



MRC Compost Committee Meeting Notes
Friday, April 6, 2007

MRC Composting Committee Meeting held on 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Friday, April 6 at the Isabella County Recycling Center - MRF on 4208 East River Road Mount Pleasant, MI went very well. It was a small group but productive.

- **Reorganization of the Committee** - The committee agreed to reorganize to a round table format. We will meet three times per year with an open agenda submitted by attendees before the round table. There would be at least one educational/speaker component and focus on current issues of composter need, then issues of state need. At least one round table would be combined with a Compost Operator Training to introduce/include potential new members and
 - **MRC Conference & Recycling Business Expo** - Composting Breakout and Roundtable Sessions were discussed. The “ Regulations” session will be splitting its time to introduce the new Food Waste Composting Chapter Update to the Compost Operators Certification Course. The Roundtable session - Food waste, solutions for collection and composting of food waste, is a continuation hands on obstacles to food waste composting. Discussions will include: Low-hanging fruit of institutional organizations and how we get them onboard and the weak link in food waste composting is the hauling
 - **EPA/MRC Grant Update** - Expanding Food Waste Composting in MI - committee role
New name of the food waste module is going to be Food Waste Diversion and Utilization.
The chapter is currently in the second round of editing. When a good draft is ready, it will be sent to the committee for a review. Two regional trainings are being planned: one for Ann Arbor and one for Grand Rapids- just the new module with a pre and post Assessment. The first is set for August with a tour to whole foods in Ann Arbor and perhaps to a larger industry setting such as, Haworth, Herman Miller or Steel Case in GR. Feed back on timing of training and potential speakers and resources for trainings.
- Toronto trip update**- Composting processes there include both anaerobic and aerobic processes. They accept waste in plastic bags and use a debagger. They mix new materials with second grind in large vaults. Organic waste from entire city is processed. They have a very high tech set up, with a pipe conveyor system. It still had smell issues inside the buildings, as is expected with anaerobic composting, but not outside. It is strongly encouraged to participate in any upcoming opportunities to visit neighboring cities such as Toronto in the future.
- **Composting Brochure** - Use the mocked up brochure as a basis for composting web pages and create a compost resource page where one can obtain materials. Continue to develop a brochure that can be used as a PDF from our website
 - **Compost Operator Training Course** – February is recommended as a best likely time for Compost Operator Training in light of the two Food Waste Trainings coming up in August. It is recommended that we combine this with On-Farm composting operations.
 - **Marketing** – We had a value-added exercise to explore what other new products can be provided to increase markets for compost. The new ideas are as follows:
 1. Marketing item, compost (soil less plant mix) filled peat pot decorated for the season with a tree seed such as for a business – make your business grow with this all natural plant. Other thoughts included Earth Day, and Holiday themes.
 2. Make the peat pot with compressed compost.
 3. Make soil less peat cubes with compressed compost.
 4. Make a soil less potting mix with finely screened compost

Next Meeting: August Compost Round-Table meeting piggyback with Food Waste Composting trainings.