

Organics Management Commercial and Residential Advisory Committees

Highlights of Compost Facility Tour

November 15, 2016

Submitted by Charlie Fleetham, Project Innovations

Participants: See Page 2

- 1. Welcome:** Christina Gomes, Ann Arbor Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator welcomed the participants, introduced the City Staff and the Project Team, and reviewed the meeting objective to tour the Compost Center, 4150 Platt Road.

- 2. Tour Highlights:** Dan Butynski explained various operational and process characteristics of the facility. Highlights included:
 - The City owns the site and contracts WeCare Organics to operate the center.
 - Two WeCare team members run the facility
 - WeCare manages marketing and sales of center products – recent efforts have brought in MDOT as a major customer.
 - WeCare considers this site to be one of the best in the nation.
 - The machinery to operate the facility includes a windrow turner, a grinder, and a screener. WeCare owns this equipment.
 - The windrow turner can turn 330 yards in 7 minutes, and can be broken down for easy transportation to other sites.
 - Grinding occurs 2X/year and screen occurs once a year.
 - Commercial landscapers drop off significant quantities of green waste.
 - All organic waste is eventually converted into saleable product – including untreated wood pallets and large branches.
 - Manure/bio-solids are not used/taken into the center.
 - It takes 6 to 8 months to produce saleable product.
 - Temperatures inside the composting rows are monitored and can reach 150 degrees or more.
 - The composting product is tested for a host of characteristics, including pH, metals, bacteria, and nutrients to meet regulatory and U.S. Composting Council standards.
 - Testing results are open to community review.
 - MDEQ reviewed the center facility and indicated it was a model for superior operations.
 - Ann Arbor residents receive free compost in the spring (set quantity) and can purchase more as desired.

Compost Tour Participants

Last	First	Organization
Butynski	Dan	We Care Organics
Conaway	Brian	Waste Management
Crockett	Christine	Old Fourth Ward Association
Doty	Ryan	A2 Systems Planning
Fleetham	Charlie	Project Innovations
Gomes	Christina	A2 Systems Planning
McCall	Clark	Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
Sample	Kathy	Argus Farm Stop
Seibert	Christina	CB&I Project Manager
Sheldon	Kimberly	Main Street Ventures
Slotten	Cresson	A2 Systems Planning
Steele	Shelley	Sunset Hilltop Neighborhood Association
Teeter	John	First Martin
Wereford	Sebatian	Food Gatherers
Wright	Jan	Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
Yuhasz	Eric	Google