

PRRP Organics Team Meeting – February 18, 2013

Casa Dharma, 521 Sagrado Corazon, San Juan P.R. 00915

Time: 4:00 PM (AST) - (787) 727-1061

Attendees:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Carlos Pacheco | 5) Melissa Young, EFC Team Liaison |
| 2) Adam Kanter | (by phone) |
| 3) Alberto Ramirez | 6) Laura Cardoso (by phone) |
| 4) Francisco Villafañe | |

Meeting conducted in English

The committee identified the following goals:

1. Promote the principals set forth in the EPA's Food Recovery Challenge to help reduce, reuse and recycle organic wastes. Information on the Challenge is attached. The Organics Committee seeks to work SWA, EQB and other government staff to ensure the necessary framework is in place to achieve the goals of the Challenge.
2. Assist government agencies to develop new compost regulations that will include a tiered permit structure, with design and operating requirements based on materials composted and technology employed. The foundation of the tiers is the feedstock categories, which are based on the materials' potential risks to human health and the environment. The proposed regulations will also include siting and testing requirements based on the quantity and types of feedstocks processed.
3. The Organics Committee proposes to evaluate the economics of recycling organic wastes from households. This large portion of the organic waste stream currently going to landfills is paid for on a household level and not by weight. Since this method of payment does not appear to provide a financial incentive for households to recycle any types of waste, the Organics Committee proposes to work with municipalities to provide a comparison of alternative billing methods with the goals of reducing expenses and increasing recycling.
4. Propose an amendment to the list of permissible uses on agricultural zoned lands to include composting of yard and food wastes.
5. Facilitate the development of Reciclaje de Orgánicos Integrados (integrated organic recycling), a not-for-profit organization to be formed to promote food waste collection, composting and intensive urban gardening.
6. Investigate potential benefits of transferring the responsibility of monitoring landfills, compost sites, and waste collections from SWA to EQB.
7. Provide public education on the connection between compost and urban farming.

The Organics Committee agrees with goals listed.

Future meetings will be held every third Monday of the month, 4pm-6pm unless members of the committee express an issue with this time. Next meeting, prioritize goals and decide on clear objectives and tasks to achieve goals.

Next meeting information [Carlos will send an email]:

Time: 4pm

Date: Monday, March 18

Location: Casa Dharma

521 Sagrado Corazon

San Juan P.R. 00915

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