



International Year of Soil 2015 – Healthy Soils Campaign

It was a **Perfect Storm for Compost Use** in 2014 with the on-going drought, demonstrated water savings with compost use, and the deployment of technologies and Cap-and-Trade proceeds to address climate change. In our November 2014 newsletter, the California Compost Coalition planted a seed that it was “Time for an Organic Revival” with the need to develop a Compost Initiative in 2015. Today, the Compost Coalition announces the *Healthy Soils Campaign*, which will be a multi-year, multi-faceted, collaborative campaign to promote soil building urban landscape and agricultural resilience, water conservation and better carbon management with the following components:

- Expand use of compost in California agriculture to rebuild soil, retain water and augment nutrient management.
- Enhance urban landscape resilience by promoting food and organic material recycling back into urban neighborhoods through drought tolerant plants, promotion of reused or recycled water and ocean, bays and river friendly landscapes.
- Support more green infrastructure to replace hard engineered approaches with vegetated retaining walls, embankments and erosion control and bio-based storm and flood water management and pollution control.

The campaign will involve a broad spectrum of activities with many Sacramento-based agricultural and environmental groups, as well as parlaying off the United Nations General Assembly declaring that 2015 is the International Year of Soils. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has been nominated to implement the IYS 2015, within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership and in collaboration with governments. The IYS 2015 aims to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem

functions. The specific objectives of the IYS 2015 are to:

- Raise full awareness among civil society and decision makers about the profound importance of soil for human life;
- Educate the public about the crucial role soil plays in food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, essential ecosystem services, poverty alleviation and sustainable development;
- Support effective policies and actions for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources;
- Promote investment in sustainable soil management activities to develop and maintain healthy soils for different land users and population groups;
- Strengthen initiatives in connection with the SDG process (Sustainable Development Goals) and Post-2015 agenda;
- Advocate for rapid capacity enhancement for soil information collection and monitoring at all levels (global, regional and national).



2015
International
Year of Soils

With the international awareness of the importance of healthy soils, the Compost Coalition will continue to seek statutory and regulatory changes to facilitate composting use and funding, and plans to promote a California Resolution regarding healthy soils in 2015. Potential budget action items are serving to increase the Cap-and-Trade allocations for compost/organics management and secure Proposition 1 (Water Bond) funds for water conservation through soil building. Outreach will include a Lobby Day, brown bag lunches, and compost facility tours.

The Compost Coalition sees an unprecedented prospect to collaborate with a vast cross-section of agricultural, business, local government, and environmental stakeholders in “closing this carbon loop” and we welcome ideas and opportunities to work together in 2015 with allied individuals and organizations.

Legislative Update

CARB adopted the original Scoping Plan in 2008 and enacted over 100 measures to reduce GHGs to 1990 levels by 2020, to implement the goals of AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

California is on track to meet AB 32 goals, including the Low Carbon Fuel Standard and the Cap-and-Trade Program, which have upheld legal challenges even though there has not been explicit follow-up legislation. Programs such as the Renewable Portfolio Standard to get to 20% renewable energy by 2020 and Mandatory Commercial Recycling (AB 341) have been placed in statute. The First Update of the AB 32 Scoping Plan was adopted by CARB May 22, 2014 and looked beyond the 2020 goal toward the mid-term period (2030 - 2035) in order to set a pathway to reduce GHGs by 80% of the 1990 levels by 2050, as set by the Governor's Executive Order.

The First Update for waste facilities includes strengthening the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, increasing the use of different waste alternative technologies such as anaerobic digestion (AD), push towards achieving Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions from waste facilities by 2030, and mitigating the global warming potential of short-lived climate pollutants such as methane. SB 605 (Lara) was passed in 2014 which placed this methane mitigation plan into law with a report due by January 1, 2016. Legislation in 2015 will continue to shape the future of AB 32.

AB 21 (Perea) - would require CARB, no later than January 1, 2018, to recommend to the Governor and the Legislature a specific target of statewide emissions reductions for 2030 to be accomplished in a cost-effective manner. This bill would require CARB, in preparing its scoping plan, to consult with specified state agencies regarding matters involving energy efficiency and the facilitation of the electrification of the transportation

sector. CCC will be watching this bill to carve out the use of renewable RNG as the technological option for community-based anaerobic digestion facilities that produce RNG from food waste. CCC, with the Clean Fleets Coalition, was successful at the CARB December 2014 meeting in including RNG in the portfolio of choices in their technological assessment.

SB 32 (Pavley) - would require CARB to approve a statewide greenhouse gas emission limit that is equivalent to 80% below the 1990 level to be achieved by 2050. The bill would authorize CARB to adopt interim greenhouse gas emissions level targets to be achieved by 2030 and 2040.

