

# ORGANIC MATERIALS SECTOR GROUP MEETING/TELECONFERENCE

**Date and time:** 5 June 2013 – 10.30am to 12pm

**Location:** Auckland Council, Room 8, Level 10, 8 Hereford Street, Ponsonby, Auckland 1011 or by teleconference

**Present:** Darren Hoskins (Wellington City Council), George Fietje (Living Earth Ltd - Chair), Graham Jones (EnviroWaste Services Ltd), Gwilym van Hoffen (Auckland Council), Jenny Marshall (WasteMINZ), John Cocks (MWH New Zealand Ltd - WasteMINZ Board Champion), Mike Jones (Earthcare Environmental Ltd), Nic Quilty (WasteMINZ), and Terry Atkinson (Biocosmo Technologies NZ Ltd)

**Apologies:** Parul Sood (Auckland Council), Chris Purchas (SKM – Deputy Chair)

- Agenda:**
1. Welcome, introductions and apologies
  2. Previous minutes of 24 April accepted?
  3. Matters arising from previous minutes of 24 April
  4. Organics Stream workshop at Mid-year Roundup:
    - Summary of workshop (George Fiejte)
    - Feedback on workshop (Nic Quilty)
  5. Operating goals
  6. Key issues under each operating goal
  7. Bio Solids Guidelines (under review)
  8. Behaviour Change Sector Group – relationship with Organic Materials Sector Group
  9. Other business
  10. Other actions
  11. Next meeting/teleconference

MINUTES					
No.	Discussion point	Action point	Person responsible	Deadline	Status
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parul Sood</li> <li>• Chris Purchas</li> </ul>			
2	Previous minutes of 24 April accepted?	Moved: Graham Jones Accepted: Darren Hoskins			
3	Matters arising from	Discussion around the Mid-year Roundup to ensure we extract			

previous minutes of 24 April	<p>maximum value from it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Circulate names of people involved in the Pecha kucha presentations prior to the Roundup</li> <li>2. Email questions for the Minister for the Environment to be answered at the Roundup by Friday 26 April to Paul.</li> <li>3. Paul to contact Natasha Lewis from MfE to ask whether a Ministry representative can attend the whole stream as the sessions are designed to flow into each other</li> <li>4. Darren and Chris to discuss further the site tours at the Roundup</li> </ol>	Paul Evans	26 April 2013	Completed
		Steering committee		Completed
		Paul Evans		Completed
		Darren Hoskins/Chris Purchas		Completed
	<p>Discussion around what are the agencies we need to build relationships with and assigning who will do this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is there an opportunity to create a future-focused discussion at the end of year conference and involve some of the key energy players and other groups we want to connect with? WasteMINZ will look into this.</li> <li>2. The Auckland District Health Board has approached Parul re their concerns around Legionnaires disease and processing. The Steering Committee is to think about how this group can assist them.</li> <li>3. Further progress and actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Simon Baker, from the Auckland District Council Board, advised Parul in early May that he would like to attend a meeting and give a presentation, or lead a discussion, about Legionnaires disease.</li> <li>• Nic will liaise with George, establish what the issues are and how the DHB and the sector group could work</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	Nic Quilty/ Paul Evans		In progress. Paul Evans is talking to the Bio Energy Association NZ re facilitating a session at the WasteMINZ conference
		Steering Committee		In progress. See progress and further actions in action point column.
		Nic Quilty & George Fietje		

		<p>together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George or Nic will contact Simon to discuss these issues and ask him to attend the next meeting.</li> <li>• We need to ask Simon if funding would be available from the district health boards to fund the prevention and management of legionnaires disease.</li> <li>• The steering committee will formulate an action plan after Simon has presented.</li> <li>• Auckland Council is working with University of Auckland on a variety of waste topics. We could commission some research from them on legionnaires disease, if needed.</li> <li>• It's difficult to ascertain if the rate of legionnaires disease is increasing, but we know that rates are higher in New Zealand than in other countries.</li> <li>• John advised that Geoff Hemm (Transpacific Industries in Australia) had contacted him and advised that he would like to be involved with the sector group in any further investigations into legionnaires disease. Given Geoff's knowledge and work in this area and his involvement with the Canterbury District Health Board, this would be valuable. Nic will ensure that Geoff is kept updated on progress and he is given opportunities to provide input.</li> </ul>	Nic Quilty & George Fietje		
		<p>Setting out some operating goals (six maximum) that support the vision and priority areas we have already established:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update framework to add another key beneficial use: chemical feedstock</li> <li>2. Send out a summary to group members of the TA Stock take 25 TA's who do not provide any sort of organic waste collection</li> <li>3. Committee members to come up with suggestions for goals by 3 May and email to George.</li> </ol>	Nic Quilty		
			Jenny Marshall	3 May 2013	Completed
			Paul Evans		Completed
			Steering Committee		Completed
		Next meeting/ teleconference:			

