

Title: Market development for Diverted Organics

Description

- The goal is to provide end uses for organics that have been diverted from the waste stream with an emphasis on optimizing the value and developing markets for these materials.
- The fundamental strategies to achieve this goal are to encourage anaerobic digestion and land application by providing/identifying financial incentives
- The organics group recommendations are meant to function as both stand alone and complementary options to the recommendations of the collections group and the purchasing group
- Anaerobic digestion of putrescible organics including food scraps, manures and food processing wastes is encouraged through feed in tariffs and wheeling provisions
- Use of composts and other organics is expanded on a municipal level by altering the existing purchasing language to permit a broader range of recycled organics to be used in municipal projects
- Agricultural use of composts and other recycled organics suitable for land application is encouraged through subsidies to farmers to be administered by the State Conservation Districts
- In conjunction with or in the absence of adoption of these recommendations, the State is encouraged to promote use of existing carbon markets by municipalities and private entities as a means to partially subsidize organics diversions including food scrap composting, and municipal and on farm anaerobic digestion

Impacts on Goals

- Each dry ton of food scraps has the potential to release the methane equivalent of up to 8 tons of CO₂ in a landfill. Each person generates close to 100 pounds of food waste (dry weight) per year
- The cost of diversion of food scraps is comparable to the cost of landfilling- suggesting that the \$ cost per ton of CO₂ for this program is minimal
- Landfill diversion has the potential to reduce GHG through methane avoidance while also creating jobs, benefits and credits through production of green energy and valuable soil amendments

Additional Benefits

- Use of organic soil amendments increases soil carbon, improves water use efficiency, provides a substitute for synthetic fertilizers that require fossil fuels to produce, improve soil tilth and produce quality
- Anaerobic digestion and land application are complementary technologies
- These recommendations capture the value of both the carbon and the nutrients in material that has traditionally been landfilled

Costs

- Costs for anaerobic digestion are covered by utility companies, changes to the purchasing rules require no additional costs, use of organics on land will require a new source of revenue
- Existing or in process protocols on functional carbon exchanges can provide an external source of revenue for these recommendations

Relationship to Other Efforts

- These actions rely on the public and private sectors and are complementary to recommendations by other groups within the CAT