AB 33 (Quirk) - would require CARB, for purposes of advising the update of the next scoping plan, to develop specified information by July 1, 2016. The bill would require CARB or before January 1, 2017, to submit a report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature on the economic assessment, using the best available economic models and data on the various greenhouse gas emissions-reduction strategies required to achieve the 2030 goal and allocation of the Cap-and-Trade proceeds.

With projects in place and the recent CalRecycle and CEC grant process providing GHG metrics, Edgar & Associates has determined that anaerobic digestion and covered compost have a marginal abatement cost of negative \$50/ton per GHG reduction. Being one of the most cost-effective GHG reduction measures, CCC has already submitted this data to CARB to include in their future economic analysis. With the allocation of \$20 million for organics grants and loans of the \$850 million in proceeds, just 2.4% of the proceeds was placed in the 2014-2015 Budget and most likely the same amount in 2015-2016 budget to be released this Friday. Having updated cost effectiveness metrics in place should justify increasing the budget allocation in the future.

Bill Watch

[AB 21 \(Perea\)](#)

TOPIC: California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: emissions limit: scoping plan to 2030 – cost-effectiveness and electrification of transportation

STATUS: May be heard in committee after January 1.

> WATCH

[SB 32 \(Pavley\)](#)

TOPIC: California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006:emissions limit to 2050

STATUS: May be heard in committee after January 1.

> WATCH

[AB 33 \(Quirk\)](#)

TOPIC : California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Scoping Plan – Cost Effectiveness

STATUS: May be heard in committee after January 1.

> WATCH

[SB 1 \(Gaines\)](#)

TOPIC : California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: market-based compliance mechanisms: exemption to 2025 for placing transportation fuels under the cap.

STATUS: May be heard in committee after January 1.

> WATCH

[SB 5 \(Vidak\)](#)

TOPIC : California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: market-based compliance mechanisms: exemption to 2020 for placing transportation fuels under the cap.

STATUS: May be heard in committee after January 1.

> WATCH

Compostable Materials and Transfer/Processing Regulations Revision Update

Over the last month, CalRecycle has concluded the first phase of formal rulemaking to revise the existing regulations regarding compostable materials and transfer/processing facilities (Compost Regs). CalRecycle staff received written comments from stakeholders on more than 15 issues, of varying levels of importance, by December 5 and held a public hearing on December 10 to receive further comments.

Given the large response via written comments (which are posted on the CalRecycle website (and can be accessed via the compost regs web page at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Laws/Rulemaking/Compost/default.htm>), land application has drawn a significant share of criticism. Despite the three years of informal stakeholder process, a large – and somewhat loud – new group of participants has arisen in opposition to the proposed limitations on land application. This new group is overwhelmingly concerned that the land application regulations, as written, will place additional regulatory burden on the direct land application of food processing by-products (tomato mud, fruit culls, etc.). While it was never the apparent intention of CalRecycle to include this practice within the scope of their proposed language, a strict interpretation of their definition for agricultural materials, among other new verbiage, could be cause for their concern. We believe that clarification of this issue can be readily reached to assuage the food processors' concerns.

The limits on land application of green materials has also drawn opposition, most strongly from those who are engaged as part of the current infrastructure processing and delivering these materials in Southern California. Most notably, the Association of Compost Producers is seeking to expand the allowable amount of green materials that may be land applied, a

position that is not supported by an overwhelming number of composters (including the US Composting Council), and the California Farm Bureau, among others, who feel current proposed language provides abundant flexibility to farmers truly seeking the agronomic benefits of applying organics, not those simply interested in the financial benefit of creative landfilling.

Physical contamination limits continue to be the most controversial issue within the proposed regs. CCC has developed the below proposed compromise as an alternative to the currently proposed and untenable 0.1% contaminant level.

Compost and Green Waste Physical Contamination Limit Proposed Recommendations

1. Sampling and Testing Protocol – Labs which frequently test compost have expressed concern that the sample size, sampling procedure, and the methodology in the TMECC (Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost – a national standard developed by the US Compost Council for lab testing) may be inadequate for certain material types. Specifically, the sampling protocol is inadequate to allow repeatable results for physical contaminants >4 mm, due to the wide range of particle sizes of materials proposed for regulation. A larger sample size and standardized collection methodology needs to be agreed upon prior to implementation of rule. TMECC is currently under review and time is ripe to establish new parameters. In addition the current testing methodology is rudimentary and may not be able to provide repeatable results. Labs have indicated a much larger sample size than is typically submitted may be needed to adequately assess physical contamination across the broad range of particle sizes, particularly for the

larger size products (i.e. 3" minus and above).