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 10.30am on 5 June.</li> <li>2. Nic will forward out an invite once Parul has advised she can organise a meeting room Auckland Council.</li> </ol>	Nic Quilty Parul Sood		Completed
4	Organics Stream workshop at Mid-year Roundup	<p>Summary of workshop (George Fiejte):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to Darren for organising the Kai to Compost site tour.</li> <li>• George put together a written summary of the first session of the workshop. He will break this down into key points and forward to Nic to circulate to the steering committee for review.</li> <li>• Nic will speak to Paul Evans about placing this summary on the WasteMINZ website and forward the link to those who have expressed an interest in organic materials to WasteMINZ.</li> </ul>	George Fietje  Nic Quilty Nic Quilty		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback on workshop from Nic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nic will forward a summary of the feedback on the workshop to the steering committee.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Feedback on the workshop from the steering committee members who attended the workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The smaller tables seemed to engage better.</li> <li>○ The Pecha Kucha presentations were very popular.</li> <li>○ We could probably have had a break after the Pechu Kucha presentations as there was a lot of information to absorb in a short space of time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What could have been done differently? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ask attendees to choose one of five examples and advise how they would they develop this into a plan.</li> <li>○ Stronger links between sessions</li> <li>○ Promote it as a “roll up your sleeves” session.</li> <li>○ We should provide them with “nuggets’ post attendance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Nic Quilty		
5	Operating goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft goals 1 and 2 have been taken out, ie: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and engage with the top 5 agriculture sector</li> </ol> </li> </ul>			

		<p>groups and main energy companies</p> <p>2. Determine the status of organic waste collection services and recovery across NZ (by TLA).</p> <p>These may become actions in the work plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft goals 4 and 6 have been merged to now read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Determine an appropriate standard/brand mark for food packaging. [This would include New Zealand verification and compliance. We could submit a WMF application for this project.]</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Three new goals have been added: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and develop relevant behaviour change strategies.</li> <li>2. Create appropriate forums to discuss issues, develop ideas and test concepts [or Provide opportunities for the industry to engage with one another, share knowledge and identify priorities – or a mix of both options]</li> <li>3. Develop guidelines on evidence based best practice</li> </ol> </li> </ul>			
6	Key issues under each operating goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George advised that once the goals had been finalised (and he will work on these once the above changes have been incorporated), he and Chris will insert a couple of activities under each goal in the work plan template (Nic will provide this to George) for review by the steering committee.</li> </ul>	George Fietje  George Fietje & Chris Purchas		
7	Bio Solids Guidelines (under review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nic advised that the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR) and Water New Zealand are reviewing the <i>Guidelines for the Safe Application of Biosolids to Land in New Zealand</i>.</li> <li>• This sector group need to be mindful of their link with the <i>New Zealand Standard for Composts, Soil Conditions and Mulches (NZS 4454:2005)</i> and participate in the review.</li> <li>• In July, George is meeting with Jacqui Horswell (ESR) to discuss this review and will report back to the group.</li> </ul>	George Fietje		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John advised that an international standards group has been set up and he has been approached by Standards New Zealand to act as an observer.</li> </ul>			
8	Behaviour Change Sector Group – relationship with Organic Materials Sector Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Behaviour Change Sector Group is being restructured, much like the Compost NZ Sector Group was.</li> <li>One of its priorities, and a likely project, will be food waste reduction.</li> <li>This group will obviously have links with the Behaviour Change Sector Group and needs to have a relationship with them.</li> </ul>			
9	Other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>George advised that he had received an email from Mike Lord on behalf of the Australasian Bioplastics Association asking if the sector group would like to partner with them or just have links with them. The steering committee agreed that the sector group just needs to have links with them.</li> <li>George will email Mike and say we will link with them but not through a formal partnership.</li> </ul>	George Fietje		
10	Other actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gwilym will email the contact details of Auckland Council’s representative for the Behaviour Change Sector Group’s interim steering committee to Jenny Marshall</li> <li>The steering committee is to forward suggested speakers and their presentation topic to Nic</li> </ul>	Gwilym van Hoffen Steering Committee		
11	Next meeting/ teleconference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next meeting will be on 7 August, from 10.30am to 12.30pm and Gwilym will organise a meeting room at Auckland Council and advise Nic of the details.</li> <li>Nic will forward an invite to the steering committee.</li> </ul>	Nic Quilty		

**Discussions:**

**Round up:**

- Was there a behavioural aspiration mentioned at the workshop? Diversion of organics should be seen as a behavioural norm.
- It was easier for the groups to find barriers, rather than solutions.
- The landfill gap was the elephant in the room.
- The purpose of the steering committee is to find solutions to the problems.
- There was strong interest from attendees in the use of the stick approach eg landfill bans.
- There is a lack of guidance out there on how to change behaviour.
- Wellington - TAs own the landfills, and the charges make it more economic to divert from landfill, compared to Auckland where it is less economic to divert from landfill.
- Do we need to lobby the government? A total ban of organics to landfill is unreasonable. It needs to be a carrot rather than a stick approach.
- We need direction from MfE – channelling funding into organic diversion. How do we approach and engage with MfE? An action item could be to meet with Natasha Lewis and her team to discuss the issues and potential solutions. It's essential to present solutions. Keeping it general, but we could use Auckland as an example.
- We need to communicate the vision back to a wider audience.
- Chemical recovery is a specific opportunity.
- Need to work with overseas groups to develop best practice.
- One of the key speakers at every conference should be an organics speaker.
- Identify the components of organics eg timber, green waste, then prioritise the waste streams and break them down into smaller projects.

#### **Bioplastics:**

- Living Earth receives at least a call a month asking how bioplastics can be composted.
- People are calling things compostable when they are not compostable here in New Zealand.
- Wellington City Council is doing trials but there is still the question of tracing the residuals in the compost. This becomes very difficult if you don't know what the product is made of.
- There is a vacuum in big scale thinking about where resources could be utilised eg timber. We should engage with energy companies by presenting barriers and opportunities for specific solutions.