



EBC Solid Waste Management Program

Organics Diversion: Potential Solution to Capacity Issues in Massachusetts

The State of Organic Waste Management in Massachusetts

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

E. L. Harvey & Sons, Inc.
Westborough, Massachusetts

AGENDA

- 8:15 a.m. Welcome: Tony Wespiser**, Chair, EBC Construction & Demolition Subcommittee
Managing Engineer, Brown and Caldwell
- Welcome to E. L. Harvey: Ben Harvey**, President
- 8:20 a.m. Program Introduction and Overview**
- Gretchen Carey, LEED Green Associate, Program Chair & Moderator
Recycling & Organics Coordinator, Republic Services
- 8:30 a.m. Needham's Composting Operation - A Municipal Success Story**
- Greg Smith, Superintendent of Solid Waste Operations, Town of Needham, MA
- 8:55 a.m. Starting Your Own Food Scrap Collection Business**
- Kesiah Bascom, Founder/Owner, OffBeet Composting Co.
- 9:20 a.m. Organix Co-Collection: Maximizing the Potential Value of Compostable Materials**
- Debra Darby, Program and Marketing Director, Organix Solutions
- 9:45 a.m. Networking Break**
- 10:15 a.m. Food Waste Depackaging**
- Ben Harvey, President, E. L. Harvey & Sons, Inc.
- 10:50 a.m. The Benefits of Farm-Based Anaerobic Digestion**
- Topher Gudmand, Director of Sales, Vanguard Renewables

11:15 a.m. Panel Discussion - Where Do We Go From Here?

Moderator: Gretchen Carey, Republic Services

Panel Members:

- Kesiah Bascom, OffBeet Composting Co.
- Debra Darby, Organix Solutions
- Topher Gudmand, Vanguard Renewables
- Ben Harvey, E. L. Harvey & Sons, Inc.
- Greg Smith, Town of Needham, MA

12:00 p.m. Closing Remarks – Gretchen Carey – Adjourn

PROGRAM CHAIR

Gretchen Carey, LEED Green Associate, Recycling & Organics Coordinator
Republic Services
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Gretchen Carey has worked in the environmental field for almost a decade, and is now the Republic Services Recycling and Organics Coordinator for the state of Massachusetts. Along with training and educating on recycling, she is helping to build the organics infrastructure in New England. Gretchen is on her second term as Vice President of the Board of Directors for the statewide recycling group, MassRecycle, and has recently been made a LEED Green Associate.

SPEAKERS

Kesiah Bascom, Founder/Owner
OffBeet Composting Co.
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Kesiah is the founder/owner of OffBeet Composting Company and has spent the past 7 years working in the sustainable agriculture and food justice realm. Raised in a household with a large garden, she has grown up valuing food and its unifying nature. Prior to starting OffBeet Composting Co, she was the Community Program Manager at Mill City Grows, a food access organization in Lowell, MA and she also worked at The Food Project as Assistant Grower which deeply influenced her path. Kesiah has found HOME in the Merrimack Valley Region, where she has resided for the past few years and launched OffBeet Composting Co. She is also currently in pursuit of a Masters in Public Policy at Tufts University.

Debra Darby, Program and Marketing Director
Organix Solutions
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Debra Darby is program and marketing director with Organix Solutions, a company that provides cost-effective and sustainable collection and processing solutions that recover organic waste and maximize the potential value of the recyclable feedstocks. Formerly director of marketing communications with Metabolix, a developer of biopolymers, she holds an MS degree in Cleaner Production from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Topher Gudmand, Director of Sales
Vanguard Renewables
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Topher Gudmand is the Director of Sales at Vanguard Renewables. He oversees the key relationships within the feedstock supply chain as well as procuring new client partners. In his 12 plus years of sales experience, Gudmand focused on all areas of foodservice. As National Foodservice Sales Director at Cabot Cooperative he managed a team of more than 50 broker sales representatives with a primary focus on direct to distributor sales. His leadership and the efforts of his team contributed to the well being of the more than 200 Cabot Cooperative farm families.

Just prior to joining Vanguard Renewables, Gudmand managed sales routes for Everett Mass. based Paul W. Marks Company developing relationships with owners, chefs and operating managers of local restaurants, hotel/resort owners/operators and other foodservice establishments.

Gudmand's studies at the University of Massachusetts School of Natural Resources enlightened him to the true power of nature and how we, as custodians of the earth, affect its future. Anaerobic Digestion is the penultimate way of reducing and utilizing greenhouse gasses, such as methane, for a power of good as opposed to the lead cause of atmospheric deterioration. By joining Vanguard Renewables, Gudmand plays a key role in affecting a scalable solution to organic waste management and harmful methane discharge challenges, while creating a renewable source of clean energy.

Ben Harvey, President
E. L. Harvey & Sons, Inc.
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Ben Harvey is the President and one of the owners of E.L. Harvey & Sons, Inc. After graduating from Delaware Valley College with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1971, Ben moved into an active leadership role at E.L. Harvey & Sons. His duties within the company include negotiating the sales of recyclables to mills worldwide. He contracts with disposal sites for the safe and efficient transfer of waste materials. Ben is a superior administrator, providing leadership and motivation to the company's management team.

Ben is a well-respected and nationally recognized business leader and an authority in his industry. He has used his years of experience and wealth of knowledge in the industry to educate thousands of business and association leaders.

Ben brings his knowledge and know-how to many industry associations, including WasteCap of Massachusetts, MassRecycle, Detachable Container Association (DCA), National Recycling Coalition (NRC), Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI). He has presented to national forums at numerous WasteExpo and ISRI conventions. Ben is a very accomplished and highly recognized public speaker for the waste and recycling industries.

Ben also takes active leadership roles in many trade organizations and associations. He is a past president of the Eastern Paper Mills Association and the Waste Recyclers Council of NSWMA and currently holds leadership roles on the Board of Directors of MassRecycle and WasteCap of Massachusetts. He is President of the Paper Stock Industry, a chapter of the Institute of Scrap Recycling, as well as being on the Board of Governors of the Environmental Industries Association. He is on the Board of Directors ISRI, the Board of Directors of Detachable Container Association (DCA), he is vice president of this organization, and he is on the board of the Environmental Business Council of New England. Ben serves in many committees and task forces for the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries.

Greg Smith, Superintendent of Solid Waste Operations

Town of Needham

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Mr. Smith has worked in the solid waste industry for more than 18 years. Receiving his Masters Degree in Urban Planning from the University of Rhode Island in 1993, Mr. Smith went on to a number of public and private positions that involved him with the operational and regulatory sides of solid waste management.

Mr. Smith presently works for the Town of Needham's Department of Public Works as the Superintendent of Solid Waste Operations. In this capacity, Mr. Smith is responsible for all aspects of the Division's budgeting, procurement and operations, as well as short and long term planning for Needham's 30 year old transfer facility, its capped landfill and extensive composting and materials processing operations.

Mr. Smith is also a long time member of the Solid Waste Association of America (SWANA), a former member of the Council of SEMASS Communities (2000-2008) and a former member of the MA Department of Environmental Protection's Solid Waste Advisory Committee (2004-2007). He has recently joined the Environmental Business Council's Solid Waste Management Committee.