



DATE: May 9, 2024
TO: Programs & Administrative Committee/Recycling Board
BY: Trevor Probert, Program Manager
SUBJECT: Compost on Turfgrass Studies

SUMMARY

StopWaste has partnered with the City of Dublin and City of Pleasanton to conduct two complementary studies on the effects of compost applications to turf grass and urban soils through a research contract with UC Merced. At the May 9 Planning Committee and Recycling Board meetings, StopWaste staff will provide an overview of the project, and Zachary Malone, a member of the UC Merced research team, will present a progress report on the research and discuss early findings and takeaways.

DISCUSSION

The multiple benefits that compost has on agricultural soils is well documented; however, the lack of research on the effects of compost on managed urban soils has created a barrier for adoption by parks and city landscape managers. Additionally, more research is needed to quantify the climate benefits of compost for urban soils resulting from soil carbon sequestration and fluxes in soil greenhouse gas emissions. More data precision can inform and support member agencies as they increase compost applications to meet SB 1383 procurement targets and Climate Action Plan measures. StopWaste has initiated two research projects to address this data gap. In 2022, an experiment-based research project began in the City of Dublin monitoring compost applications at Emerald Glen Park. In 2023, a complementary research project began in the City of Pleasanton surveying Ken Mercer Sports Park and other turfgrass fields where compost has been applied for over 20 years. Both research projects will continue through December 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.

This page intentionally left blank