

Organics Recycling Working Group Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023 1:00- 2:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Contact: Michael.Wonsidler@sdcounty.ca.gov

Agenda

1. Introductions: Michael Wonsidler (County of San Diego), Ellyn Law (County of San Diego), Emily Schuetz (CalRecycle), Emily Creegan (City of San Diego), Dave Didonato (City of Chula Vista), Heather Heckman (City of Santee), Stephen Herring (Republic Services), Janin Rodarte (City of Escondido), Natalia King Quick (County of San Diego), Abby Hunt (Republic Services), Jenna Roripaugh (AgriService), Rebeca McClellan (City of San Diego), Michael Luna (City of Del Mar), Neha (City of San Diego), Natalie Penney (City of San Diego), Ofelia Andrade (City of Coronado), Samantha Byfield (City of San Marcos), Serena Lee (City of La Mesa), Jennafer Steffen (City of Poway)
2. SB 1383
 - a. General Updates
 - i. Michael W. shared *The Composter Podcast* with the group.
 - b. Education and Outreach
 - i. The County sent out the [Recycling Works...but Needs You! Newsletter](#) to unincorporated area residents and businesses.
 - ii. The City of Del Mar met with CalRecycle to discuss non-local entities. The Del Mar Fairgrounds falls within an agricultural district which is not required to report tonnage information to the state. The City is waiting to hear back if they are required to include them in the EAR.
 - iii. The Del Mar Fairgrounds has a private business operating on the property which is classified as a third-party vendor. In this case, the City is required to provide education and inspect the business and has authority to engage in enforcement. There is also a venue at the fairgrounds. The City is required to educate and inspect the venue, however, the state is responsible for enforcement.
 - iv. The City of Coronado is also working a non-local entity, the Navy. City representatives met with the Navy and submitted a written request to provide edible food generator data and asking them to share information with their hauler, EDCO.
 - v. The County has been working with CalRecycle on 2 non-local entities, CA Highway Patrol, and the Federal Border Patrol.

- vi. Members requested additional guidance from CalRecycle on non-local entities.
 - vii. The County had an internal poll among employees about whether they collected their food scraps for composting at home. Results showed that 33% participated, 20% were interested but not yet participating and 47% did not participate.
 - viii. The City of Carlsbad began inspections for their single use plastics ordinance. Staff developed a manual they will be sharing with businesses which includes a calculator that will estimate potential savings if they switch to alternative products.
 - ix. The City of Del Mar is looking into an annual workshop on organics for certain business owners or managers to renew their business license. Interest in focusing on multi-family complexes in 2024.
- c. Facility Updates
- i. The Republic Otay compost facility is receiving large volumes of material and is in the process of permitting their food scrap pre-processing equipment.
 - ii. The City of Chula Vista is getting ready to send out direct mailers to residents.
- d. Procurement
- i. The City of Chula Vista has 4 free compost events per year at the landfill. Interest in increasing the number of events. The City connected with their Parks Department to store compost.
3. Market development of processed organics
- a. Compost & mulch application
 - 1. County staff toured the Water Conservation Garden in Cuyamaca College, which highlights composting and use of compost and mulch.
 - 2. The City of Chula Vista bought a spreader and will start using the equipment to apply small amounts of material.
 - 3. Tip Sheets & Specs by Sector/Use– No update.
 - b. Compost BMP Design Competition – No update.
 - c. Carbon sequestration – No update.
4. Highest and Best Use of Food Scraps
- a. Feed for Animals
 - i. The group previously discussed feeding food to animals. The City of San Diego will follow up with any updates from their interns.
 - ii. The County has a [flyer](#) for feeding animals at schools that have 4-H programs.
5. News & Events

- a. County had staff attend the ReScape Compost and Mulch Best Practices Training (9/26).
6. Roundtable
- a. The City of La Mesa is interested in experiences or best practices for anyone who has done a rollout of organics programs at schools with no centralized cafeteria/eating space.
7. Adjournment- next meeting (first Thursday 1:00- 2:30 p.m.)