

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP

Organics Management Working Group – First Meeting

Meeting Notes

Monday, April 22, 2024 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm (Zoom)

Attendance

Working group members	Metro Vancouver staff present
Doug Schell	Brooke Atkinson – PTAC Coordinator
Louise Schwartz	Chris Underwood – Division Manager, Solid Waste Planning
William Selten	Karen Storry – Senior Engineer, Solid Waste Planning
John Doherty	Samantha Joy – Working Group Coordinator
Raman Johal	Zeenia Mizan – Solid Waste Community Engagement Program Assistant
Kevin Huang (absent)	
Hunter Bergen (absent)	
Ben Liegey (absent)	

ITEMS
<p>1. MEMBER INTRODUCTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members expressed interest in exploring how to reduce organic waste, particularly among the public Members expressed interest in discussing challenges within multi-tenanted residential and commercial sites Organics as a waste material can be used to demonstrate a local, closed loop circular system of managing materials
<p>2. FOCUS TOPIC DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members asked questions about how statistics on organics still in the garbage were determined (from waste composition study) Members discussed potential areas of interest and focus areas for this working group Potential areas of focus included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-family residential sector organics recovery, including challenges compared to single-family homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified a potential future area of research to confirm assumptions about why organics recycling in multi-family residential sector is more challenging (e.g.



convenience and accessibility, full bins, odours, and management through individual private companies rather than coordinated through the municipality)

- Members discussed building design, including the need for modifying older buildings not designed for the numerous recycling and organics streams, and also the need to ensure new buildings do account for recycling requirements into the future (and how this will be especially important as a result of the new provincial legislation allowing greater density on existing single family properties).
 - Explore community scale and on-site technologies to reduce or dewater organics, thus reducing odours and ick factor, and reducing hauling costs
 - Explore other ways to make organics recycling more convenient (reduce effort required), appealing, and cost-effective
2. Local organics processing capacity/infrastructure
 - Need to ensure sufficient capacity to manage all materials
 - Explore potential for the region to operate organics processing infrastructure
 - Wood – examine amount of materials other than food that are available (eg wood), to support processing
 3. Prioritize reducing organics as much as possible, first.
 - How to support reusable options to reduce requirement for compostable single-use items
 - reducing food waste
 4. Policy
 - Consistent requirements/expectations for organics to be recycled
 - Possibility of mandated organics collection
 - Building requirements to ensure no logistical road-blocks in residential and commercial buildings
 5. Other ideas as the working group continues. Including market and procurement, Institute for Local Self-Reliance organics hierarchy, data on organics leaving region

6. CHAIR SELECTION

- Committee members nominated Ben Liegey, who was absent
- If Ben cannot be Chair, William Selten and Doug Schell can co-chair
- Following the meeting, Ben Liegey agreed to chair the working group

7. MEETING FREQUENCY and NUMBER

- Monthly meetings with break in summer: April, May, June, September, October
- Create a document where members can note ideas in between members – hosted by members rather than Metro Vancouver – members to confirm what platform to use

8. MEETING FORMAT

- 1 hour meetings, virtual



- Discussion if there's interest in visiting an organic waste facility – conclusion that there is enough expertise among members including knowledge of organics processing facilities. Will consider visiting a facility if the need arises.
- Use the expertise present in the room as much as possible

9. POTENTIAL PRESENTERS/ OTHER INFORMATION OR RESOURCES REQUIRED

- Detailed breakdown of organics waste composition results, such as commercial organics sub-sectors, or by-community/municipality
- Break-down of food waste that could be avoided v.s. food scraps that would legitimately remain food scraps – by sector – to enable a discussion on what could be reduced
- Is there an adequate supply of brown material / wood to support processing
- Description of policies of member municipalities – for example, how many have components in their procurement policies on using organics in their parks / landscaping projects?
- Conclusions from National Zero Waste Council organics working group – bring in those ideas that already exist
- Municipal staff advisory committees – REAC-SW and RWRCC – would like to find out if there are ideas coming out of those groups related to organics

Next Steps:

- Brooke will send out poll for meeting dates in May and June