

SCWMA RFP for Organic Materials Processing Services
Attachment G: Survey Responses

Sonoma County Compost Facility Community Survey

Should proposed organics (composting) processing facilities be located within Sonoma County?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	90.8%	268
No	1.0%	3
No preference	2.7%	8
Insufficient information to decide	5.4%	16
Comments		51
<i>answered question</i>		295
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Number	Response Date	Comments
1	Apr 28, 2017 10:13 PM	It should never have been allowed to leave.
2	Apr 28, 2017 5:26 PM	1) It reduces the carbon and congestion from shipping it elsewhere in the State. 2) It provides resources- soil and perhaps energy to benefit people locally.
3	Apr 28, 2017 12:47 AM	Include other areas in future cost comparisons.
4	Apr 27, 2017 9:01 PM	This is a vital need!
5	Apr 27, 2017 8:45 PM	the closer to the point of action the better.
6	Apr 27, 2017 8:16 PM	A huge yes! The closure of the former facility was a great detriment to many farmers and home gardeners, who relied on that affordable source of good compost. It is also a massive cost and environmental impact to be trucking our green waste across County lines for disposal.
7	Apr 27, 2017 6:45 PM	In the above brief statement, it says that costs would not be lowered if it were locally done again. However, the costs to the environment from not trucking as far aren't considered here.

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Number	Response Date	Comments
8	Apr 27, 2017 4:13 PM	We absolutely need in county composting. The need for compost far exceeds the supply, and it takes lot of energy to move this valuable resource out of the area. However, for the far north and far south parts of the county, it may make more sense for some material to go to nearby out of county facilities.
9	Apr 27, 2017 2:38 PM	We need quality composting here in Sonoma County, it's ridiculous to send our organic materials out for composting.
10	Apr 27, 2017 6:54 AM	We are an agricultural county. We cannot afford to export our valuable organic materials. Our farmers and ranchers and home gardeners and parks need compost to promote soil health, support nutritious and sustainable production of food and sequester carbon. Burning fossil fuels to truck this heavy material for long distances does not even make economic sense in the short term, and completely unsustainable long term.
11	Apr 26, 2017 9:43 PM	This is absolutely vital to the long-term health and well-being of Sonoma County residents.
12	Apr 26, 2017 5:40 PM	No brainer!
13	Apr 26, 2017 5:27 PM	losing the facility at meacham was really a great loss.
14	Apr 24, 2017 9:24 AM	My opinion is "yes", as long as the composting is of vegetative matter, non-meat kitchen scraps and such, but not human or animal waste.
15	Apr 24, 2017 12:31 AM	Absolutely essential!! The processing of food and yard waste is integral to recycling and fundamental to the restoration of the depleted soils that retains water and sequesters CO2. Composting is inherently enhancing the natural cycles that sustains our planet and helps to maintain human life.
16	Apr 23, 2017 12:50 AM	Absolutely ! Makes sense on multiple levels-budget, environment, and more.
17	Apr 22, 2017 9:19 PM	My biggest concern is herbicides in organic waste. We recently purchased conpost for our vegetable garden & found our starts dieing shortly after they sprouted.
18	Apr 22, 2017 8:41 PM	Keeping the composting facilities in Sonoma County should reduce costs.

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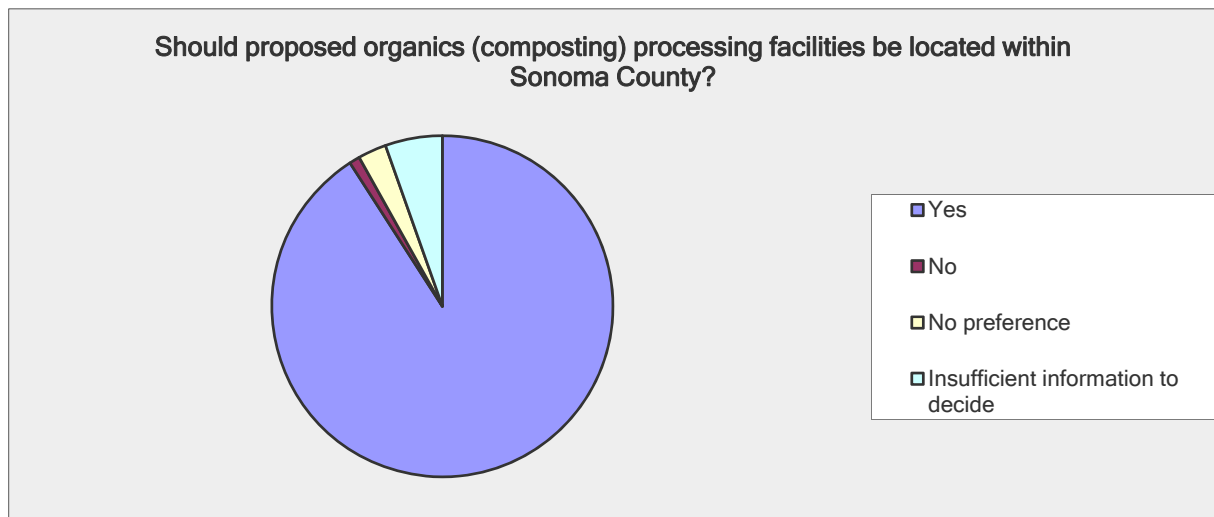
Number	Response Date	Comments
19	Apr 22, 2017 2:55 PM	Moving material miles away from where it is gathered creates pollution and is bad for the environment. We compost to help the environment not make it worse.
20	Apr 22, 2017 5:29 AM	Support local industry
21	Apr 22, 2017 2:00 AM	several companies are already producing product. why does sonoma county need one?
22	Apr 21, 2017 10:36 PM	Ideally if it truly certified organic, then it can be sold to local home-based farmers and bigger farmers.
23	Apr 21, 2017 9:59 PM	I'm assuming excess household compost would be picked up
24	Apr 21, 2017 9:18 PM	We do not want this as another item to raise rates.
25	Apr 21, 2017 5:13 PM	If possible.
26	Apr 21, 2017 12:21 AM	proximity to source impacts transportation costs KEEP IT LOCAL!
27	Apr 20, 2017 10:31 PM	Wish you would stop giving away "organic" compost, aka, sewage sludge, to community gardens. This is very disconcerting to all of us who know that testing for a few chemical compounds doesn't come close to assuring safety of this stuff.
28	Apr 20, 2017 9:24 PM	I loved the old composting facility and bough truckloads of their Mallard Mulch.
29	Apr 20, 2017 9:22 PM	What kind of materials will be allowed? What are the location options? Will it be open to residents as well as commercial operators?
30	Apr 20, 2017 9:13 PM	Trucking it is expensive - both in money and carbon.
31	Apr 20, 2017 5:20 PM	save money/greenhouse gasses to transport.
32	Apr 20, 2017 4:52 PM	For such a progressive county that Sonoma County is, it has been long overdue for us to have our own composting facility that will take compostable plastic containers and eating utensils.
33	Apr 20, 2017 2:14 PM	Trucking green waste out of the county is wasteful and not green.
34	Apr 20, 2017 6:24 AM	Only if economically and environmentally feasible.
35	Apr 19, 2017 7:55 PM	You need to keep transportation costs and related Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions at a minimum.

