

# ORGANIC MATERIALS SECTOR GROUP MEETING/TELECONFERENCE

**Date and time:** 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**Location:** by teleconference

**Present:** Chris Purchas (Tonkin and Taylor), Daniel O'Carroll (Living Earth), Daniel Yallop (Auckland Council), Dawn Smith (Scion), Gavin Sole (Jacobs), Mike Lord (EnviroNZ); Joanne MacGregor (Transvalue Consultants);

**Apologies** Darren Hoskins (Wellington City Council),

**Facilitator** Jenny Marshall (WasteMINZ)

## Agenda:

No.	Discussion point	Action point
1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies	
2.	Minutes	
3.		Review and update the strategic plan 2015 -2017 <a href="http://www.wasteminz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/OMSGs-strategic-plan-2015-2017-final1.pdf">http://www.wasteminz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/OMSGs-strategic-plan-2015-2017-final1.pdf</a>  The plan was updated and the following points added or amended:  <b>Strategic Areas of Focus:</b>  A stronger focus on managing contaminant risks as per wording below

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Quality: to ensure that organic waste products are fit for purpose and can be sold in a full range of markets.</li> <li>2. Health and Safety: to ensure that organic waste products meet the appropriate standards for consumer and soil health and that contaminant risks are appropriately managed.</li> </ol> <p><b>Goals:</b></p> <p>A standard has been agreed for film so the goal has been amended to.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine an appropriate standard/ brand mark for compostable food packaging and serveware. This would include New Zealand verification and compliance.</li> </ol>
4.		<p>Review and update the workplan and create a workplan for 2018 -2019</p> <p><a href="http://www.wasteminz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/OMSG-Work-Plan-2015-2016-final1.pdf">http://www.wasteminz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/OMSG-Work-Plan-2015-2016-final1.pdf</a></p> <p>The workplan was reviewed and updated.</p> <p>The projects below were completed under the 2015/ 2017 workplan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct an investigation into Legionella Longbeachae to ascertain the extent to which compost-derived products produced by industry contain legionella longbeachae.</li> <li>2. Provide input into the development of the ecological soil guideline values (ECOSGV) for New Zealand</li> <li>3. Determine a standard for compostable film</li> </ol> <p>In addition to the current projects on the work plan a project has been added for determining a standard for</p>

		compostable serviceware. More information on that project can be found in the next agenda item.
5.	Compostable Serviceware	<p><b>Packaging Forum Project</b></p> <p>The Packaging Forum have engaged Beyond the Bin to assist in developing support for their members who are involved with compostable packaging and to work with other industries to move forward agreement on a compostable packaging standard with the aim of potentially developing a label stating that an item is commercially compostable in New Zealand. It is possible that such a label would be administered by a certification scheme and act in a similar manner to the SPCA tick certification on free range eggs.</p> <p>It was noted by the steering committee that for some composting facilities it is extremely important for products to meet a standard before being approved for acceptance. For other facilities the raw material which a product is made from is more important than whether the product meets a standard or not. E.g. they can accept products made from bamboo but not PLA. Finally there are some composters who are prepared to trial products on a case by case basis rather than having acceptance criteria.</p> <p>It was noted that the State of California has clear guidelines on labelling of compostable products</p> <p><a href="https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/federal_register_notices/guides-use-environmental-marketing-claims-green-guides/greenguidesfrn.pdf">https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/federal_register_notices/guides-use-environmental-marketing-claims-green-guides/greenguidesfrn.pdf</a></p> <p>Page 62127 Section 260.7 reads</p> <p>“A. it is deceptive to misrepresent directly or by implication that a product of package is compostable.</p> <p>B. a marketer claiming that an item is compostable should have competent and reliable scientific evidence that all the materials in the item will break down into or otherwise become part of usable compost in a safe and timely manner.</p>

