



# Citizens Advisory Council

to the Department of Environmental Protection

P.O. Box 8459 • Rachel Carson State Office Building

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8459 • 717-787-4527 • Fax 717-772-2291

Please Note: Our New Fax Number is 717-772-5748

July 21, 1999

Ms. Denise K. Chamberlain  
Deputy Secretary for  
Air, Recycling and Radiation Protection  
Department of Environmental Protection  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Mr. Robert J. Barkanic  
Deputy Secretary for Pollution  
Prevention and Compliance Assistance  
Department of Environmental Protection  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Dear Ms. Chamberlain and Mr. Barkanic:

Council's Environmental Standards Committee is discussing ideas for promoting the recycling of organic materials such as yard waste, residual food wastes, wood byproducts and manure in Pennsylvania. Since some estimates indicate that organics comprise over 70 percent of municipal solid waste, organics recycling is a sensible and attainable next step for Pennsylvania to meet and even surpass its new recycling goals.

Council recommends that DEP consider establishing a web-based organic materials resource exchange to better facilitate the promotion and development of organics recycling in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania should establish a cost-free materials exchange where potential "customers" can identify potential "suppliers" of organic materials. The idea behind the exchange is that it is a voluntary process where exchange users contact one another to make arrangements; DEP is not responsible for brokering these deals. It could possibly run on DEP's website or be linked to an existing site like the Millennium Exchange. Considering the amount of available organics across Pennsylvania, such a site may eventually be successful enough to be a stand alone site or taken over by a non-profit organization interested in facilitating the promotion of organic materials.

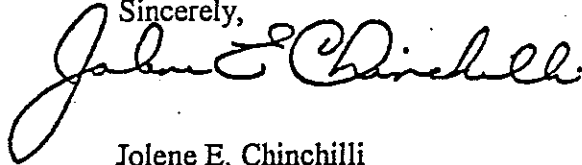
The site can aid in pollution prevention efforts by matching organics with potential users so these materials can be utilized rather than disposed of. Other environmental benefits include reducing future environmental liability, reducing the need for chemical additives or fertilizers, saving valuable virgin

resources, and increasing valuable landfill capacity. Such reuse may also offer significant financial savings to both producers and users by reducing transportation, disposal and resource allocation costs.

While there are over 70 different materials exchanges in North America that promote the trade or sale of industrial process wastes, byproducts, surpluses, or materials, very few sites actually focus on organic waste streams. For example, Pennsylvania is currently involved with the non-profit Northeast Industrial Waste Exchange and its subcontractor the Millennium Exchange. This site has been successful in aiding businesses to reduce industrial chemicals, materials and goods; however, Pennsylvania organizations and businesses also need a forum to locate, buy, sell and trade valuable organic materials that can be reused.

We would like to further discuss these ideas with you. Council's Executive Director Sue Wilson will contact you regarding the possibility of a future meeting. A copy of Council's proposal for the organic materials exchange is enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,



Jolene E. Chinchilli  
Chairperson

Enclosure

cc: SWAC  
PACA