



**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WORKING GROUP**

Food Waste and Organics Management Working Group – Third Meeting

Monday, June 10, 2024

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Online meeting

Attendees: Ben Liegey (Chair), Douglas Schell, William Selten, John Doherty, Louise Schwarz

Staff: Brooke Atkinson, Terry Fulton, Stephanie Liu

NOTES

ITEMS
<p>1. MEETING NOTES - May 13, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chair reviewed highlights and action items from last meeting’s notes - Staff provided overview of issue/opportunity discussion questions and suggested use of them as a framework for the report-out from small groups to the whole committee in the fall - Louise Schwarz will provide the update from the small group at the June 14, 2024 PTAC meeting
<p>2. Discuss Waste Hierarchy Categories for Food Waste and Organics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working group is in agreement with the focus areas that Ben has presented: Prevention, rescue, recycle. - Working group posed question about amount of food waste going to the Waste-to-Energy Facility (data request for Metro Vancouver) - Comment that if all food waste is removed from waste loads, this can lead to operational issues at the incinerator. Question on how that can be managed (e.g. replacing food waste with biosolids or other materials?) – (info request for Metro Vancouver) - Would not be surprised if there is a significant amount of food waste not being composted - Highlighted that through waste audits, have found that food vendors in the food prep that are disposing of food waste. More education is needed for food production / food service providers. - Potential connections with Ministry of Food and Agriculture initiative to work with post-secondary students to set targets on local food production – part of that work is discussing how to make the industry more sustainable. John will follow up on this possibility.



3. Reflect on Insights Around Prevention

- Under the topic of prevention, there is: Prevention policy, accountability, partnerships, funding/incentives, ICI, family housing, non-food organics
- Policy: organics to landfill ban is a very important component, enforcing at the hauler level, with the idea that haulers would communicate with their customers. Easier on the ICI side than with residential. Introducing policy for mandatory organics service for specific commercial generators would also help.
- Another perspective: disposal ban system is already in place and despite that, organics are still in the garbage. Especially with multi-tenanted areas, it is very challenging to pinpoint where the issues are coming from. Need more education targeted at those audiences
- Question about how often inspections happen at regional facilities (info request for Metro Vancouver)
- Large opportunities in ICI, for example health care. Starting with large, publicly funded entities could yield significant results. Just requires logistics coordination.
 - At Vancouver Coastal Health, waste management is becoming decentralized. One issue is recycling PPE – it exists in every lunchroom and there are opportunities to divert it.
 - Food waste is heavier than PPE – so the financial incentive of recycling is higher. But with PPE, we can collaborate with other health authorities – larger volumes, compacted, yield larger financial benefits.
 - Could take a similar coordination approach with food waste
- There is a lot that large ICI groups can actually do/change when it comes to waste reduction.
- Misconception still exists of there being a risk/liability to donating food. Need to educate about good Samaritan laws.
- Celebrate good behavior and communicate about it
- Coordinated communications, rather than each group running education in their own silos. Build momentum to promote donation of food.
- Policies to universalize efforts and maximize benefits
- Tailor messaging to specific audiences so they can get the relevant information quickly as they are busy with day to day work (e.g. restaurants, farmers, businesses)
- ReFED Insights Engine: <https://insights-engine.refed.org/solution-provider-directory> - advocate for governments to adopt something similar
- Take advantage of provincial funding for studies
- Group agreed the next step is to use the ideas that have been discussed so far for the Prevention category, and to organize and structure the thoughts in preparation for the report back.
- Prevention: precise that it would make sense to have some solutions tailored to
 - o (1) the food life cycle stage: Farm, Manufacturing, Retail, Residential, Foodservice
 - o (2) the type of solutions: prevention, rescue, recycling
- Action: Ben to organize Miro Boards based on topics discussed. Members welcome to continue to contribute to the Miro Boards.



4. List Data /Information Required from Metro Vancouver

- Format requested: short presentation slides at next working group meeting, and more detailed reference material on the Miro board
- Disposal ban data and waste composition data specifically showing food waste being disposed of at the Waste-to-Energy Facility
- Waste-to-Energy Facility Operational Parameters: requirements for feedstock, alternatives to food waste in the waste stream, operational requirements and potential impacts of removing food waste from loads.
- General disposal ban inspection data, including number of inspections, how many penalties issued, etc. Purpose is to have an idea of what the chances of being inspected are on any given day. The thought is that if the chances of inspection or penalties is low, it is not enough of a deterrent.
- Provide link to where names of haulers receiving the highest annual surcharges are published.

5. Updated Solid Waste Management Plan Update Issues/Opportunities Discussion Questions

- Group discussed idea to use discussion questions as a framework for how the final presentation would be provided
- Discussed how to best organize ideas.
- When discussing a particular category such as prevention, or policy, and we can answer the issue/opportunity discussion questions under those topic categories.
- Using discussion points rather than large miro board would be helpful.
- Miro Board is good for generating ideas, but bullet points are helpful when narrowing down to key takeaways

6. June 14 PTAC Meeting Updates

7. Next Meeting Date and Next Steps

- Doodle Poll will be sent out to set up the next meeting.
- Metro Vancouver to provide requested information before the next meeting.