

Northern Colorado Council Meeting

November 11th, 2024, 10:00am - 11:30am

Attendees:

- Chandra Valenza - Boulder County Resource Conservation Division (Vice Chair)
- Nick Wilson- West Highland Management Group (Chair)
- Kara Wright- Pinyon Environmental (Recorder)
- Ryan Call- Eco-Cycle
- Ally Byzewski- Recycle Colorado
- Emma Marino- Town of Erie
- Neil Noble- Republic Services
- Nicole Manesh- City of Longmont
- Karlee Gutierrez-
- Jamie Blanchard-Poling- Compost Queen

Welcome and Icebreaker

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Updates on Compost Procurement Project

- NOCO remains committed to leveraging our membership network, skills, and expertise to promote the procurement of locally generated compost products
- CDPHE's recently published [Statewide Organics Management Plan](#) provides critical information and recommendations for promoting the awareness and education to achieve this
- NOCO has decided to familiarize itself with the contents of the [Plan](#) and take it on a "Roadshow," sharing information with decision-makers and influential people who can support the further development of local organics end markets

Organics Management Plan "presentations"

- NOCO members were asked to read specific sections of the [Plan](#) and share findings and highlights with the group
- On the topic of End Markets:
 - Plan recommends soil amendment requirements as the easiest solution to pass at a regulatory level
 - Example: [Denver Water Soil Amendment Requirements](#)
 - Example: [CDOT Section 212](#)
 - Procurement requirements are also recommended but recognized as more difficult to get adopted

- Organics supply in landfill indicates that there is a need for more facilities in the Front Range. However; this increase in supply is not expected to drive down the cost of the product.
- See also: [RRS memo on organics end markets](#)
- On the topic of Benefits to Diversion: (key section for our purposes)
 - Regional climate benefits are really only realized after the actual sale, use, and application of the product
- On the topic of Benefits to Product Application: (key section for our purposes)
 - Cost-benefit analysis
 - Financial piece is key
 - Real use cases and market examples provided in this section
 - Sections 8 & 9 are valuable for our purposes
- Education and outreach recommendations
 - Recommend CDPHE to create an infrastructure development toolkit including template procurement language, online resources of best practices
 - [Seal of Testing Assurance \(STA\)](#) for finished compost products to ensure it meets minimum requirements for a good compost product. Very expensive.
 - Equivalents are accepted by some agencies
 - Recommended that CDOT adopt a procurement policy that requires procurement within a certain radius.
 - Agriculture only accounts to 5-10% of the state's compost market
 - Use of simple images and plain language
 - Accessibility
- Table 40 compares activities across several states

General Discussion

- We must now create a communication plan including
 - a. Stakeholder mapping (ex: Parks and Rec., Colorado Counties Incorporated, superintendent associations, landscaping associations, golf courses)
 - i. Colorado Municipal League (policy-driven)
 1. Unclear whether they talk about internal policies with their membership
 2. Could utilize them as an outreach arm
 - b. Skills mapping (ex: Neil is a soil scientist, can leverage his expertise for audiences who are interested in the science of it)
 - c. Network mapping (ex: Karlee's son is superintended at Raindance golf course in Windsor, Nick's brother works for Larimer County Road and Bridge, Chandra meets with the green purchasing and zero waste committee at the City of Boulder, Nicole stated that City of Longmont is not interested in fully enforcing a procurement policy but she they have been conducting an internal roadshow)
- Simplify into a 1-pager with a defined audience
- Needs to be a grassroots effort to balance everyone's day jobs

2025 Leadership Announcements

- Chair: Nick Wilson- West Highland Management Group
- Co-chair: Emma Marino- Town of Erie
- Recorder: Ryan Call- Eco-Cycle

See You Later