

ORGANIC MATERIALS SECTOR GROUP MEETING/TELECONFERENCE

Date and time: June 9th 2015 9am -11am

Location: by teleconference

Present: George Fietje (Auckland Council), John Cocks (MWH New Zealand Ltd - WasteMINZ Board Champion), Mike Jones (Earthcare Environmental Ltd), Mike Lord (Envirofert Ltd), Parul Sood (Auckland Council),

Apologies Chris Purchas (SKM), Darren Hoskins (Wellington City Council), Daniel O'Carrell (Living Earth), Graham Jones (EnviroWaste Services Ltd),

Facilitator Jenny Marshall (WasteMINZ)

Agenda:

No.	Discussion point	Action point
1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies	
2.	Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moved: Mike Lord• Seconded: John Cox
3.	Election of Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current committee has been in place for two years so it is now time for elections. Jenny will talk to Paul about the election process and this will be emailed out to all members.
4.	Review of Workplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is now timely to review and update the strategic plan and workplan to reflect the current activities of the steering committee. These will be reviewed and updated at the next meeting
5.	Compostable plastics – position paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The committee has finalised the position paper on standards for compostable bags. This will be sent out to manufacturers of compostable bags and also to end users of compost such as the dairy and horticultural industries for feedback.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WasteMINZ will facilitate a workshop with manufacturers, importers and distributors of compostable materials to discuss the position paper and coordinate collective feedback. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny to email out position paper • Jenny to ask steering committee for key contacts for end users. Suggestions have included Fonterra, Hort Research, Horticultural New Zealand, Agri Quality and Biogrow , Federated Farmers • Jenny to organise with George a date in July and venue for meeting with compostable materials manufacturers and importers.
6.	Compostable products in events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Renshaw has received a grant from the Packaging Forum to undertake a study of composting operations throughout NZ by region in regards to their experience with composting event waste i.e food and compostable packaging such as plates cups etc; issues they may have had with event waste (e.g. contamination, specific products) and suggestions for future composting of event waste at their facility. • The output of the study will be a resource for event managers who wish to compost their event waste, by region, recommending types of packaging for their events and operational support. • Mike Lord has been contacted by Kim, but it is still unclear how her project will tie in to the position paper on compostable plastics and if the project will be recommending specific brands of compostable packaging how the issue of standards and organic certification will be tackled, given that consensus has yet to be reached by industry on compostable film. • For those wanting more information on the project please contact Kim Renshaw at kim@gourmetnightmarket.co.nz

		<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee would be interested in seeing the project scope to understand more clearly what exactly the project will be addressing and how the issue of standards and organic certification will be addressed. • It was agreed that Kim could be supplied a list of compost manufacturers in New Zealand, however members who had been surveyed/ interviewed would also like to see a draft copy of the report before it is publicly released.
7.	<p>Legionella</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bag labeling - Update on National Working Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One year after its first investigation Fairgo followed up to find out what measures the industry has taken to raise public awareness of how to prevent legionella. Members of WasteMINZ have been part of a working group updating warnings on bags. http://tvnz.co.nz/fair-go/you-need-know-compost-and-legionnaires-disease-video-6331016 • Good progress has been made in terms of agreeing new improved bag labelling. The draft recommendations will be sent out to WasteMINZ members for discussion when they are completed. • There has been no update from the National Working group. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Cox will email David Murdoch for an update.
8.	<p>Clopyralid – EPA application for reassessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An application is being made to the EPA to have the status of Clopyralid reassessed. • Joanne MacGregor from Transvalue Consultstants will make the application on behalf of the Organic Materials Sector Group. Half the cost of the application is being funded by the WasteMINZ strategic investment fund with the other half being contributed by compost manufacturers. • It was noted that the US EPA is also being lobbied by the US Composting Council on clopyralid. http://compostingcouncil.org/persistent-herbicides/

		<p>WasteMINZ is not a member of the US Composting Council. It was discussed whether WasteMINZ should join as we would get access to their information on clopyralid.</p> <p>Note Information on clopyralid and how to test for clopyralid is now available on the WasteMINZ website. http://www.wasteminz.org.nz/sector-groups/compost-nz/clopyralid/</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenny will email the US Composting Council to find out the cost of membership and determine what the benefits of membership would be.
9.	Heavy Metals in Soil - update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A useful workshop with Dr Jo Cavanagh was held on heavy metal limits in soil. Compost manufacturers are now being asked to confidentially submit their results for heavy metal testing. These will be aggregated and sent to Jo to ensure that the limits set for the protection of soil biota still enable compost to be sold commercially. <p>The presentation and minutes from the workshop can be viewed here. http://www.wasteminz.org.nz/pubs/the-development-of-soil-contaminant-limits-approach-and-impact-on-beneficial-use-of-wastes/</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> George to confirm with Water NZ their timelines for updating their guidelines. Jenny to continue to follow up with compost manufacturers to obtain their results.
10.	WasteMINZ conference 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestions for topics for the WasteMINZ conference <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite someone from Australia Bioplastics Association to talk about Bioplastics

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clopyralid – profile the issue and experiences• Compost Calculator – a case study around applying compost to agriculture using a methodology• Behavioural Change around source separation – case study• End processing technologies• Peter Moon a consultant from Seattle is coming out in September to do some staff training at Envirofert and may also be a knowledgeable speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please forward any other suggestions for topics or speakers to Jenny@wasteminz.org.nz
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