

DNR Organics Management Updates

Wisconsin Council on Recycling, June 5, 2026

Sarah Murray, DNR

Highlights since last meeting



Prepared workplan for round 2 of EPA grant



Continued stakeholder dialogue on next steps



Finished draft updates to composting regulations



New organics management specialist – Haylee Kraker

Highlights of remaining Round 1 work



Contract with Dane County and subcontractors to provide one-on-one food service technical assistance



Establish data collection plan and procedures to measure future outcomes



Continued outreach/technical assistance



Use Wisconsin Food Waste Evaluation and stakeholder input as basis for statewide high-level plan

SWIFR Round 2 focus areas

- Full-time DNR staff member to lead statewide outreach and technical assistance, policy development, other project activities
- Continued focus on residential and food service sectors
 - Increase outreach
 - Development of tools/resources to facilitate food waste diversion along EPA Wasted Food Scale
 - Potential funding to establish food service composting/AD programs



Stakeholder input on priorities for addressing barriers

1. Cost of food waste diversion compared to landfill disposal
2. Lack of adequate infrastructure/capacity for landfill alternatives
3. Lack of awareness/education about food waste reduction and landfill alternatives
4. Lack of funding for infrastructure, outreach, etc.;
5. Policy barriers (e.g., laws/regulations that make it harder to divert food waste)

Stakeholder input on infrastructure development priorities

1. Food donation/rescue infrastructure
2. Food waste curbside collection and hauling capacity
3. Food waste composting/anaerobic digestion locations and capacity
4. Depackaging facility locations and capacity

Stakeholder input on priority actions

1. Increase public awareness
2. Develop infrastructure
3. Increase adoption of community composting efforts
4. Increase adoption of household composting efforts
5. More support for food service sector food waste reduction
6. Advocate for food waste landfill ban
7. Advocate for increased landfill tipping fees

CONNECT WITH US

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