

Geneva Green Committee Minutes for the September meeting

Present: Richard Cox, Jan Regan, Sara Britting, Dan Belliveau, Jim Norwalk, Anne Hoyt, Fred Brockway, Jacob Fox

Agreed: to change our meeting time from the third Wednesday of the month at 5 to the third Tuesday of the month at 7, because city council meetings are often held on Wednesdays, meaning our council liaison often can't be present and because the 5:00 meeting time makes it difficult for working people to attend our meetings.

Jacob distributed materials about the city's new composting facility, which he will be administering under a contract with the city. The site is permitted to handle 500 tons of source-separated organic material per year though Jacob said it was designed to handle four times as much. It can accept paper, cardboard, yard wastes, and food wastes. Food wastes will be pre-composted in an on-site enclosed, temperature-controlled building where methane emissions will be monitored until at an acceptable level is achieved before moving wastes to outdoor trenches. The facility will be gated and open on designated days as a drop-off site where city residents and waste haulers can bring organic wastes. Natural Upcycle, Impact Earth, and Growing Cycle currently pick up organic wastes in the city. At this time, the nearest composting facility is in Seneca Castle.

Jacob suggested we approach Ontario County about funding a citywide waste audit of businesses, large rental properties, and institutions to identify how more organic wastes could be diverted to the composting facility (scheduled to begin operating in November). An audit would produce a cost-benefit analysis that could persuade the city's businesses, landlords, and institutions to divert paper, cardboard, and food wastes to the city facility, thereby significantly reducing the city's landfill burden. Jacob said a Rochester zero waste consulting firm, Impact Earth, has been hired by the county to audit the waste stream at all Ontario County public schools. Jacob suggested we invite Impact Earth to a GGC meeting for a presentation in either November or December.

Sara suggested we ask the county for money to fund a flyer to be included with the city's water/sewer bills promoting household pickup of organic wastes. (Carla Jordan in our meeting in October confirmed that money would be available for this.)

She also reported on the Department of Public Works head, Joe Venutti's meeting with Marc Lejeunesse at the Welcome Center where Marc demonstrated an organic weed killer.