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Number	Response Date	Comments
36	Apr 19, 2017 3:02 AM	As an agricultural county, we need to lead the way in best practices.
37	Apr 18, 2017 11:07 PM	Absolutely, composting like we once had at the Mecham Facility.
38	Apr 18, 2017 6:49 PM	This is CRUCIAL. The resource use involved in hauling out of county needs to be avoided!
39	Apr 18, 2017 6:37 PM	Lowest carbon impact
40	Apr 18, 2017 5:17 AM	For the people that use compost
41	Apr 18, 2017 3:58 AM	Yes yes yes! In order to reduce carbon emissions we need to keep composting local
42	Apr 18, 2017 3:41 AM	This is the most eco-option, so we're not trucking green waste beyond our borders, using energy and adding to costs. Plus it's eco and sweet that we then have material to purchase that comes from our own backyards. I was so disappointed when the Sonoma Compost was closed! They were doing all this for us!
43	Apr 18, 2017 12:22 AM	It is the heaviest component of the waste stream and expensive to transport, with high GHG impacts. Why export organics and import compost?
44	Apr 17, 2017 11:48 PM	We need to be green in our gas consumption. Trucking garbage a great distance is counterproductive to the reduction of green house gases.
45	Apr 17, 2017 11:05 PM	We USE this product locally - both in agriculture and in home gardens - OUR green waste should not cost us transportation out of the area. We take have rules about what goes INTO the green waste so having it produced into compost allows us to use our SAFER product
46	Apr 17, 2017 11:01 PM	So disappointed to have lost Sonoma Compost. Bring them back!
47	Apr 17, 2017 10:13 PM	minimize transportation distances and facilitate output use by being close to compost use
48	Apr 17, 2017 9:52 PM	as long as the cost to get some compost for yards and gardens is free or very inexpensive to citizens for their use.

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49	Apr 14, 2017 4:39 PM	The critical element is that the finished product {compost and mulch in different grades) be available for sale to Sonoma County residents at reasonable prices, including transportation. To keep transportation costs down it probably makes sense to have the facility located within the County.
50	Apr 13, 2017 7:16 PM	It is a logical thing to do from both an economic and environmental perspective. Economically we should not be exporting organic waste when the prior operation clearly showed that there is high demand within the county for good quality composted products. Environmentally we should be reusing our organic resources to maintain the ecosystem within the county and not burn more polluting fuel to export it.
51	Apr 13, 2017 3:30 PM	Organic waste diversion from landfill is essential for the County and State to meet their GHG reduction goals. Compost is also a critical element in facilitating increased sequestration of atmospheric C in soils, while providing a host of co-benefits, including avoided fertilizer use, reduced erosion, and increased soil water holding capacity.



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Sonoma County Compost Facility Community Survey

How many facilities do you think there should be?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Maximum of 1	4.1%	12
Maximum of 2	11.3%	33
Maximum of 3	9.6%	28
Maximum of 4	9.6%	28
No preference	23.6%	69
Insufficient information to decide	41.8%	122
Comments	57	57
<i>answered question</i>	292	292
<i>skipped question</i>	3	3

Number	Response Date	Comments
1	Apr 29, 2017 1:37 AM	More than one would be wonderful - really as many as would be feasible is ideal. Both based on minimizing distances of loads to the facilities, improving accessibility to processed materials, and also minimizing potential runoff and other issues by having distributed locations.
2	Apr 28, 2017 5:26 PM	It depends on what type of facilities- and what volume they need to be economically viable. Check Green Waste in san Jose creating electricity and compost- http://zwedc.com
3	Apr 28, 2017 5:26 AM	Not sure I understand. Is that the number of contracts that will have access to municipal organic material? Depends on the capacity of applicants, minimum volume requirements to maximize efficiencies without compromising value. Highest value is ven diagram of ecological, economic, social factors.
4	Apr 28, 2017 4:25 AM	As many as possible.
5	Apr 28, 2017 1:01 AM	As many as neccesary
6	Apr 28, 2017 12:49 AM	As many as are needed.
7	Apr 27, 2017 9:01 PM	Of course I want the max! So important to compost everything possible!
8	Apr 27, 2017 8:45 PM	form a web on the map...go for more than 4
9	Apr 27, 2017 8:16 PM	Whatever is efficient while remaining fairly convenient for access by the general public.