		<p>C. a marketer should clearly and prominently qualify compostable claims if</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the item cannot be composted in a home compost pile in a safe or timely manner</li> </ol> <p>Or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. the claim misleads the consumer about the environmental benefit when the item is disposed of to landfill</li> <li>3. to avoid deception about the limited availability of commercial or council composting facilities – it must be clearly stated that such facilities are not available to a substantial majority of consumers or communities where the item is sold.”</li> </ol> <p>Examples are then provided of various scenarios.</p> <p>It has been agreed that two compost manufacturers should join the working party which is being set up. Daniel O’Carroll has volunteered and another volunteer will also be found. Dawn Smith from Scion will also be on the working party.</p> <p>Beyond the Bin will be asked to draw up a project scope and brief and share it with the steering committee so that the committee can identify opportunities to provide input and assistance.</p> <p><b>WasteMINZ Project</b></p> <p>Currently it is difficult for event organisers and businesses to determine whether there are composting facilities in their region which will accept compostable serviceware. WasteMINZ is proposing that there should be a central point where businesses can easily see where the facilities are, what type of compostable serviceware they will accept, and who the service providers are to contact to organise a collection or dropoff.</p> <p>Currently there are 10 locations around the country which accept compostable products. They have all been contacted and asked to supply the relevant information which will be made available in a central location online.</p> <p>Wholesalers of compostable products would be strongly encouraged to link to this page to make it clear to the</p>
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		<p>public where there products can be commercially composted.</p> <p>Daniel O’Carroll – Living Earth is investigating the acceptance of compostable plastics organic certifications schemes as this can also be a barrier to accepting compostable products. In Canada and the EU they do allow compostable plastics under organic certification however in the US they don’t.</p> <p>The US Composting Association has now developed a set of guidelines on how individual sites can test products for compostability. <a href="https://www.biocycle.net/2018/01/11/open-source-field-testing-certified-compostable-packaging/">https://www.biocycle.net/2018/01/11/open-source-field-testing-certified-compostable-packaging/</a></p> <p>Compostable products can slow the production of compost down as they may need to go through the process more than once to break down sufficiently. Equally they do not add great nutritional value to the compost. It may be that gate fees for compostable products would need to be set at a higher rate to reflect the additional processing costs.</p> <p>It is also important to consider the post-consumer supply chain process and how to improve the ability of consumers to return compostable products to composting facilities.</p>
6.	Clopyralid	<p>From 1 December 2017, controls on hazardous substances (including agrichemicals) in workplaces to manage risks to workers (and others) are set under the Health and Safety at Work Act and enforced by WorkSafe. There are various changes to the regulatory requirements but the one most visible to agrichemical users will be the end of the Approved Handler system. It is being replaced by a Certified Handler scheme but this will only be required for those using the most acutely toxic agrichemicals (hazard classes 6.1A or 6.1B). Clopyralid containing substances are Class 9.2A</p> <p>The EPA will still set controls on hazardous substances (including agrichemicals) in workplaces to manage risks to the environment. These controls will continue to be set under HSNO (the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act), but set in EPA Notices rather than in regulations. Many HSNO controls relevant to agrichemicals use are set in the Hazardous Substance (Hazardous Property <b>Controls</b>) <b>Notice 2017 (the</b></p>

		<p>HPC Notice).</p> <p>One such control in the HPC Notice is that users of very ecotoxic pesticides (hazard classes 9.1A, 9.2A, 9.3A, 9.4A) need to be suitably qualified, for example, GROWSAFE certified.</p> <p>As under the previous HSNO regulations, a “qualified person” may supervise others applying these ecotoxic products. This requires you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide guidance to the person doing the spraying (guidance must be specific to the job)</li> <li>• be available at all times to provide assistance if necessary (you do not need to be at the application site).</li> </ul> <p>Note this is an EPA control rather than a WorkSafe requirement.</p> <p>Contractors</p> <p>For contract sprayers using highly ecotoxic products there is a higher requirement for training. This reflects the additional skills needed to assess and manage risks when sprayers are applying on different sites.</p> <p>If you are a contractor, it is likely you will need GROWSAFE Registered Chemical Applicator certificate (or equivalent), except for knapsack spraying for which you need a minimum of GROWSAFE Standard (or equivalent).”</p> <p>Requirement to provide evidence of qualification when purchasing clopyralid</p> <p>As a result of splitting controls between the HSW and HSNO legislation, it is unclear whether there is still a legal requirement for people to show proof of being suitably qualified before being able to purchase clopyralid containing products. Prior to 1st of December 2017 clopyralid could only be purchased if proof of having an approved handlers certificate was shown. WasteMINZ tested this control and it was being actively enforced by retail outlets.</p> <p>Tania van Maanen who is part of the EPA team responsible for the transition of the regulations is following up to</p>
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7.	Guidelines for beneficially reusing organic materials on productive land.	<p>These guidelines will supersede the 2003 Guidelines for the Safe Application of Biosolids to Land and include additional organic material such as animal manures, and other agricultural wastes. The feedback from the initial round of consultation has been considered and the guidelines updated. There is now a second opportunity for feedback. The deadline is 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Our initial feedback is attached.</p> <p><a href="https://www.waternz.org.nz/Article?Action=View&amp;Article_id=1212">https://www.waternz.org.nz/Article?Action=View&amp;Article_id=1212</a></p> <p>Daniel Yallop will review the proposed guidelines to see if the sector groups feedback on the zinc levels has been addressed.</p>
8.	General Business	<p>A member asked about controlling leachate into groundwater. The steering committee made a recommendation as to who to contact for more information.</p>