

Regional Composting Working Group Minutes
Thursday August 26, 2021

Members present:

Maggie Morrison (ORCSD)
Chuck Cox (Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee)
Chloe Gross (UNH Sustainability Institute)
Jenn Andrews (UNH Sustainability Institute)

Members absent:

Dean Rubine (Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee)
Nell Neal (Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee)
Mary Caulfield (Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee)
Evy Ashburner (ORCSD)

Maggie will reach out to Nell to explore her concerns about meeting in person.

Public Present: N/A

Call to order: 4:00 pm.

I. Approval of minutes from August 5, 2021

Since the meeting was a small contingent, we postponed the approval of the August 5 meeting minutes.

II. Public comment N/A

III. Updates

We discussed making our recommendations/conclusions for this group by reviewing Chloe's paper. We would submit an executive summary with recommendations to our respective governing entities. We would come to the next meeting prepared to make our recommendations. Note: perhaps each entity should do their own next steps. Jen suggested that Durham might be interested in exploring negotiating a contract for residents for compost collection services. UNH and ORCSD would focus on education. It was noted that if we collaborated on educational materials, we could take advantage of resources and educational outlets.

We need to find another OR student as a representative, if Evy doesn't have time to continue with us. Maggie will explore.

VII. New Business

Email received from Chris Skoglund:

New Toolkit and Procurement Policy for Cities ([BioCycle 8/24](#))

- [A Toolkit for Incorporating Food Waste in Municipal Climate Action Plans](#)
- [Model Compost Procurement Policy with Commentaries](#)

Towns and cities are on the front lines when it comes to addressing food waste and climate change. Recognizing the link between these two challenges, the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) released a new report to help address them simultaneously — in their climate action plans (CAPs). The report includes model provisions that municipalities can use to include food waste measures into their CAPs. Relatedly, ELI's Food Waste Initiative recently worked with the NRDC to create a Model Compost Procurement Policy to help municipalities encourage or require use of compost products. As with the Toolkit, the policy is designed to be adaptable for individual municipalities. Included are commentary for cities to better understand the benefits of key provisions and alternative approaches, as well as links to examples — all intended to help guide stakeholders and policymakers in tailoring the policy to the unique circumstances of their region. An “off-the-shelf” model policy or template without commentaries is also available.

VIII. Next meeting date: September 8, 2021 4 pm

Next meeting suggested: September 8 4 p.m.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Maggie Morrison & Dean Rubine