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Number	Response Date	Comments
10	Apr 27, 2017 4:13 PM	This is difficult, as there needs to be adequate material for a viable composting business, yet the more local a facility is, the less energy to move material around, and perhaps more flexibility in types of materials processed, etc.
11	Apr 27, 2017 6:54 AM	The facilities should be spread around the county as needed to supply the various end users and keep hauling to a minimum. The number of facilities depends on economies of scale of the processing equipment chosen and the number of suitable sites available. Several smaller scale sites would be preferable to 1 centralized site, reducing impacts and reducing hauling distances.
12	Apr 25, 2017 9:32 PM	as many and distributed as makes sence for the generation of the green waste and the use of it.
13	Apr 24, 2017 3:23 AM	More than one central location I think would be desirable but not able to put a number on it.
14	Apr 24, 2017 12:31 AM	The number should be consistent with enhancing the maximum amount of raw materials available for composting while keeping the transportation and other costs to a minimum for people. Especially low income.
15	Apr 22, 2017 10:51 PM	ubiquitous in neighborhoods
16	Apr 22, 2017 9:24 AM	As many as necessary. Composting facilities are an asset to a rural, agricultural county such as Sonoma.
17	Apr 22, 2017 5:29 AM	For minimal processing - many locations work fine. But any detailed sorting would limit value of multiple locations - and space constrains would likely limit site choices.
18	Apr 22, 2017 2:13 AM	It'd be ideal for one to handle the north county (Windsor:Cloverdale), one for Santa Rosa and Sebastopol/Cotati and one for the South Petaluma:Sonoma
19	Apr 21, 2017 11:42 PM	Sufficient to process all local organic waste.
20	Apr 21, 2017 9:59 PM	With satellite sites for certain waste
21	Apr 21, 2017 8:24 PM	As many as needed
22	Apr 21, 2017 3:13 PM	Enough to collect for the entire county.
23	Apr 21, 2017 12:21 AM	Proximity!
24	Apr 20, 2017 10:31 PM	DO NOT add sewage sludge to any food waste/organic green waste if facilities are located in Sonoma County.

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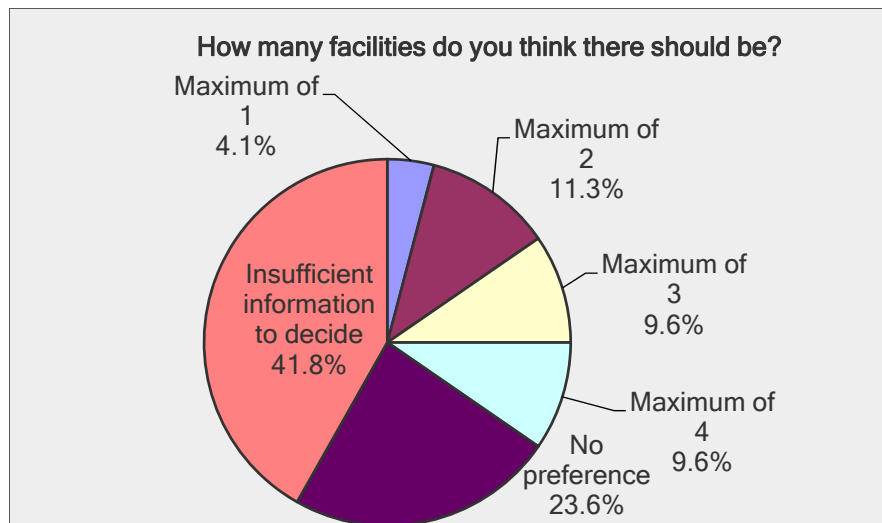
Number	Response Date	Comments
25	Apr 20, 2017 9:44 PM	Having more facilities is preferred and wisely routing compost trucks to minimize travel (and usage of greenhouse gas producing fuel) would be ideal. Also having at least 4 times per year for people to pick up finished compost at the facility nearest to them would be awesome. AND an awesome stretch goal would be having a low cost delivery system for twice per year that was planned very efficiently. I would be happy to help design a delivery system that was actually combined with the pickup system because that would be even more efficient.
26	Apr 20, 2017 9:36 PM	I don't know how many sites are needed. But we need to support recycling green yard waste!!
27	Apr 20, 2017 9:24 PM	I would love for them to spread around the city.
28	Apr 20, 2017 9:22 PM	How much material are you anticipating to handle? Will the county have to purchase property to privileged these sites.
29	Apr 20, 2017 9:13 PM	Whatever works out in terms of transportation costs and efficiency of scale.
30	Apr 20, 2017 9:08 PM	Seems like one processing facility may be enough but multiple drop off locations would be cool.
31	Apr 20, 2017 4:52 PM	For now, just to get one facility will be great. As the population grows, the ability to add more facilities should be in place.
32	Apr 20, 2017 2:14 PM	The previous Sonoma Compost was a huge operation. Composting clearly involved a significant amount of heavy equipment. Therefore as few sites as is practical would be optimal.
33	Apr 20, 2017 6:24 AM	Perfect site available at Stagegulch Road
34	Apr 20, 2017 5:17 AM	We should limit using fossil fuel to move garbage around as much as possible.
35	Apr 20, 2017 1:47 AM	Probably at least 3 or 4 to minimize travel to and from sites.
36	Apr 19, 2017 7:55 PM	Depends on logistics and waste stream tonnage
37	Apr 19, 2017 5:39 PM	I expect the cost to be large, so how can you decide on whether one or more should be built?
38	Apr 19, 2017 4:07 PM	Whatever plan is most efficient and can be put into effect in the shortest time.
39	Apr 18, 2017 9:43 PM	PD newspaper article 4/17 mentioned proposal to locate processing sites in 4 different areas of the county (central, east, north, south)