2. Field testing methodology. *A field testing methodology needs development (along with guidance and/or training) for LEAs to assure field testing conducted produces results which are standardized and repeatable.*

3. Proposed phased-in approach for Physical Contamination Limit. *Prior to implementation of the standard for either material type, the above Sampling and Testing Protocols for laboratory samples and field samples must be adopted. CalRecycle shall engage a stakeholder panel to develop the protocols in 2015.*

Phased Implementation Schedule – Green Material Compost and Chip and Grind Mulch

Adoption of sampling/testing methodologies – Dec. 31, 2017. 1%
Jan. 1, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2019 0.5%
Jan. 1, 2020 0.1%

Phased Implementation Schedule – Mixed Material

Adoption of sampling/testing methodologies – Dec. 31, 2017. 2%
Jan. 1, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2019 1%
Jan. 1, 2020 0.5%

Data Collection and Reporting Proposal

All lab testing for physical contaminants would be required at labs participating in the USCC's Seal of Testing Assurance Program (STA), employing the TMECC method. The benefit of using STA certified labs is that the labs utilize a nationally-accepted, standardized testing methodology, and could provide periodic, anonymous reporting of compost and green waste testing data, including the range and means for physical contaminants, to CalRecycle.

The California Compost Coalition (CCC) is a registered Lobbying Coalition with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), created in 2002 by a group of compost operators in response to demands for increased recycling of organic materials and production of clean compost and bioenergy.

The California Compost Coalition represents member organic material recyclers and compost operators with a unified statewide voice on many issues: product safety and standards, government regulations, environmental planning, and marketing.

Members

Agromin
Atlas ReFuel
Caglia Environmental
California Wood Recycling
Cold Canyon Compost
CT Bioenergy Consulting LLC
Marin Sanitary Service
Mt. Diablo Recycling
Napa Recycling Compost
Northern Recycling Compost
Organic Waste Solutions
Phoenix Energy
Quackenbush Mt. Compost
Sonoma Compost
Tracy Delta Compost
Upper Valley Recycling
Zanker Road Resource Management
Z-Best Compost Facility

Executive Committee

Bill Camarillo
Agromin
Greg Kelley
Northern Recycling Compost
Will Bakx
Sonoma Compost
Christy Pestoni Abreu
Upper Valley Recycling
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www.californiacompostcoalition.org

CCC Members in the News

Marin Sanitary Service's Food-to-Energy Program

Marin Sanitary Service is a local, family owned and operated business that has served their community since 1948. Over the decades, MSS has grown with their customers, and believes in the power of recycling to conserve our natural resources.

MSS is proud to provide curbside recycling, solid waste, yard waste and food scraps hauling, safe household hazardous waste disposal, and many other services that are helping to achieve Marin County's goal of zero waste. MSS is the newest member of the California Compost Coalition, having launched a successful food-to-energy program in 2014.

Last March, Marin Sanitary Service and the Central Marin Sanitation Agency unveiled this new joint program to a group of about 100 local business owners, elected officials, and eco-conscious members of the public. Attendees watched as collected fruit and vegetable waste was ground up at the Marin Sanitary Service facility in San Rafael and transported in a special truck down the street to the Central Marin Sanitation Agency to be turned into energy. Joe Garbarino, owner and operator of Marin Sanitary Service, said nearly 30 percent of the waste that goes to the landfill is organic, so turning that waste into a usable resource helps the environment.

"We're mixing our solid waste with their liquid waste to create methane gas that is used as fuel to power the Central Marin Sanitation Agency's generator," Garbarino said. "We're diverting 20 tons of food waste each

week." The program began about six years ago when San Rafael received a \$25,000 grant from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. to study the possibility of creating a food scraps-to-energy plan. After conducting a waste study and launching a pilot program, sanitation officials now have their sights set on expansion.

Kim Scheibly, with Marin Sanitary Service, said there's a dedicated food waste coordinator who works with the program's 35 restaurants and food vendors, including Whole Foods, United Markets, Scotty's Market, Marin Country Mart, and Woodlands Market, but the plan is to add more participants. "Our goal is 120 customers participating and diverting 20 tons of food waste per day," Scheibly said.



The way the program works is restaurant workers place food waste in special carts that are picked up by Marin Sanitary Service drivers. The scraps are delivered to the transfer station, where they are ground into one-inch bits. The ground food is trucked to the Central Marin Sanitation Agency and dumped into a large vat, where it is combined with collected fats, oils and grease. The oily mixture is then pumped into the agency's anaerobic digesters, where bacteria breaks down the concoction into methane biogas and biosolids. The methane is piped through a filter that removes impurities before it is run through a generator at the wastewater treatment facility.

- Marin Independent Journal