

Technical Advisory Group Meeting Minutes  
“Diverting Food Waste from Landfills”  
November 19, 2009  
University of Florida

- Opening and Introductions (2:38 pm)

Attendees

- Dr. Ann Wilkie – Project P.I.
  - Ryan Graunke – Graduate Student
  - John Schert – Hinkley Center
  - Tim Vinson – Hinkley Center
  - Gina Hawkins – City of Gainesville Public Works Department
  - Francine Joyal – Florida Department of Environmental Protection
  - Paul Hauck – Camp Dresser McKee, Inc.
- Presentation by Dr. Wilkie on project’s outline, objectives and benefits
    - (PowerPoint will be available on project’s website)
  - Discussion of what is considered eligible organic waste for 75% Recycling goal. These items presume that the Legislature will deem that the 75% goal is an increase of the current 30% recycling goal and not a total reduction goal.
    - Contact Ron Henricks at DEP for more information
    - Only recognizes municipal solid waste (MSW)
    - Definition of MSW available on DEP website
    - Agricultural waste (e.g. from meat packing houses) would not count towards recycling goals
    - Question: Does Publix processing plant waste count as MSW? Is it industrial (not MSW) or commercial (MSW)? Retail stores would count as commercial. Additional research will be performed to answer the above.
    - Question: Unclear if 75% goal means waste diversion or waste recovery, this will be decided by the legislature
    - Daily and intermediate cover and the bottom 18 inches of final cover by compost is not considered recycling. However, compost use in the top 6 inches of final cover to promote vegetation does count towards the 30% recycling goal
  - Discussion of composting effort at Disney World
    - Currently composting food waste in-vessel and biosolids and manure in windrows
    - Using same technology as Alachua County had received an “Innovative Grant” for: BCC technology, FORCE unit
    - May be dressing shoulders of roads with compost
  - Discussion of Organics Recovery Inc. project in Boca Raton
    - Company was enzymatically converting food waste from Publix into liquid fertilizer
    - Bankrupt due to various purported reasons (e.g. could not find market for product)
    - Dynamic Organic Inc. may be purchasing the Boca Raton facility

- Potentially reopening plant and talks are underway of opening a second plant in Lakeland
- Possible integration of this technology with anaerobic digestion (extract energy as biogas first, then use effluent as liquid fertilizer)
- Discussion of permitting/logistical issues of anaerobic digestion
  - Pilot projects will be permitted under special permit status if proposed changes to Chapter 62-709, F.A.C., are adopted.
  - Could establish registration criteria for anaerobic digestion as with aerobic composting (e.g. carbon nitrogen ratio, time on the processing site)
  - DEP needs more data on digestion (emissions and effluents)
  - BMP's have been established in Europe
  - Need to investigate if there are any health or odor problems with source separated food waste collection and if so how to overcome these
  - Suggestion to conduct a study to determine the life and death of composting facilities and develop summary of lessons learned
  - Investigate benefits of co-locating digesters with composting facility to provide processing flexibility and options for use of digester solid and liquid effluents
- Discussion of utilizing digester effluent as fertilizers
  - TMDL's and restriction of fertilizers may help the cause for recycling nutrients
  - Utilizing effluent to fertilize and irrigate green roofs
  - Need to investigate what effects would the flushing effluent to waste water treatment plant have
- Upcoming conferences
  - Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Orlando – Food Recycling and Compost Workshop
    - Target audience is yard trash recycling facilities that are planning to expand in to the other materials that will qualify for registration if proposed changes are adopted
    - Focus on aerobic composting
    - Problems facing compost facilities
    - Training personnel in composting food waste
  - January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Orlando – US Composting Council meeting
- Meeting adjourned (5:40 pm)

Notes/Suggestions:

- Overall project should be more focused on sustainability of system rather than meeting the future 75% recycling goal.
- Stress recycling of nutrients and minerals in food waste for returning nutrients to the soil