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Number	Response Date	Comments
40	Apr 18, 2017 6:49 PM	What really matters is that they (it) are well run, very smart about water and smell pollution, and well situated to not constantly do battle with neighbors. Several small would be ideal if you can really replicate all those issues in multiple places, but might not be able to. The goal is to transport this stuff as little as possible. Would also be ideal for citizens and landscape businesses to be able to come on site and purchase final product. I live in Alexander Valley, and the Petaluma facility was far for me.
41	Apr 18, 2017 3:51 PM	Need to know volume projections, available land(s) and all standard on-going costs, etc., etc., to make that decision.
42	Apr 18, 2017 5:17 AM	Economy of scale and only one neighborhood impacted.
43	Apr 18, 2017 3:58 AM	At least one but maybe one north county and one south county?
44	Apr 18, 2017 3:05 AM	I have a preference. One facility to process and compost the material. There were be many drop-off/pick-up facilities to leave trimmings or pick up compost. That way the impacts of the Composting would be centralized but the facilities would be readily available. available
45	Apr 18, 2017 2:40 AM	Rather than a maximum there should be a minimum so that everyone in the county will have access. I would say there should be a minimum of FOUR (4). One in the north, one in the south one in the east, one in the west and one centrally located. (Just like landfill facilities. The idea to encourage usage and to make it easier to access those facilities.)
46	Apr 18, 2017 12:22 AM	Composting should be the largest component of an organics recycling portfolio. AD is not a good solution but maybe suitable for certain streams.
47	Apr 17, 2017 11:05 PM	I like the idea of local facilities so we can come get our own product and reduce traveling on roads. IF that can be accomplished.
48	Apr 17, 2017 10:49 PM	As many as needed to process sonoma county organic material and then be able to sell the finished compost product to the public, locally
49	Apr 17, 2017 10:18 PM	Community-based organic composting is a good idea and would cut down on fossil fuel usage by keeping and using the product close to home.
50	Apr 17, 2017 10:13 PM	whatever the collection/processing/reuse metrics indicate
51	Apr 17, 2017 10:03 PM	As many as we need to reduce landfill waste! we love compost!!
52	Apr 17, 2017 9:35 PM	Unable to attend these important meetings.

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Number	Response Date	Comments
53	Apr 14, 2017 7:41 PM	Depends on who proposes what. A large facility may be great but needs flow commitment, If we allocate material to a lot of little sites, a large one is not feasible. Board needs to evaluate what is best based on responses.
54	Apr 14, 2017 3:00 AM	I know there has to be a good enough flow for a plant to be successful and I don't know how much that is so that's why I said only two.
55	Apr 14, 2017 2:54 AM	Different communities in the county should have their own facilities, so that we can easily obtain the mulch and wood chip products that are generated, for our use! I would not want to have to drive from Petaluma to Santa Rosa to get it. It was wonderful having it at the Meecham site, though!
56	Apr 13, 2017 7:16 PM	There should be enough facilities to enable county residents timely access for both disposal of green waste and pick-up of finished product. One at the each of the north and south ends of the county and one in Santa Rosa or Sebastopol.
57	Apr 13, 2017 3:30 PM	Assuming the goal is 100% organics diversion from landfill and retaining Sonoma County's organic nutrients within the county, there should be enough facilities to achieve that outcome while insuring each is economically viable.



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Sonoma County Compost Facility Community Survey		
What type of facility would be preferred? (mark all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Composting	73.9%	215
Anaerobic digestion	41.2%	120
Other technologies (describe below)	10.3%	30
No preference	10.0%	29
Insufficient information to decide	20.3%	59
Comments or describe other technology.		49
		<i>answered question</i> 291
		<i>skipped question</i> 4

Number	Response Date	Comments or describe other technology.
1	Apr 29, 2017 1:37 AM	Vermicomposting would also be very useful.
2	Apr 28, 2017 5:26 PM	Get the most from our waste without polluting ground water. There are digesters that create power with little residue left and some that create compost- how much compost do we want? There is a balance that has to be achieved.
3	Apr 28, 2017 4:51 PM	Large scale mushroom inoculation of fine woody debris
4	Apr 28, 2017 6:40 AM	I went to the Monterey County Waste Facility and they were making CNG out of the methane and reducing their energy costs!
5	Apr 28, 2017 5:40 AM	Small-scale community composting (e.g., at schools, or on-site at small businesses); backyard composting (i.e., county provides residents and small businesses with readymade small-scale composters (or materials to construct one).
6	Apr 28, 2017 3:08 AM	Algae W D
7	Apr 28, 2017 12:49 AM	Anything that makes compost out of waste is fine with me.
8	Apr 28, 2017 12:47 AM	Whatever works!
9	Apr 27, 2017 11:15 PM	Gasification
10	Apr 27, 2017 9:01 PM	Ask the experts! Incorporate biochar too.
11	Apr 27, 2017 8:45 PM	Pyrolysis for wood waste

