

ORGANIC MATERIALS SECTOR GROUP MEETING/TELECONFERENCE

Date and time: 20th May 2014 – 10.30am to 12.30pm

Location: Graeme Street Auckland Council or by teleconference - dial 083032, when it asks for your guest pin number, punch in 771259#

Present: Chris Purchas (SKM), Darren Hoskins (Wellington City Council), 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: Graham Jones (EnviroWaste Services Ltd), Terry Atkinson (Biocosmo Technologies NZ Ltd)

Facilitator: Jenny Marshall (WasteMINZ)

Agenda:

MINUTES					
No.	Discussion point	Action point	Person responsible	Deadline	Status
1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies				
2.	Minutes	Moved: Darren Hoskins Seconded: John Cocks			
3.	Incoming Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on Compostable Plastics – See Agenda Item 6 • Enquiry about relationship between MITO and WasteMINZ – discussed under other business • Query about the expected end use and the cost comparisons of any alternative technologies that might be proposed for Auckland Organics Collection. At this stage Auckland Council is still in the 			

		procurement process so is unable to share any learnings at this stage.			
4.	Compost Victoria Study Tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study tour from Compost Victoria was very successful and developed closer links between organizations. Further down the track it may be worth considering a reciprocal visit. 			
5.	Legionella Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting was held at Christchurch Hospital in March coordinated by David Murdoch. Representatives from ESR, University of Otago, community and public health were present. George Fietje and John Cocks represented WasteMINZ. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a national working group and discuss priorities for investigation. Cases of legionella have quadrupled in the last few years. There is still a lot which is unknown about the disease: the risk factors; How legionella gets into compost? Which kinds of compost mixes are more susceptible to legionella? The next steps for the national project are envisioned to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To carry out a survey of compost products at point of sale To carry out a survey of manufacturing process and timeline To investigate the life cycle and host To investigate the impact of time and temperature A workshop into legionella and bag labelling will be hosted by 			

		<p>WasteMINZ and NZGIS on 5th June for compost manufacturers and retailers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WasteMINZ technical working group into legionella met in May. It was proposed to modify the brief to sample bagged product from Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch. This was due to the commercial sensitivity around sampling at manufacturer’s facilities. • Sampling will begin this week • It was noted that whilst useful research, it will not aid our understanding of the effect of blending. 			
6.	Compostable Plastics: feedback from stakeholder meeting in February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In February an industry meeting was held with manufacturers of compostable plastics with a wide range of industry representatives present. • The focus of the meeting was to agree on a standard for compostable plastics. • It was agree that New Zealand does not need to develop its own standard. Using the European Standard, which the Australian Standard is also based on would be the most appropriate. • The European Standard states that in an aerated composting pile, plastics should break down within 180 days. 			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue is primarily film in terms of contamination of compost i.e. plastic bags used in organics collections. • In modern in-vessel systems the processing times are 2/3's that. If we are only dealing with film, it shouldn't be a problem. • Envirofert has trialled many different companies' products and most break down within 2 -3 months. • The main difference between the European and Australian Standard is the addition of the worm toxicity test in the Australian Standard. • Mike Lord will follow up with Peter Wadewitz the Australian Organic s Chairman, to see whether there is any need for New Zealand manufacturer's to test for worm toxicity. • It was agreed at today's meeting to endorse the European Standard for those wanting to make compostable plastics and to investigate further worm toxicity. • The use of this standard would need to be ratified by industry. This could be done by email, by phone or by a meeting/ teleconference. • A position paper would need to be written up by an expert. Darren Hoskin's document could act as a starting point for such a paper. George Fietje will follow up to find someone who could assist. • Jenny Marshall will send Mike Lord a list of the main compost manufacturers in New Zealand. 			
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7.	Biosolid Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation has been received that MfE will also take an active part in the review. • The Guidelines are to be renamed <i>the Guidelines for the beneficial use of organic waste</i>. • Work streams have commenced to determine appropriate metal limits, pathogens etc • Jinny Baker is working to identify barriers to use of the guidelines. • The next step is to talk to the Ministry for Health. • A workshop was held by the Centre for Integrated biowaste research. The powerpoint and notes from that workshop are accessible at the url below and are well worth reading. http://www.waternz.org.nz/Category?Action=View&Category_id=404. • There was wide support for the guidelines and the review. However there were concerns around biosolids as there are unique risks associated with them. 			
8.	Bioenergy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Purchas has been trying to get hold of Brian Cox. He received an email today indicating that he is keen to meet and discuss. 			
9.	Clopyralid contamination of compost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some information is currently available and Chris Purchas has pulled this together. • The key task is to look at the data which is currently available and see if we can identify a material change or not post 2008. 			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two potential outcomes: yes a reduction has occurred or no a reduction has not occurred. Regardless of the outcome we will then need to engage with to EPA and MfE about what else might be done to address the issue. • A key question is whether manufacturers are willing to share data around the levels of clopyralid in their product? • 4 stages to the project are envisioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial survey / analysis to determine current extent of clopyralid in compost • Presentation of findings • Comparison with initial application • New application. • If there are areas which are confidential we will need to put some structure around that. • Joanne McGregor from Transvalue Consultants Ltd will lead this project. 			
10.	WasteMINZ Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would we like to see covered at the conference. • A comparison of different waste technologies – Doctor Darren Perrin SKM presented a WasteMINZ one day workshop earlier in the year. He was very good. • Food waste v green waste mixed collections what are the pros and cons of the different approaches for councils 			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organics and landfills – If you put organics in landfill and leave them there, what happens? What’s the carbon footprint impact? What are the nutrient levels • A speaker on agricultural markets what motivates farmers to adopt organic products. • Waste to energy 			
11.	Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mito Jonathon Hannon • Jenny to email copy of Jonathon’s email to the rest of the group for comment. 			