

Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost
Processing Board Minutes
January 21, 2025



The work session of the Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Processing Board was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 11am at the Schoonover Municipal Building.

Members present: Mike Dwyer, Aaron Springs, Annette Atkinson, Chris Clouse, Cory Lyon, Danny Medrano & Julia Heilaka. Oak Grove Liaison Rachel Heller. Also present, Dr. Alex Jackson, Robert Lovenheim, & Mike Stettler.

Pledge of Allegiance

New Business

- Mike Stettler from the Monroe County Waste Authority to speak on Bio Composting
 - Mike Stettler, there are several grants available for composting food waste. Vermont reduced their landfill waste by 37% by requiring food waste recycling. Existing mulch could be mixed with food waste for creating compost. The Waste Authority is looking into several sites themselves to set up a program like this.
 - Robert Lovenheim, we look at two different ways of running the program either onsite or collect at one location and haul to another.
 - Aaron Springs, asked who would run the program/facility and would we be trained. Mike Stettler responded that we would be trained and he is also getting trained in the near future.
 - Mike Stettler, All food can be collected for processing, although he would suggest starting with just grocery stores and resorts first and then move to collecting from the public.
 - Mike Dwyer, if the federal government is wanting to pursue a program like this, maybe we could get in touch with the National Park Service or PA DEP could find land outside of a residential area. I am not in favor of pursuing this at our current Oak Grove site.
 - Mike Stettler, a prime location for a facility like this the existing Twin Boro recycling facility, based on its location.
 - Mike Dwyer, what size area would we need for this? Mike Stettler, you would be looking at roughly a 400yd x 400yd. It would be quick composting with all proteins.
 - Cory Lyon, do you think the East Stroudsburg Borough would sell us land in Wooddale? Although this might be challenging due to filtration for the reservoir.

- Julia Heilaka, maybe we could suggest home composting practice to get the public involved. A pilot program like this is easily 4-5 years out before taking off.
- Mike Stettler, is currently trying to put together education to go into schools and present the benefits and necessity of composting food waste. Mike Dwyer, also suggested approaching grocery stores to have rack cards displayed to educate the public about home composting.
- Mike Dwyer, we can include an article about this in our Oak Grove chronicle. Would this generate income? Mike Stettler, yes, you can bag it and sell it like commercial retailers. Mike Dwyer suggested approaching Delaware Water Gap about land in their Borough and it would be a great boost to their economy.

Public Comment

None

Next Work Session

February 25, 2025 at 11am. Will be reaching out to Delaware Water Gap for their availability.

Next Meeting

April 9, 2024

Adjournment

Aaron Springs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:10am. Cory Lyon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Heller