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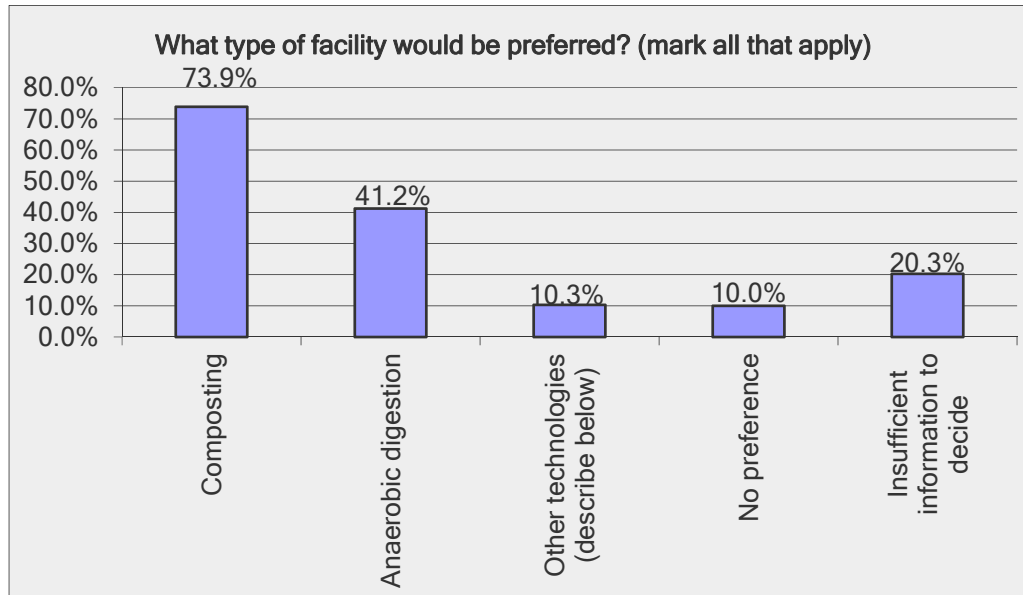
Number	Response Date	Comments or describe other technology.
12	Apr 27, 2017 8:16 PM	Open to any facility types so long as the final products include healthy, good, certified organic compost material that can be used in vegetable gardens/farms.
13	Apr 27, 2017 4:13 PM	We absolutely need aerobic composting but anaerobic digestion may be valuable also for some manures and/or food waste. My understanding is the material left from anaerobic digestion should be composted aerobically.
14	Apr 27, 2017 6:54 AM	We need to sequester carbon. So whatever combination of processes and products allow us to sequester the most carbon. Choose processes that meet the above criteria and meet demand for a variety of products.
15	Apr 26, 2017 5:27 PM	odor may be a concern for nearby residents?
16	Apr 25, 2017 9:32 PM	anaerobic digestion provides needed renewable energy. The sludge from the digesters is high quality soil admendment.
17	Apr 24, 2017 12:31 AM	In addition to composting the development of bio gas that can provide power to the facilities and energy for trucks is very important and worthwhile
18	Apr 22, 2017 4:48 PM	i think it is important to experiment with other and "newer" technologies such as biochar
19	Apr 21, 2017 10:36 PM	Anything that would work that has nothing toxic or chemical.
20	Apr 21, 2017 9:18 PM	This would only raise our rates.
21	Apr 21, 2017 5:13 PM	I need to learn more about what is available.
22	Apr 21, 2017 3:55 PM	Thermochemical conversion via pyrolysis to produce biochar and syngas.
23	Apr 21, 2017 3:11 PM	Studies show a combination of composting and AD work best depending on the materials collected. Yard waste should be composted.
24	Apr 21, 2017 12:21 AM	Biogas
25	Apr 20, 2017 10:02 PM	"Biodegradable" PLA (polylactic acid) plastic processing
26	Apr 20, 2017 9:44 PM	Slow composting may be possible for some of the compost. I want whatever provides enough compost for local people to use. I am most interested in overall sequestering of carbon, and decreasing of fossil fuel usage in the process.
27	Apr 20, 2017 9:13 PM	Char enhanced compost and mulch - forget what it's called.
28	Apr 20, 2017 9:08 PM	Would prefer whatever is the most efficient and environmentally friendly
29	Apr 20, 2017 8:11 PM	methane digester
30	Apr 20, 2017 7:34 PM	something that could provide source of clean energy would be strongly preferred.
31	Apr 20, 2017 4:52 PM	A facility that can take and break down compostable plastics

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Number	Response Date	Comments or describe other technology.
32	Apr 20, 2017 2:14 PM	Composting is preferable for yard waste and vegetable food scraps. An anaerobic digester would provide opportunities for composting other materials including meat.
33	Apr 20, 2017 5:18 AM	Whatever type will be most effective and efficient.
34	Apr 19, 2017 7:55 PM	Dehydration technology for food waste is scaleable and has fewer issues i.e. odors, pests and leaching than AD. Also has smaller footprint, more efficient processing and lower capital and operating costs.
35	Apr 19, 2017 4:07 PM	I don't know enough about other processes besides composting, nor what facilities any other processes would require.
36	Apr 19, 2017 2:28 AM	whatever works!
37	Apr 18, 2017 3:51 PM	Need to understand all requirements & costs of each proven method that could be suited to the size of the proposed facility/facilities including which one(s) produce(s) few to zero odor problems for neighboring area(s).
38	Apr 18, 2017 5:17 AM	Finished product is most important
39	Apr 17, 2017 11:24 PM	It seems essential we have whatever we need to recycle food waste, collected both homes and restaurants.
40	Apr 17, 2017 11:05 PM	I'd like to see composting used to produce energy - that would tend to work really well at many facilities in local areas so energy could be used locally.
41	Apr 17, 2017 10:13 PM	composting facilities should not contribute to environmental issues caused by transport and processing. A needs assessment should be the objective basis
42	Apr 17, 2017 10:03 PM	whatever is the most efficient, and healthiest for the little organisms that have to do all the work.
43	Apr 17, 2017 9:53 PM	capture the methane by-product for other uses
44	Apr 17, 2017 9:52 PM	Also one that allows for composting compostable diapers.
45	Apr 17, 2017 9:41 PM	We compost on our small farm, and only need recycle & trash pickup. But non-rural residents should have compostables pickup.
46	Apr 14, 2017 7:41 PM	Composting is a priority to serve the agricultural needs of the community. Ne reason other technologies can't have a piece of the pie though.
47	Apr 14, 2017 4:39 PM	As a sine qua non, the facility should produce compost and mulch. How you do it I leave to you.
48	Apr 14, 2017 2:54 AM	I will purchase mulch, path chip and soil amendment for my small town lot. In the past, I also used the same variety of products in the very successful elementary school garden program at McNear, I'm sure they will continue to do so.

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Number	Response Date	Comments or describe other technology.
49	Apr 13, 2017 3:30 PM	Different organic waste streams lend themselves to differing technologies; combinations of technologies, such as biodigestion for biogas production, followed by co-composting of digestate is one example.



