

Verbal discussion of “Chat Note” questions and answers

- 1) What communities are processing large pulses of dehydrated feedstock?
 - a) No responses.

- 2) Is anyone co-digesting biosolids?
 - a) Janine – not officially but soon will be. Two of five windrows will involve biosolids.
 - b) Marie-Lou – currently conducting feasibility and engagement on in-vessel system.
 - c) Cam (in previous work capacity) – RD Okanagan Similkameen spent a decade looking at in-vessel systems. Looking at a split vessel with one stream biosolid and one stream food waste.
 - d) Wes - Ontario has a reference guide on co-digestion/wastewater facilities (link provided). Working with Ontario municipalities on smaller facilities in order to “right-size” to feedstock.

- 3) Is anyone doing bi-weekly garbage with weekly organics collection?
 - a) There was much discussion on this question. Several RD’s are doing this in various combinations. Discussed the need for incentives such as user pay tag-a-bag. Weekly collection increases participation. Collection timing can be seasonal and based on other impacts such as wildlife issues.

- 4) General discussion on contamination rates – BC doing well. .

- 5) Does WildSafe have an opinion on encouraging backyard composting versus a curbside program? Does WildSafe promote certain types of backyard composters?
 - a) Discussion of Speedy Bin composter – not bear proof.
 - b) WildSafe has guidelines on their website and would like to provide more recommendations and a menu of options to help with challenges. Please contact Vanessa if you have materials that could benefit others.
 - c) Comox Strathcona RD is wrapping up a pilot of various composters in Tahsis, Zeballos and Cortez. Odour is key management issue.

- 6) Does anyone have any plans for implementing commercial sector regulations such as disposal bans?
 - a) Discussion from those who have implemented. Discussion around the fact that tipping fees for organics can be more costly than garbage depending on the type of landfill.

- 7) Is there a source of data for permitted/authorized/registered facilities?

- a) Yes. Kim Richardson to provide the link to the ministry’s AMS system. CWMA to provide Compost Association of Canada live map. Mark Watt would like to see a block diagram/road map for the authorization process.
- 8) What is the status of the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation updates?
- a) The ministry will be releasing an update in the coming months with revised timelines and any new policy aspects. New ministry contact is Erin Scraba. Several people asked to be put on the ministry’s distribution list for the regulatory update.
OMRR Mailbox: env.omrr.reg.reviews@gov.bc.ca
- 9) Has anyone included language on inflation increases in private operation contracts?
- a) Yes. Several respondents (RDN, CVRD) stated the use of the CPI/TCPI as benchmarks some including caps.
- 10) Is a Gore cover system being planned for the Westcoast landfill?
- a) No. The funding is being used for processing improvements, upgrades to the landfill composting system and carts etc. Funding is for both operational as well as infrastructure components.
- 11) Is there a certification process in place for bear proof bins?
- a) WildSafe has a list and is doing work in the area and supporting the work of the IGBC (Inter-Agency Grizzly Bear Committee) protocols. There are challenges with keeping up with the data and certification status over time. IGBC link provided.
- 12) How are people managing additional volumes due to service interruptions?
- a) No response.
- 13) Does anyone have experience with using bokashi or other fermentation processes as a supplement to curbside programs to decrease wildlife attraction?
- a) I have personal experience with Bokashi and the qRD has offered Bokashi workshops for residents. They are a great option, but requires more engagement than some people are interested. Fermented materials from the first phase of Bokashi is much less of an attractant than unfermented scraps.
- 14) Any Regional District's getting Municipalities to do their collection of green bins
- a) CVRD making our plans right now to see what the community wants. Roll out 2024
- 15) Does anyone accept clean dimensional lumber in their programs?
- a) No responses but can be added to a general survey for aggregate info.

Miscellaneous

- Melissa Krieger-Fox briefly described the status of composting in health care facilities in Island Health. Her biggest challenge is the new hospital being built in the Cowichan Valley. Facing many challenges such as building design (location of kitchen and loading dock). Some facilities have pre-consumer systems in place and are looking to surmount challenges in the post-consumer space (one long term facility is doing post-consumer).