

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

Food Waste and Organics Management Working Group – Seventh Meeting

Monday, October 21, 2024

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Online meeting

NOTES

Attendees:

Emily McGill (guest speaker), Louise, Doug Schell, Ben Liegey, John Doherty, William Selten

MV staff: Terry Fulton, Stephanie Liu

ITEMS
<p>1. Compostable Plastics (Louise)</p> <p><u>Invited presentation by Emily McGill (BSI Bio) – Compostable Field Testing Program (Upon invitation by Louise Schwarz)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provided presentation about compostable plastics and their use after reducing single use packaging overall- Suggested that the solid waste management plan include framework for adapting to compostable packaging technologies (rather than rolling out bans)<ul style="list-style-type: none">o e.g. Ability for composters/processers to update their operations to successfully receive compostable plastics- One challenge is numerous types of compostable plastics used, as well as messaging and labelling- Bin liners – attempts to advance the receipt of these at processing facilities; facilities may need to apply for feedstock exemption- Group discussed compostable plastics as the last line of defense (referring back to the waste hierarchy)- One challenge is compostable plastics look just like other plastic so is not easily distinguishable in a load; hesitancy by local governments to allow compostable plastics in organics collection programs- Policies required for product design and processing stages
<p>2. Prepare for November 21 Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 30 minutes

- **Format at discretion of working group**
- **Supplementary documents are ok – request they are in a format that can be received and recorded as feedback for the idea generation phase (i.e. please don't submit complex Miro boards)**

- Chair shared draft PowerPoint slides for Nov 21 presentation
- Group discussed how to bring together the food waste and organics discussion – as food waste is only one component of organics waste
- A group member suggested including multiple goals: reduce total organics in garbage; reduce food waste; reduce amount of organics needing processing; improve quality of organics
- Group discussed adding point about developing partnerships with others already working in food rescue
- Emphasized the role of the group is to provide recommendations; good to have some concrete and actionable recommendations rather than just theoretical
- Ensure availability of collection/drop off for organics, and incentives to drive the use of green bin rather than garbage
- Focus is on preventing organics from going to the garbage (v.s. removing organics after commingled disposal)
- Important to focus on commercial food waste as that makes up a significant percentage of total food waste, while the focus to date has been on residential education
- Important to clarify/define avoidable v.s. unavoidable food waste (even what is defined as unavoidable food waste is not truly unavoidable when referring to garbage composition), yet make sure to have food waste reduction targets that include avoidable AND unavoidable food waste
- Connections to systemic food security / access to food. Potential connection to Metro Vancouver Food System Strategy (current engagement) – potential to link to that strategy to acknowledge it, without recreating its content
- Data needed: total organics composted, and a measure of the quality of compost (contamination rate, sales/demand, etc.)

3. Next Meeting and Action Items

- No meeting scheduled before the presentation day on November 21
- Chair to present slides
- Members to provide information / suggestions / edits to Chair as required, before November 21