

Statewide Organics Management Workgroup (SOM)

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Group Origin

- Fall 2008- Puget Sound Clean Air Authority convened a meeting on compost facility odor issues
- Result was a decision to have two groups
 - Smaller group to address facility-specific odor issues
 - Larger, long-term group to work on statewide issues

SOM is Meeting to Address Long Term Issues

- Members- local governments, air authorities, compost facilities, consultants, Ecology staff
- First Meeting- February 2009
 - Agreed on a problem statement, vision, and scope
- Second Meeting- April 2009
 - Will agree on tasks to be completed by members

Problem Statement

Facilities, usefulness of compost, and organics management in general is undervalued in the overall materials management system.

Contributing Factors to the problem

- Not recognizing that compost is more than a cheap way to divert organics from landfills
- Lack of flexibility to technological, political, and economic changes
- Not treating organics recycling as an integrated system

Contributing Factors, cont.

- Need to acknowledge that there are various ways to handle organics
- Need for more public education
- Lack of a plan – capacity, technology, where organics and funds are coming from

SOM Vision

Organics recycling is essential for the public good; therefore, there is a need to maintain and expand a robust and flexible organics management system that addresses organics in their entirety. The system must be appropriately valued, sustainable, universally available, adequately sized, and accepted by communities statewide.

SOM Objectives

- Align the purposes of organics management with political desires and reality
- Provide a level playing field for organics processors
- Increase and sustain education for organic material generators and users of soil amendment products

Objectives, continued

- Have adequate, diverse, and sustainable organic processing capacity with widespread community acceptance
- Create a consensus-based statewide plan to manage organics
- Have facilities that operate with acceptable odor levels

SOM Work Group Scope

To produce recommendations that will empower and assist both public and private sectors to make sustainable organic recycling opportunities available statewide.

(Specific tasks will be developed at the next meeting)

Questions?



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