

PRRP Organics Team Meeting – April 22, 2013

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

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

Attendees:

- 1) Carlos Pacheco
- 2) Adam Kanter (by phone)
- 3) Ana Arache
- 4) Esteban Monge (called from Columbia)
- 4) Laura Cardoso (by phone)

Meeting conducted in English

1. New Compost Regulations: The Committee's goal is to assist government agencies to update Puerto Rico's compost regulations to include a tiered permit structure, with design and operating requirements based on materials composted and technology employed. The Committee agreed that it should promote the US Composting Counsel's Model Compost Rule Template as the basis for the new regulation and incorporate any modifications necessary. A copy of the Model Compost Rule is attached. Follow up on this item:

a. Carlos has confirmed that the USCC's Model Compost Rule is not available in Spanish. Carlos obtained permission to translate Rules from Al Rattie, Director of Market Development of the USCC. Four (4) team members each took responsibility to translate four (4) pages of the Rule. Carlos will collect these and assemble into one document;

b. Adam reported that he had a meeting with Lcdo. Agustín F. Carbo Lugo, Executive Director of SWA and discussed the Model Rule with him. The Executive Director requested more information on the Model Rule and suggested that the PRRP submit a formal recommendation to the SWA regarding modifications to the current compost regulations. Adam will follow up with the Executive Director to try and set a meeting to discuss this further during the week of May 2013;

2. Food Recovery – The Committee's goal is to help commercial and industrial operators reduce or reuse their organic wastes. Follow up on this item:

a. No report on this item.

3. Household Recycling - The Committee's goal is to evaluate the prevailing method paying for garbage pick up by the household to determine if (1) the current system is a factor that discourages household recycling, and (2) paying by weight could reduce costs for municipalities. Follow up on this item:

a. Coordinate meeting with ADS to obtain input on this item;

b. Esteban and Adam will attempt to obtain information from Guaynabo and Ponce, respectively, that will show if these municipalities have realized a savings from their recycling programs;

c. Explore possibility of making a presentation at the Association of Mayors to obtain a broad spectrum of local input.

4. Composting on Agricultural Land – The Committee seeks to promote an amendment to the list of permissible uses for agricultural zoned lands to include composting of yard and food wastes. Follow up on this item:

- a. Coordinate meeting with the Secretary of Agriculture to obtain input on this item;
- b. Explore possibility of addressing in the new compost regulations;
- c. Determine if the Planning Board will include this modification into the new master land use plan currently scheduled for completion in 2014.

5. Intern Program – The Committee currently sponsors a school internship program to teach composting in schools. There was recently a celebration at the EPA's office for 33 interns that completed the program. The PRRP is currently working on a survey to send to the schools to share their experience with the program and their thoughts for needed changes to the program. The results of the survey will be circulated to different branches of the government.

Next meeting information [Carlos will send an email]:

Time: 4pm

Date: TBD

Location: Casa Dharma 521 Sagrado Corazon San Juan P.R. 00915

Conference Line:

Dial +1 (636) 277-0130

Access Code: 702-652-430