composting Program

David Jeffers - Lakes RPC coordinating HHW collections and have USDA grant that includes assisting stakeholders with composting and e-waste as well so have had discussions with solid waste operators regarding composting, comes from science education background

Lauren Noether - Focus group scribe, interested in food waste and composting

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Additional notes regarding participants

Three people in group have been to Maine composting school.

Perception is that meat and dairy composting is forbidden in NH—we need outreach to overcome this and understanding permitting.

Many Existing E&O Materials from members of this group

Working Definitions – we need to clearly define what we are talking about regarding food: pre-consumer-breads, vegetables, food waste, food scraps, pre-consumer, post-consumer, pre-plate vs. post-plate

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Who needs training?

- Schools, grocers, restaurants, institutional, farms, food service groups
- Solid waste operators
- "Small" Generators: residential, landlords, tourists, municipalities, counties
- Commercial vs backyard composting
- Solid waste biz owners and haulers

Questions surrounding "Who needs E&O?"

- Where can we have the most impact? More effective perhaps to work with food service companies, institutions, and municipalities or to reach out to homeowners first to push backyard composting – There were discussions regarding both methods.
- Food residuals are a resource not a waste—how do we get the word out about this?

Resources & Deficiencies

What & Who Currently Exists?	What do we need in our Toolbox?
NERC NEWMOA Regional Planning Commissions NRRA Lakes Region Planning Commission (USDA Grant) EPA – Food Recovery Challenge SWOT Pollution Prevention Program (Businesses) Keene State College Dartmouth UNH Cooperative Extension – Master Gardeners Agriculture Commissions Conservation Districts Farmers & Growers – NoFA & Other Associations 4-H Antioch – Graduate Students (Matt Smith & Michael Simpson) Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Grant (SARE) Food Recovery Network/Gleaners Current Studies proving its benefits	Money State – Education Coordinator Facilities to host Haulers (identify & get on board) Feedstocks: In particular Carbon (ID Businesses who may have these feedstocks) Determine End-Markets Working set of regulations (in progress) Determine logistics for composting in NH

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Education Plan

In order to properly put together an Outreach and Education plan for the State of New Hampshire with the current circumstances, we propose the following outline for an education plan. We will be mainly focusing on food waste composting, but there is room to discuss food waste reduction. Other regulated composting feedstocks (i.e. biosolids, sludge, etc.) will come later.

Why Should "I" Do This?: Prepare educational materials that answer this question. The "I" can be any of the identified groups, however, the messaging will revolved around the following concepts:

- Community Benefits
- Environmental Benefits
- Waste Reduction
- Incentives/Recognition – Possible lead to discounts in disposal/recycling

We can use existing materials to create a "branded" message for NH. A suggestion was made to use the "green apple" and other messaging that VT and other NE states have adopted. This will help keep the messaging recognizable and clear.

How do "I" Do This?: There are two composting groups and 1 basic message on food waste reduction under "How" that we identified as the focus areas. Each of these three will have different pathways to reaching "How", though the "Why" may be the same.

- Big Institutions
- Backyard/Residents
- Food Waste Reduction

- Permitting/Exemptions
- Point of Generation
- Active Compost On-Site or Transported Off-Site
- Train the Trainer/Prove Technical Ability/Mentors
- Behavior Change
- Good Samaritan Laws

Education Topics: There are quite a few topics areas that need to be discussed and determined above and beyond composting "recipes". This group will need to pull together current information on the following:

- Transportation of compost feedstocks/finished compost
- How to site a compost facility/proper location
- Identify contaminants (in all phases of the composting process)
- Where/Who are the end markets

Action Items

Sub-Committee Members are to send education & outreach materials to Tara via email or create a copy for her to compile all of our existing materials.

Members are to review the notes and identify anything that is missing from the discussion.

At the next meeting the group should be prepared to discuss ideas on implementing the education plan including: methods of training/educating, schedule, assigning roles to each member.

In addition, we need to discuss integrating EPA's Food Reduction Challenge with current composting training events in order to pull together the "Why" Section of the plan.

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11:25 am Sub-Groups reassemble together in Room 208C

NRRA Pilot Subgroup reported out: Grant deliverable is two pilot residential composting programs—already have 4 farmer's market type programs. NRRA grant ends in Sept. but NRAA committed to long term. Identify sites, locations already operating—some commercial some municipal. Will need to determine better what role they could play—Collection, haul to hub, permit restrictions or the need for permit, meat/dairy

What **metrics** do we monitor or measure—diversion rate (what is taken out of waste stream), recovery rate (what is placed back in commerce as product??), cost compared to trash removal now; quality of what goes in and what goes out as compost (organic or land application grade product)

Goals for pilot: outcomes, training needed to do pilot and public training to understand, does the pilot focus on residential vs commercial sources

Evaluation: of equipment and logistics, outcomes, meeting goals

Next Steps: Narrow list of pilot sites –potentially 4 sites

- Schedule next sub group meeting
- Establish a mode of communication/collaboration
- Follow up and outreach with sites to make sure they are ready and able
- Coordinate with SWOT to see what pilot site operators might borrow from SWOT; Identify educational resources already available
- Finish spreadsheet with bullet points
- **Schedule:** within two months during leaf season
- Pick sites, get buy in and get report back

E&O Subgroup reported out: Identified skillset of group; Identified resources already available and what is needed; Identified who are target audiences for education/outreach. Discussed food primarily as a feedstock—Identified lack of feedstock, (one of which was carbon); Listed resources & deficiencies on who can do education and outreach; Identified some sources of funding; Developed the bones for an education plan for food waste, composting. Ggeneral and wide ranging discussion will need to be pulled in and focused.

Next Step to ID who gets what info and how and when (even before we get rules). Gather information on topics such as food reduction and the benefit of composting.

Next meeting Sept 27th 9 am and will break out sooner to meet longer in the subgroups

Rules/Regulatory subgroup reported out they have a plan of action. Went over rules in general and discussed developing different categories of facilities. The differentiation should be science-based. Feedstock is one way to differentiate and US Composting has already looked at such appropriate categories. Different categories may have different siting and operation and finished product. Another category that will determine how to regulate is what the end use of product may be—used on site or not. Before next meeting, group members will review Pam's rule summary relative to siting and operational requirements and meet at next scheduled meeting, Wed, Sept 27, 2017 at 9 am at NHDES.

Adjourned at noon.