Status of Organics Recycling in Ontario

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Organics Recycling in Ontario

- Approximately 5 million tonnes of organics residuals generated annually in Ontario
- About 800,000 tonnes processed in 2008 (approx. 16% of annual potential)

Processing includes:
- backyard, on-farm (both composting & AD), centralized composting & AD
There is no available processing capacity in Ontario
Further compounded with... 

ODOUR ISSUES
Odour Management is our Major Issue

Reasons

- Inadequate facility siting guidelines
- Imperfect technology and facility design
- Regulatory uncertainty
- Unsustainable financing
- Limited operator training
Consequences …

• Three large processing facilities temporarily closed due to odour issues
• Severe negative press affecting residential & political perception of compost’s value
• Some facility owners are concerned that their large investments are at risk
What do we do?

MOE

• Updated Ontario compost regulations that are practical and protective of the science & reality of composting

• Policy needs to give priority to organics recycling with a specific strategic plan for implementation

• Approvals need to be able to assess processing capabilities

• Enforcement needs to proactively monitor facility operations based on a factual, science-based approach
What do we do?

CCC

• Reinforce our technical expertise and experience through the hiring of an ongoing technical advisor, Dr. Lambert Otten

• Continue to offer training programs; seek out additional funding to provide this as a core ongoing service

• Work with the MOE & other stakeholders to deliver updated compost regulations & guidelines in 2010
Additional CCC Programs

Compost Quality Alliance
• Provides opportunity for industry self-regulation
• Supported by CFIA to proactively address responsibilities under the Fertilizer Act
• Approx. 25% of total industry volume is captured through the CQA program
• An audit & monitoring program has been developed for & by members

Increased emphasis (& financing) required to heighten potential of CQA (eg. market specifications, consumer education)
Additional CCC Programs

Consumer Education & Trust

- Strong & relevant grassroots programs developed for the promotion of compost and the industry
  - Compost Awareness Week (first week of May)
  - Plant a Row • Grow a Row
  - Compost’s Giants! Giant Pumpkin Contest
Additional CCC Programs

Communication & Training
- Bringing the industry together on issues of relevance
  - Odour Workshop
  - Regional Workshops
Additional CCC Programs

**Advocacy**
- Regulatory dynamics
  - CCME (compost, compostable, biosolids)
    - updating 1991 Interim Guidelines
    - MHSW & Compost’s inclusion
- Involvement of additional Ministries (Agriculture, Natural Resources, Municipal)
CCC Reality

- No core funding/Limited Reserve
- Totally dependent on membership & activities for revenue

Need to seek funding for:
- Ongoing training
- Centralized Library/Institutional Memory
- Membership involvement beyond existing Board