

ORGANICS TEAM MEETING
VIRGIN ISLANDS RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013 3:00 PM
Via teleconference line

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE VIRP:

- The Virgin Islands Recycling Partnership was created in an effort to establish a sustainable solid waste strategy—based on an aggressive program of waste reduction, recycling and composting—and moving toward a sustainable materials economy. The partnership includes government (at all levels), non-profit organizations, citizens, environmental groups, and the private sector. The Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University (EFC) is using its solid waste management and recycling expertise to assist in facilitating the partnership. The VIRP is comprised of commodity-based teams, including this OrganicsTeam. Learn [more](#).

ATTENDEES:

- Charmin Springer, VI Waste Management Authority
- Cordell Jacobs, VI Waste Management Authority
- Courtney Mayes, University of the Virgin Islands
- Emmeline Simmonds, VI Waste Management Authority, St. Croix
- Geoff Garrison, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Jason Budsan, EAST / VI Conservation Society
- Jim Casey, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Jim Doersam
- Keshema Webbe, US Environmental Protection Agency
- Laura Cardoso, Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University
- Melissa Young, Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University
- Susan Parten, Community Environmental Services, Inc.

AGENDA:

- Establish goals of the team
- Discuss the progress of current team initiatives

DISCUSSION OF TEAM GOALS AND CURRENT INITIATIVES:

- **Cooperate with other groups** (Budsan)
 - Get the message that other groups, large scale commercial groups could be doing more
- **Participation in the event ABCs of Composting 3/30/13, 9:00 am - 3:30pm @ Mandahl Bay.** Activities will include:
 - Low-cost composting demonstrations:
 - “ideal compost bin” : Partner with My Brother’s Workshop to create a model bin using wooden pallets and chicken wire
 - barrel bin
 - Demonstrate to public that composting is easy and cheap and doable

- Make paperwork (from Organics Internship Training) on display
- UVI Interns will tell audience what they've learned and how to make your own compost mix
- Intro to VIRP: Slide show on VIRP teams (provided by Mark Lichtenstein)
- Demo of Camp Umoja's Environmental Rangers' farm
- Beach cleanup

* This event is an opportunity to teach but also to conduct VIRP outreach

* Dara Cooper will do media coverage (video recording, photos, media outreach)

- **What is the focus of this team?** (Parten)
 - 2 areas of focus:
 1. Backyard composting
 2. centralized composting facilities
 - Main goal of both sub committees:
 - Cost effective composting
 - Education
 - Steps toward developing centralized composting facilities:
 - Policy
 - ID potential facility locations
 - ID players
 - Education
 - Previous planning documents - "what, where, how, who" - are available (Parten)
 - * Will be made available to the team and on the VIRP website. [EFC]
- **Consider the ability to process paper through composting?**
- **Team leaders to participate in VIRP Steering Committee**
 - Sue Parten and Jim Doersam interested
- **Are there large scale composting representatives who can attend local USVI events?**
- **Is there a composting component in WMA's recycling plan?**
- Encourage and/or enforce composting (Simmons)
 - I.e: hotels – enforce them to compost
- **Develop a network of UVI professors who may be interested in integrating composting projects into their curriculum in partnership with the Organics Internship Program**
 - Courtney Mayes is a member of the - "Go Green Committee," part of Green Initiative
 - Contact with Agriculture faculty on St. Croix
- - What steps needed to make it part of curriculum –
 - Has one professor contact and will talk to Marsha Laurencin (Mayes)
- **Issue: Heat of compost piles is killing worms**

- Not too much moisture (Simmons)
- Vermicomposting should be in small, cool , shady pile (Doersam)
- Keep bins out of the sun (Doersam)
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- Note: If piles are too large, thermifilic microbes take over,
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- **Particioate in the upcoming Caribbean Landscape Conservation Committee (CLCC) meeting on St. Croix**
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FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS AND TASKS:

- Create a Team Mission Statement and Send around for people to comment [EFC]
- Future Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 1:00pm, or 3:30 pm
- Invite Marsha Laurencin to next meeting to discuss compost bins on UVI campuses [EFC]
- Develop a network of UVI professors who may be interested in integrating composting projects into their curriculum in partnership with the Organics Internship Program
- Create a group and folder on USVIRP Wiggiio group organics [EFC]