Compost!

What’s Next, Georgia?

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Organics Management In the US

• One of the fastest growing segments of the recycling stream
• Over 4,000 composting facilities in the US
• Many more collection programs
• Most handle yard debris
• But, on-farm, biosolids and food scraps, too
Georgia’s Current Composting Status

• About 40 facilities
  – Mostly permit by rule
  – 5 have solid waste handling permit
    • 3 Private
    • 2 County

• Yard debris ban modified
  – Must collect yard debris separately
  – But, may go to landfills that collect landfill gas for energy

• The potential for compost manufacturing is great

• DNR understood this but recognized that there were barriers
Georgia’s Current Composting Status

DNR turned to industry to determine what barriers there were:

• Composters:
  – Outdated or absent definitions
  – Terms such as “solid waste” hinder permitting
  – Address limited number of feedstocks
  – Not flexible

• Regulators:
  – Stormwater/groundwater protection
  – Scale/Risk
USCC-Georgia Partnership

• Ensure Georgia’s proposed rule changes are based in science and verify that similar rules have been effective

• Share information and research

• Simplify and expedite the rule revision process
Process

• Fanning Institute
  – Surveys
  – In-depth interviews

• BioCycle reported under USCC contract

• Develop a national model compost rule template
  • Public-private partnership
  • Regulator, composter and consultants
  • Feedstock-based, tiered structure
  • Performance over prescription
The majority of stakeholders interviewed supported:

- Tiered approach
- Different requirements for in-vessel operations
- Exemptions
- More stringent requirements for facilities handling biosolids
- Case-by-case analysis for groundwater monitoring based on number of criteria
- Groundwater monitoring decreasing over time once history of compliance has been established
- Not establishing a set time limit on storage of finished product
- Using USCC protocols for testing
USCC Model Compost Rule Development

- Project officially kicked off in February 2012
- Draft disseminated to core team for final review 12/5/12
- Passed by USCC Board on January 27, 2013
• Georgia is set to release its composting regulations for comment

• These regulations are largely based on the current USCC Model Regulations

So, what does this mean for you?
The stage is set!
• Bring in the performers to the stage!

• What’s needed to get the show going?

• What could bring entrepreneurs to the dance?
Bring in the performers to the stage!

• Existing facilities that might want to expand
• Waste companies
  – Disposal
  – Collection
• Farmers
• Landscape companies
• Nurseries
• Organic material generators (commercial and residential)
• Government agencies
• KAB representatives
What’s needed to get the show going?

• Markets for the compost produced
• Entrepreneurs that see a business opportunity
• Knowledgeable people to run quality compost facilities
• Educated organics generators
What could bring entrepreneurs to the dance?

• Increase the demand for compost
  – Develop contracts that guarantee that a certain amount of compost will be purchased, annually
    • Parks
    • Golf courses
    • Department of Transportation
    • Construction companies
  – Develop relationships with farmer, landscape contractor, storm water manager, erosion control, restaurant and nursery organizations and educate them about the benefits of compost
• Financial Incentives
  – Consider leasing county/municipal land to composters
  – Guarantee feedstock
    • Build a consortium/coop for commercial generators to jointly solicit services for collection and/or processing
    • County contracts

• Training
  – USCC Compost Operator Training Course
    • September 31-October 4, 2013 in Beltsville, MD
    • September 16-20, 2013 in Raleigh, NC

• Limit disposal of organics
  – Push yard debris that is collected separately to compost manufacturing facilities
Don’t wait for the regulations to be completed

Start planning now!!
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