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Sonoma County Compost Facility Community Survey

What are desirable standards for finished products/compost? (mark all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Home vegetable gardening	87.4%	257
High-end compost for agriculture	77.9%	229
Land cover	56.5%	166
No preference	3.7%	11
Insufficient information to decide	6.5%	19
Other (please specify)	11.9%	35
		<i>answered question</i> 294
		<i>skipped question</i> 1

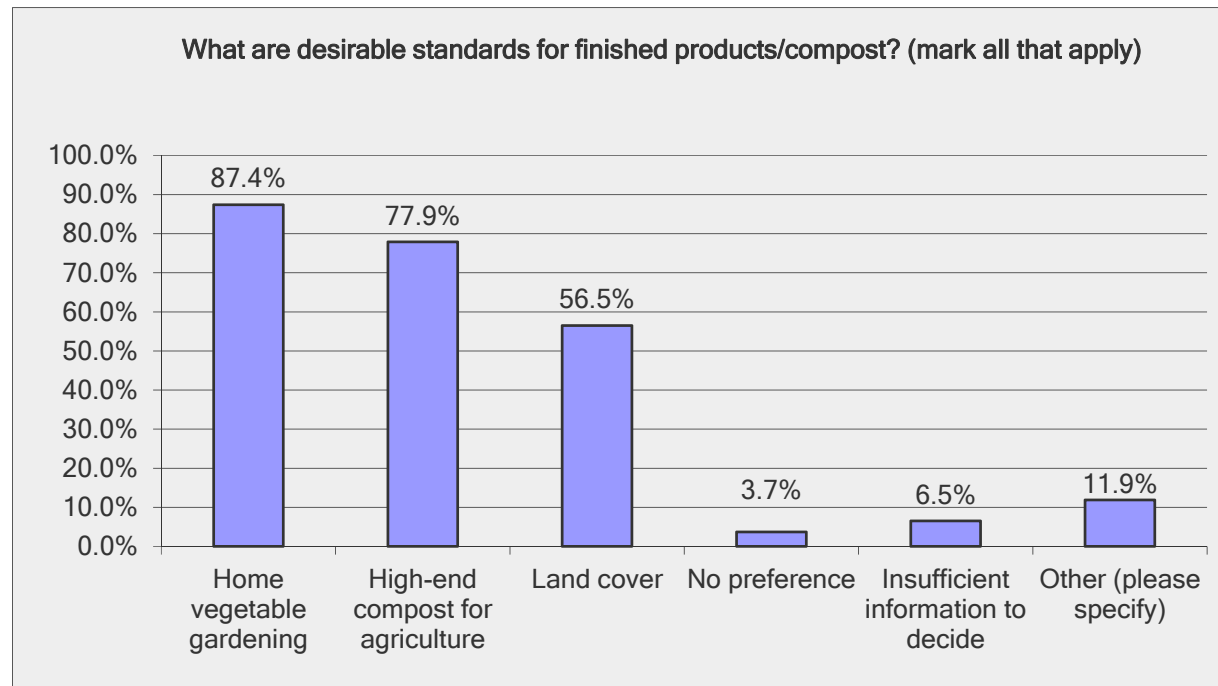
Number	Response Date	Other (please specify)
1	Apr 28, 2017 11:24 PM	Well aged - not hot. Suitable for immediate use.
2	Apr 28, 2017 12:47 AM	All of the above. Cast a wide net. Just don't let it take another 30 years.
3	Apr 27, 2017 11:15 PM	Other agricultural users
4	Apr 27, 2017 9:01 PM	A range of standards would be great, at different sites or same with large area to work it.
5	Apr 27, 2017 8:16 PM	Compost application on ag lands for enhancing soil quality and increasing carbon capture.
6	Apr 27, 2017 5:35 PM	Because of biohazards (sudden oak death, various agricultural quarantines), direct land application should not be allowed. A good supply of CDFA registered compost needs to be available.
7	Apr 27, 2017 4:13 PM	We need compost that is acceptable by certified organic operations. By land cover are you referring to landscaping mulch? This is a big need as well.
8	Apr 25, 2017 9:32 PM	quality soil admendment
9	Apr 24, 2017 12:31 AM	Complementary types for different uses keeps costs low
10	Apr 21, 2017 11:42 PM	With local ordinance requiring use of processed organic waste.
11	Apr 21, 2017 10:36 PM	Anything that is truly Organic

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12	Apr 21, 2017 3:55 PM	Biochar is the highest value product that can be produced. Thus, systems that produce biochar can accept the waste stream at much lower tipping fee rates than composting operations or anaerobic digestion.
13	Apr 21, 2017 12:21 AM	Keep it as clean as possible... be reasonable...
14	Apr 20, 2017 10:02 PM	Energy production
15	Apr 20, 2017 9:36 PM	I don't know enough to vote wisely. Definitely we need compost for local use in residential and agricultural applications.
16	Apr 20, 2017 5:20 PM	take into account demand, cost benefit.
17	Apr 20, 2017 2:14 PM	Th most important thing is to utilize this valuable resource rather than send it away.
18	Apr 20, 2017 5:18 AM	Wouldn't it make sense to offer several? Or, is that too complicated?
19	Apr 19, 2017 10:32 PM	Mulch and recycled lumber.
20	Apr 19, 2017 2:28 AM	all of these are useful.
21	Apr 18, 2017 6:49 PM	professional landscapers with both business and residential clients. The answer to this question needs to involve looking at demand in each of these categories and supply (historic, projected). 1st, we divert as much organic matter as possible from waste stream and compost locally here in county. 2nd agency develops the markets as needed to absorb the product.
22	Apr 18, 2017 2:31 PM	Any other types but safe for edibles for all
23	Apr 18, 2017 3:41 AM	Organic certified if at all possible. I believe that Sonoma Compost was able to get that certification.
24	Apr 18, 2017 1:02 AM	We have a huge amount of plant debris and it's crazy to make us burn it because there is no green-bin pick-up. All plant debris should be used for compost and recycled back to the soil
25	Apr 18, 2017 12:46 AM	.
26	Apr 18, 2017 12:22 AM	Different grades should be available for different applications. High grade compost is valuable and important for specialty ag, especially wine and cannabis. Low grade is good for rangelands and erosion control (and a huge carbon sequestration potential).
27	Apr 17, 2017 11:24 PM	Carbon sequestration
28	Apr 17, 2017 11:05 PM	herbicide and pesticide FREE - I'd like to see it guaranteed to be free of nasty chemicals that we don't want on our crops or in our food.
29	Apr 17, 2017 10:18 PM	For me to use it, it must meet OMRI standards.

