

ORGANIC MATERIALS SECTOR GROUP MEETING/TELECONFERENCE

Date and time: June 14th 9am – 10.30am

Location: by teleconference

Present: Chris Purchas (Tonkin & Taylor), Darren Hoskins (Wellington City Council), Daniel O’Carrell (Living Earth), Dawn Smith (Scion), Gavin Sole (Jacobs), George Fietje (Auckland Council), Joanne MacGregor (Transvalue Consultants), John Cocks (MWH New Zealand Ltd - WasteMINZ Board Champion),

Apologies Mike Lord (Envirofert Ltd)

Facilitator Jenny Marshall (WasteMINZ)

Agenda:

No.	Discussion point	Action point
1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Minutes: Chris Purchas Seconded: Dawn Smith
2.	Clopyralid – application to the EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joanne MacGregor submitted a draft application for the EPA’s feedback. As a result additional substances have been added in which contain clopyralid.• A couple of suggested changes to wording were identified. Joanne will resubmit the draft again to the EPA for final sign off with the aim of submitting the completed application before the end of June.• There was some discussion around the confidentiality of information presented, so care has been taken to ensure that confidentiality has been preserved without weakening the impact of the case.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that whilst a complete ban of clopyralid containing products would be ideal this may be an unrealistic outcome. At a minimum however we would want to see the current controls enforced particularly around product labelling. Also raising awareness of the environmental impact of clopyralid in certified handler courses. There may also be the opportunity to work with the chemical suppliers to raise awareness of appropriate usage.
3.	Health and Safety guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daniel O'Carrell presented at the Health and Safety Steering Committee. There are two key gaps in the existing WasteMINZ Health and Safety guidelines in terms of composting facilities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bioaerosols – There are increased fungi and bacteria in composting environments. There are no real guidelines as to what the levels should be and what are the upper limits. Staff who are susceptible could be at risk of breathing difficulties and infection. Staff are most at risk when a windrow is being turned. Health monitoring of your staff on site is important. Risk of fires in unmanaged windrows - self ignition of organic materials It was noted that any additional guidance documents would need to be created by a health and safety professional. Nic Quilty will look to see when budget might become available to create these additional guidelines. <p>Subsequent to the steering committee meeting the following update was made available</p> <p>Nic Quilty met with Paul Evans and spoke to him about developing the organics processing section (to be added to the H & S Guidelines) and the fact sheet on bioaerosols.</p>

		<p>Paul advised that WasteMINZ can create a fact sheet in the next financial year 2016/2017, which will identify the risks/hazards associated with bioaerosols and ways of managing them. Chapter 4: Composting and Bioaerosols (the UK guidelines that the OMSG Steering Committee refer to above) will assist when developing the fact sheet.</p> <p>There is funding for this fact sheet. Greg Dearsly will draft the fact sheet up, with the assistance of a working group (the Organic Materials Sector Group Steering Committee will need to advise who should be on the working group to assist Greg).</p> <p>Given the UK guidelines (CH4) don't identify any controls, just the health implications, it has been decided not to make this document available on the website. Anyone who would like a copy can email jenny@wasteminz.org.nz and she will email it to them.</p> <p>Once the H & S Guidelines have been updated, to incorporate the Health and Safety at Work Act, we will look at where funding could be sourced to develop the organics processing module to be added as part 6.</p>
4.	Ron Alexanders visit	<p>Ron Alexander will be running a one day commercial composting course on Monday 17th of October.</p> <p>Topics of interest would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying your end market - how do you research it and will it work financially? • How do you develop your markets? • What are the benefits in compost use that they are promoting in the USA? • Compostable products - how are they being dealt with in America? how is it effecting end markets? Marketability of the product? Organic certification? • How do we create confidence that there is a sustainable market out there – reference case studies from the USA. • Instilling confidence that there is a market for compost; case studies in US, demonstrate reality of long term market • Experience with factors that enhance and inhibit markets including communication (how and how to communicate) <p>feed stock control and management</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home composting for different home environments (apartments to life style) – trends and opportunities, including home composting services
5.	Compostable serviceware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There continue to be a number of queries around compostable packaging and serviceware. • For sites which sell organically certified compost there are a number of issues. Compostable products are currently perceived as a synthetic input by the certifiers. So this is a barrier. However as the product is not being exported they may be able to apply for an exemption. However producers of compostable products would need to prove that the raw material have not been genetically modified. They would also need confirmation that there are no nano particles. • Products made from cardboard would potentially meet the criteria. Currently Christchurch City Council is accepting pizza boxes in their food/ garden waste collections and this isn't causing any issues.
6.	Lincoln University research study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lincoln University has undertaken some research on the benefits of composting. A summary report was sent to the Canterbury Joint Waste Committee did on benefits of composting.
7.	Legionella	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Cocks will follow up with David Murdoch on the results of his research