

CURRENT U.S. EPA EFFORTS RELATED TO ORGANIC MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

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Introduction

- Recent initiatives within U.S. EPA will have significant overall impact upon management of organic materials.
- This includes both regulatory and non-regulatory developments.
- The implications and end results of EPA's organic materials initiatives will include an increase in innovative uses, expanded markets, business and job opportunities, and a better-educated public.

Key Developments in the Past Two Years

- Proposed Rulemaking to amend the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG V) and the associated issuance of a draft Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN V)
- Launching of the GreenScapes Program

Key Developments in the Past Two Years (cont'd)

- Inclusion of and focus upon organic materials management as part of EPA's Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC)
- Funding of individual innovative organic materials-related projects
- Establishment and strengthening of alliances and partnerships

Amending the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines

- EPA has proposed to revise the current compost designation in the CPG (i.e., to expand the list of acceptable feedstocks) to include compost made from manure or biosolids.
- EPA has also proposed to consolidate all compost designations under one item called “compost made from recovered organic materials.”

Amending the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (cont'd)

- The CPG V will use government purchasing power to stimulate the use of these organic materials in the manufacture of new products, thereby fostering markets for materials recovered from solid waste.

GreenScapes Program

- Launched in November 2003
(see www.epa.gov/greenscapes/)
- Key tool for expanding organic materials markets
- Environmentally beneficial landscaping initiative designed to promote cost-efficient and environmentally friendly solutions for large-scale landscaping such as roads and highways, golf courses, commercial and industrial sites, and parks and recreation areas

GreenScapes Program (cont'd)

- Ultimate goal is to achieve pollution prevention and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through resource conservation and reutilization
- Designed to help preserve natural resources and prevent waste and pollution by encouraging companies, government agencies, and other entities to make more holistic decisions regarding waste generation and disposal and better use of land, water, pesticides and energy

Organic Materials and the Resource Conservation Challenge

- Organic Materials (i.e., yard trimmings, food wastes, paper & paperboard and wood) make up over two-thirds of all materials by weight generated in the municipal solid waste (MSW) stream in the U.S. (EPA, 2001 statistics)
- Approximately 60% of all materials by weight discarded in the MSW stream in the U.S. are organic materials (EPA, 2001 statistics)

Organic Materials and the RCC (cont'd)

- One of the four focus areas of EPA's Resource Conservation Challenge is to achieve the MSW 35% Diversion/Recycling Goal.
- To achieve the 35% Goal, focus must be centered upon the high percentage of organic materials that make up the bulk of the MSW stream.

U.S. EPA's Funding of Innovative Organic Materials-Related Projects

- In the past two years, many organics projects have been funded by EPA Regions and by EPA's Offices of Solid Waste (OSW) and Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER).
- Many of these projects are of significance due to their innovativeness and for their potential to expand the markets for organic materials.

Some Recent and Current Organic Materials Projects Funded by EPA

- Anaerobic Digestion Facilities for Urban Food Waste (OSWER, Region 2)
- University Food Waste Composting (OSWER, Region 8)
- Agricultural and Municipal Cooperation in Co-Composting Green and Animal Waste (OSWER, Region 9)
- Using Composts to Reduce Lead and Arsenic Soil Contamination (OSWER, Region 10)
- Building the Food Waste and Composting Infrastructure in Massachusetts (OSW, Region 1)

Some Recent and Current Organics Projects Funded by EPA (cont'd)

- Use of Compost as a Best Management Practice to Control Erosion and Storm Water Runoff (OSW, Region 5, Region 4)
- Massachusetts Supermarket Recycling Organics Initiative (Region 1)
- Maine State Food Waste Compost Initiative (Region 1)
- Publication: Composting in the Mid-Atlantic Region (Region 3)
- Use of Engineered Soils and Landscape Systems to Meet Storm Water Runoff Quality and Quantity Management Requirements (Region 4)

Building Alliances and Partnerships in Organic Materials Management

- Individual EPA Regions and OSW have established a very good working relationship with officers, general members, solid waste and recycling managers and others that represent a variety of interests in organic materials management. This includes the U.S. Composting Council, state and regional composting organizations, publishers of organic materials periodicals, tribal/state/local government officials, university researchers and many others affiliated with the organics recycling industry and organics initiatives.

Building Alliances and Partnerships in Organics Management (cont'd)

- 50 Partners and Allies had joined the GreenScapes Program as of September 2004.
- Many partnerships have been and are being established and strengthened through the aforementioned EPA-funded projects.

Region 4 – Action Plan for Organics

- Participate in, support & promote the efforts of composting organizations and other entities (CCC, GOCC, FORA, USCC, BioCycle, *et.al.*)
- Identify all key stakeholders in Region 4 (YOU!!) and establish effective working group relationships
- Identify barriers to success and work toward remedies
- Region 4 Market Analysis (EPA contractor) - Establish baseline metrics from which to measure future success (food waste, yard trimmings; perhaps biosolids, also)

Region 4 – Action Plan for Organics

- Report aggressively on projects that promote the benefits of organic materials in cross-media applications – expand these markets for compost
- Identify other projects or initiatives that EPA can potentially fund in the future that will address issues of widespread significance in organics management
- Promote education & outreach efforts that highlight the sensible diversion/recycling/utilization of organic materials
- Promote GreenScapes projects; Increase the number of GreenScapes allies & partners in the southeast
- Host a Region 4 Organics Summit in early FY-2006