SCWMA RFP for Organic Materials Processing Services
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Number	Response Date	Other (please specify)
30	Apr 17, 2017 10:13 PM	clearly identified targets of opportunity for the use of compost must be determined before proceeding...incentivized use.
31	Apr 17, 2017 9:34 PM	Home vegetable gardening as priority
32	Apr 15, 2017 1:16 AM	As a gardener I need a steady supply of organic high quality compost and mulch.
33	Apr 14, 2017 7:41 PM	Highest quality finished products. High priority
34	Apr 14, 2017 2:54 AM	I use OM to amend my beds soil all over every few years, and use wood chip on pathways and to cover and mulch everywhere I don't have plants. NO lawn grass!!
35	Apr 13, 2017 3:30 PM	The highest quality product that can be produced should be produced; however, it is important to recognize that different end uses require different compost characteristics, so a range of products can be reasonably utilized.



SCWMA RFP for Organic Materials Processing Services
Attachment G: Survey Responses

Sonoma County Compost Facility Community Survey

What are your priorities regarding a compost facility (please mark in order of priority):

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Rating Average	Response Count
No preference	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	5	22	4	8.17	35
Insufficient information to decide	14	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	7	22	6.85	46
Other (provide details in comments box below)	5	4	1	1	0	1	4	22	1	3	6.40	42
To produce clean energy (i.e. via digestion or another technology)	9	13	16	24	33	54	65	6	1	4	5.42	225
To pay the lowest price	17	12	22	23	29	33	62	8	1	11	5.32	218
To minimize GHG emissions related to landfilling of organic materials	6	30	28	40	65	46	10	4	2	4	4.56	235
To minimize GHG emissions related to transport and processing of organic waste	13	28	59	68	44	16	12	3	1	0	3.90	244
To secure long-term capacity for SCWMA organic materials	51	43	32	31	36	27	6	6	5	3	3.60	240
Provide local source of compost for Sonoma County	82	59	31	24	23	19	6	4	5	4	3.02	257
To maximize diversion from landfill	70	60	56	30	9	9	8	2	1	6	2.86	251

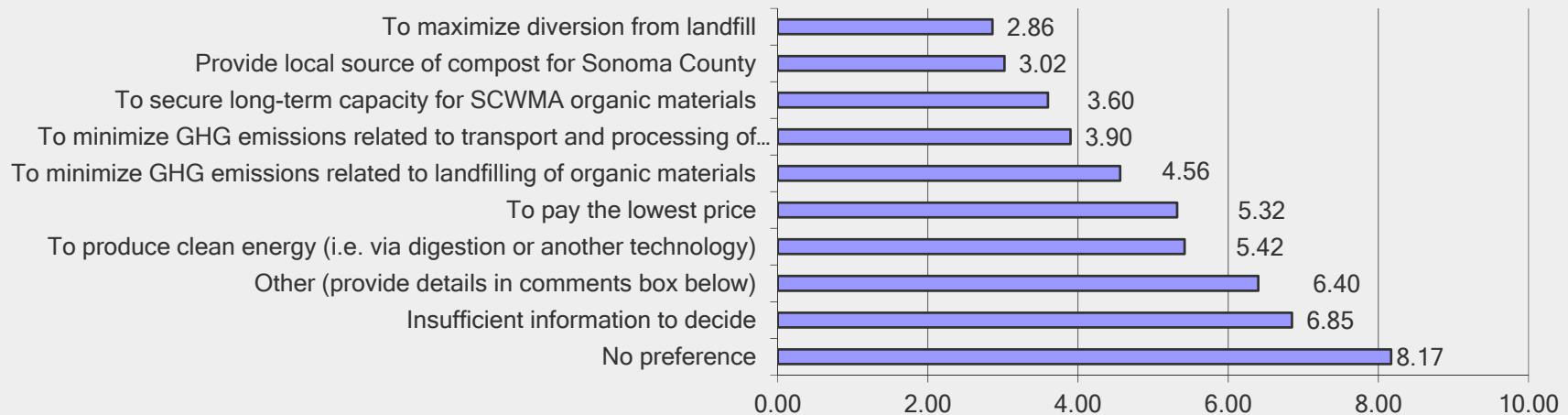
answered question

287

skipped question

8

What are your priorities regarding a compost facility (please mark in order of priority):



SCWMA RFP for Organic Materials Processing Services
Attachment G: Survey Responses

Sonoma County Compost Facility Community Survey

Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?	
Answer Options	Response Count
	98
<i>answered question</i>	98
<i>skipped question</i>	197

Number	Response Date	Response Text
1	Apr 28, 2017 10:13 PM	The County screwed up big time by bringing in Republic and by supporting them over Sonoma Compost. The lawsuit was a scam perpetrated by Republic and facilitated by the County. Shame on Shirlee Zane, David Rabbit and the rest! Hopefully the voters will get smart next time they're up for reelection.
2	Apr 28, 2017 5:26 PM	This solution has to be constructed for the long-term, say 35 years. It will be expensive. There are plenty of groups that can work together to provide financing because they all have a stake in this- Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma Clean Power, the Regional Climate Protection Authority, the Center for Climate Protection and Sonoma County Winegrowers to name a few. There is possibly state funding available as well.
3	Apr 28, 2017 1:16 PM	Bring back Sonoma Compost. They did a wonderful job of producing compost to the highest organic standards. The way they were treated after their years of service to our region was absolutely frankly an embarrassment and effected so many including their employees, organic agricultural operations and home gardeners. They deserve our support to bring back ethical and socially just and environmentally sustainable waste management to Sonoma County.
4	Apr 28, 2017 6:40 AM	Please look at what Monterey County is doing. I believe the wast agency chips up carbon, and a local man brings in nitrogen feedstock. he mixes there, then sells the product back at an AFFORDABLE price to the farms around. Close the loop, please!!

