

Minutes for Food Waste Diversion Roundtable
Took Place: January 16, 2023
USDA Roundtable event for SWO's and professionals
Matt Rose, LRPC Solid Waste Planner

Lakes Region Planning Commission
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Roundtable minutes:

10:05- M Rose started meeting off with introductions and purpose of discussing food waste diversion

10:10- J Cudworth, discussed her pilot program at the Hollis transfer station and how it was started

10:20- M Rose asked to review how J Cudworth started the program and her initial conversation with her towns selectmen. J Cudworth explained her story and how she gained the selectmen's interest in starting a pilot program.

10:25- J Cudworth, talked about sending 2 employees to the Maine Composting School to learn and become certified for composting food waste.

- Around \$1,000/ employee for trained at the school

10:30- J Cudworth, talked about now accepting meat and dairy for composting as well as green and brown materials used for the compost pile

10:35- J Cudworth, discussed 2023 Earth day and how the Town of Hollis is challenging their residents to see how much food waste can be diverted in one week.

10:37- E. Farnum, Is a permit required?

Ans: Yes. discussion of permitting required for composting at a transfer station, DES contacts for this, permit by notification

10:39- M.Rose, What are your compost uses (finished product)?

Ans: Flower potting for the town and growing pumpkins at the DPW building.

10:40- E. Farnum, Do you need special equipment?

Ans: Truck to transport material to stump area, loader used for moving compost piles.

10:42- M Rose, What is the size of the area used for your composting piles?

Ans: two piles 6' x 8' in a concrete bunker. MS4 community so storm water runoff protection is required.

10:45- W. Farnum, Who dumps what? Who participates?

Ans: residents dump compost into barrels and employees move the material to the composting area.

10:48- W. Farnum, Do you have trouble with nuisance black bears?

Ans: Yes, animals will rummage through things, mostly at night. However, Vermont has laws to divert all food waste from landfills entirely and they are most certainly in bear country.

10:50- E. Farnum, How much time do employees dedicate to the composting duties each week?

Ans: 2 hours a week max. Employees move compost, make recipes, and monitor heat coming from the pile.

10:52- M. Anderson, What do you mean by "recipes"?

Ans: base layers are wood, hay, straw, wood chips, saw dust and green plant material. The pile is capped to contain heat (covered). Composting can be complete as quickly as 2 weeks.

10:54- S. Golhar, Do you ever worry about nitrogen admissions?

Ans: yes, they try to monitor using DES methods.

10:57: S. Silk, Do you have a sense of how many families you have that are composting at home instead of bringing it to the transfer station?

Ans: not yet, however Hollis hopes to gain information this year after their Earth challenge event.

11:00- M Rose concluded the roundtable session and thanked everyone for attending, and thanked Joan Cudworth for talking about her pilot program in Hollis.