EARTHGIRL COMPOSTING

VORS 2019

COMPOST PICKUP
HOMEANDOFFICE

Opportunity to Grow and Challenges to Growth

Expansion

- Employees
  - Reliability
  - Cost – livable wage, benefits
- Geography
  - Rural
  - Dense, low-cost, low-impact routes, only possible in bigger towns
- Infrastructure – where is it ?
- Enforcement – how ?
- Education - why and what ?

Quality Control

The larger the waste hauler,

the higher volume of waste

= potential for high contamination rates

This is not an EGC pile.

When containers are too large

Contamination can be an issue

This is not an EGC pile.

Contamination

Closeup

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Contamination

Closeup

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Contamination

Closeup

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Small hauler = quality control

This IS an EGC pile.

Challenges in the Future

Possible Solutions

- Larger network of small haulers
- Large haulers may want to consider contracting residential organics collection to small haulers
- Quality control = end product that is lower cost to producer and higher value to consumer
- Infrastructure for processing more organics is needed
  - On farm composting
  - Anaerobic digesters

The Future is Here Now!

Anaerobic Digestion

- Turning organics into renewable energy
- EGC partnering with VTCAD

The Future is Here!

Anaerobic Digestion at VTC

- Diverts 4-6,000 gallons of organics a day: up to 49% of that can be food waste
- Produces enough renewable energy to power approximately 300 homes!
- Renewable energy generated is sold to GMP
- What's left ? Fibrous material used for animal bedding and digestate, a liquid fertilizer that is spread on the fields
- Small footprint, zero waste

Questions?

“Information is like compost, it does no good unless you spread it around.”

-Eliot Coleman