

Organic Materials Sector Group minutes, Friday 24 February 2022

Location: Zoom

Present: Chris Purchas (Tonkin + Taylor), Logan Dingle (Living Earth), Liz Stanway (Xtreme Zero Waste), Kate Walmsley (Kaicycle), Alexandre Cagnoli (Veolia), Gareth Hughes (AFRA), Millie Porter (Countdown), Alec McNeil (Marlborough District Council)

In attendance: Sarah Pritchett (Facilitator) WasteMINZ

Apologies: Lisa Hack (Insight), Alex Cagnoli

1. Meeting open, apologies and agenda

Agenda items

A. Strategic plan and work programme finalisation

The strategic vision and work programmes were finalised.

B. Composting hui no 2 – Feb 17

Two hui were held for composters. The hui were initiated by Kim Renshaw in her capacity at The Packaging Forum and facilitated by Chris Purchas. One was held in December and one last week. These focused on PFAS in compostable packaging and a response to it in NZ from the Packaging Forum. The purpose of the Composter's hui was to understand concerns of composters and get a sense of direction from them. The perspective of composters is that manufacturers are still releasing products onto the market without any thought about their end of life but these discussions indicate there is a willingness on their behalf to pursue a product stewardship scheme or compostable packaging and fund it. Woolworths' preferred packaging guide puts compostable packaging in the "red" column (which means it is advised suppliers avoid using it).

The Packaging Forum is holding a webinar on 9 March on this issue.

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- C. Clopyralid – Andrew Boyd, from Selwyn District Council dialled in to talk about the detective work he had recently done to determine the source of clopyralid in their composting facility. The source appears to be from a commercial lawn care company who provides services to domestic properties. Andrew has met with the owner and explained the issues with clopyralid being in compost. The owner was not aware of this issue but wasn't keen to stop using the chemicals that contain it. Andrew and Chris will arrange a meeting with EPA to raise this issue and work out a strategy. Andrew also mentioned there is a conference coming up for lawn care companies and this could be a potential opportunity to educate lawn keepers about clopyralid.
- D. AOB
- a. Carbon neutral government reporting – is there any guidance on how to measure this consistently or any standards, in order to help people measure the benefits of using compost. The Refed Insights engine and impact calculator would be a really useful tool to have in NZ. Gareth mentioned the work AFRA is doing to measure the climate benefits of food rescue. This would be great to feed into an insights engine. In addition, the Ministry for the Environment have mentioned they are doing some research on emissions and landfills so it would be good to have it broader than just landfills.

Action items from this meeting:

Date raised	Action Point	Deadline	Allocated to	Status
24/2/22	Gareth to contact MfE re emissions work and disposal	Next meeting with MfE	Gareth	
24/2/22	Chris to organise meeting with EPA and Andrew	11 March	Chris	
24/2/22	Sarah to follow up about conference opportunity	4 March	Sarah via Andrew	emailed
24/2/22	Contact Dana Gunders regarding Refed Insights Engine for NZ	4 March	Sarah	emailed
24/2/22	Contact MfE re their compostable packaging Position paper	1 March	Sarah	emailed
24/2/22	Resource library scoping exercise	End of March	Kate	
24/2/22	Develop a cohesive strategy to guide sector activity - use the expertise of the group	On hold	Millie	In progress
24/2/22	Invite relevant speakers to committee meetings	Next meeting	Sarah	

Finished 12.05pm.