

## **SWAC Subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting Meeting Notes from 9-23-08**

**Stakeholders Present:** Abigail Maynard, Janice Ehle/Meyer, Geoffrey Kuter, John Gundlach, Mark Cooper

**DEP Staff Present:** K.C. Alexander, David McKeegan, Joe Schiavone

**Introductions:** Please see attached list for complete and revised member contact information.

### **Old Business: Summary and Status of Subcommittee Recommendations, NERC Pilot.**

- Reviewed the summary/status handout of the subcommittee recommendations to date. See handout for details.
- Reviewed other projects/issues/work efforts that DEP has/is making to advance organics recycling. See handout for details.
- Yale has officially said that they would partner with NERC & DEP in the Event Organics Recycling Pilot. NERC will attend an October 25th Yale Bowl football game for the purpose of talking to vendors and completing a waste assessment. A food waste management plan will be developed and implemented at a game T.B.A. in 2009.

### **New Business and Discussion: Oyster Shell Recycling, Draft Stormwater GP, New Milford Farms, Suggestions for SWAC “open working topics”**

- DEP assisted in getting the oyster shell from the Milford Oyster Festival recycled. Shell from the shucking tent was source-separated by the oystermen. It was then delivered by a volunteer from the Milford Environmental Concerns Coalition to the Department of Agriculture Aquaculture Division for use in seeding beds in Long Island Sound.
- The renewal of the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activities is out for public notice. The proposal is for a 6-month renewal, during which time the Department will be revising the GP. The revisions/modifications may impact small scale composting facilities.
- KC & John discussed the challenges of addressing a recent odor event at New Milford Farms, and also the benefits of working cooperatively, lessons learned, and efforts to build a CT customer base. This led to a very good discussion by the group about food waste collection and education in general, and the need for more capacity.
- In light of all the SWAC subcommittees disbanding, two suggestions the organics subcommittee came up with for future “open working topics” were: 1) Uses and Demand for Compost in Connecticut”; and 2) Commercial & Institutional Food Waste Separation and Collection”.

### **Share: BioCycle Conferences, Compost/Turf grass Workshop, Foodshare Report**

- Two BioCycle conferences coming up “[Renewable Energy From Organics](#)” October 6-8, Madison, WI and “[Waste Diversion, Composting & Renewable Energy](#)” April 27-30 2009, San Diego, CA
- The DEP P2 Group will be hosting a Compost Workshop for Municipal Turf grass Managers on September 25, 2008 to help towns understand how compost can be incorporated into an athletic field organic land care program.
- The Foodshare Spoiled Produce Recycling Program [final report](#) is on the web.

**Next Steps:** Stay in touch! If an organics topic is chosen for an open forum, KC may call on former subcommittee members for input.

**Next Meeting:** All of the subcommittees have officially disbanded in favor of a new SWAC meeting structure, so there will be no further subcommittee meetings. Please note that SWAC is not meeting in October, but will resume in November.