
Ohio Grocers Association and Ohio Grocers Foundation

Diversion and Composting Initiative

Ohio Grocers Association and Foundation

- Ohio Grocers Association – Trade Association
- Ohio Grocers Foundation – Philanthropic Arm of OGA

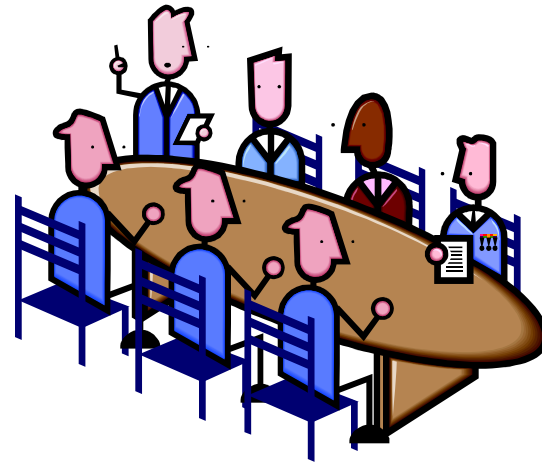


How Did We Get Involved with Composting and Diversion?

- Approached by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) May 2007
 - Grocery stores interested in composting and diverting organics
 - Develop a “how to” guide for OGA members
 - Grant funded
 - Implement a pilot program
 - Timing perfect for a “green” initiative
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Environmental Task Force

- Created Environmental Task Force
- Comprised of grocers, wholesalers, ODNR, EPA, consultants, compost facilities, and other industry organizations
- Guidance on on composting and diversion project
- Work on other sustainability issues



Generators – Grocery Stores

- Recruited stores from larger chains and independents for pilot program
- Selected stores in northern and western Ohio based on the current composting facilities



Challenges

- Not enough composting facilities – limits participants due to transportation costs
- Lack of infrastructure
- Route density for transportation
- Identify hauling entities
- Not all stores are the same, i.e. compactor vs. dumpster
- Costs



Initial Steps with Generators

- Consultant visited all stores/generators in pilot to do a waste assessment
 - Economic analysis – current cost of trash disposal, etc.
 - Identify collection system – In store containers and outside containers, if applicable
 - Identify composting facility and hauler
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Generator Training

- Top Management Support
 - Appoint Program Manager
 - Share Overall Program Goals
 - Employee Training
 - Initial and on-going compliance training needed
 - Containers – color-coded for organics and trash
 - Cut-Sheets for each department
 - Contamination
 - De-Packaging, De-Bagging
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Current Pilot Status

- Kroger launched composting in 24 stores on July 1st
 - 21 stores using compactor for organics
 - Working with Barnes Nursery and Paygro as the composting facilities
 - Transportation being done by current waste haulers (and some subcontractors)
 - Other stores...
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Other Initiatives



- Cardboard recycling
- Plastics recycling
 - Bags, shrink and pallet wrap
 - Implementing program with wholesalers
 - Training on Bagging
- Composting just one part...
- OGA/OGF working with other industry groups

Contact Information

Tonya Woodruff
Ohio Grocers Foundation
1335 Dublin Rd, Suite 30A
Columbus, OH 43215
614/442-5511
foundation@ohiogrocers.org
www.ohiogrocersfoundation.org