SCWMA RFP for Organic Materials Processing Services
Attachment G: Survey Responses

Number	Response Date	Response Text
5	Apr 28, 2017 5:46 AM	We have a local vegetable farm that depended on Sonoma Compost (we still do, it was so important to us we back stocked two years worth). We and so, so many farmers and community members were dismayed with the county allowing Republic to push them out through back door politics. We had a world class composting facility and it was thrown away! Sonoma County needs to have such a facility. Current smaller composting facilities are not filling the role. Most farms are importing from other counties at high cost while the county is simultaneously paying to export our green waste at high cost. This is a lose-lose situation. Sonoma County farms and vineyards need access to high quality, affordable, local compost!
6	Apr 28, 2017 5:40 AM	Please couple this with overarching efforts to reduce food waste by promoting food waste prevention and food recovery solutions. Feel free to contact me about this; I work as senior advisor for ReFED, a national organization devoted to reducing U.S. food waste, including via composting solutions:
7	Apr 28, 2017 5:26 AM	Farmers need access to quality, affordable, consistent compost. This should be provided by a municipal composting facility.
8	Apr 28, 2017 4:25 AM	Bring back Sonoma Compost as soon as possible.
9	Apr 28, 2017 1:27 AM	I miss Sonoma Compost and its products!
10	Apr 28, 2017 1:16 AM	it is ridiculous that we have no compost facilities in Sonoma County when we were on the fore front with one of the first in the nation! We should be ashamed
11	Apr 28, 2017 12:49 AM	YES! we need compost facilities in Sonoma County.
12	Apr 27, 2017 9:29 PM	I was not sure if 10 or 1 is considered highest priority in the prior question. I have answered it with 1 being highest priority.
13	Apr 27, 2017 9:01 PM	Yes, please hurry!
14	Apr 27, 2017 8:16 PM	<p>I believe that County officials did a great disservice to the greater community by bending to appease a smaller alliance of landowners who opposed the compost facility and allowed it to close instead of finding a middle-ground that addressed the environmental issues while allowing compost to still be produced on a limited scale.</p> <p>I hope when you work on selecting a new site, you will not allow a minority with a loud voice and motivation to sue to steer you away from viable compost facility locations. The entire community benefits when green waste is recycled into compost and I would like to see this service return back inside the County as soon as possible. Thank you for seeking public input on this issue.</p>
15	Apr 27, 2017 6:06 PM	Thank you for sending out this survey and outreach to collect data, I do hope the findings are promising!

SCWMA RFP for Organic Materials Processing Services
Attachment G: Survey Responses

Number	Response Date	Response Text
16	Apr 27, 2017 5:35 PM	To provide a diversified line of soil amendments that are responsive to the needs of our local farmers, landscapers and homeowners.
17	Apr 27, 2017 4:13 PM	The composting company must also provide public education regarding both what materials it can accept as well as the use of their composts and mulches. Thank you!
18	Apr 27, 2017 2:38 PM	As an organic gardener and home owner, I miss having a local source for compost. Sonoma compost was excellent and I miss having access to their compost. I hate the idea if all that organic matter being put in the landfill or it trucked out to another facility. I'm willing to pay for local compost and hope it comes back to this county.
19	Apr 26, 2017 5:40 PM	In reality the answer is number one to all of these
20	Apr 25, 2017 10:20 PM	I want to see our green waste turned into a sustainable product -- processed in our county -- and run by a local, reliable business. Sonoma Compost Company did a great job!
21	Apr 25, 2017 9:32 PM	green waste is a valuable source of energy. multiple anaerobic digester can be located around the county based on previous energy mapping needs of the county and reducing travel foot print of the green waste.
22	Apr 24, 2017 12:31 AM	This must be implemented because the recycling of this material is not only a cost effective approach for managing these resources but will help offset the effects of climate change and the drought that is likely to result.
23	Apr 23, 2017 4:37 PM	can they control the smell? Where would it be located? What days, times will it be open?
24	Apr 23, 2017 12:50 AM	Thanks for gathering our opinions.
25	Apr 22, 2017 9:51 PM	This survey would have been better served to include a bit more info describing the referenced process and technologies. Also, the layout for question 5 is dumb.
26	Apr 22, 2017 4:48 PM	I would like to see a local compost facility provide jobs to local folks while also educating the community about what compost is, what to put into the green bin, and what to keep out of the green bin.
27	Apr 22, 2017 2:55 PM	I also think it would be in the best interest for our county to have longer hours in the dump facility for all of us to use it on weekends- the hours are too restrictive. Also more sights for toxic clean up would be helpful to everyone.
28	Apr 22, 2017 2:15 PM	Not at this time.

SCWMA RFP for Organic Materials Processing Services
Attachment G: Survey Responses

Number	Response Date	Response Text
29	Apr 22, 2017 9:20 AM	<p>My highest priority is to ensure that the Organics processing facility is modern and comprehensive such that it can handle all food waste from households INCLUDING Biobags, and any compostable or biodegradable bags as well as bones, meat etc. Customers shouldn't have to think (because sometimes we cant or dont) or need to remember what is ok or not to throw in the green bin as long as it is not recyclable or permanent landfill-worthy waste. If it's perishable or is biodegradable, then it goes in the green bin. A facility that also has anaerobic digestion can handle special wastes and generate energy from the methane emissions. Any facility planned should minimize or eliminate the NIMBY effect, i.e. We should not send our waste elsewhere if we dont want this stuff in our backyard.</p> <p>I'm available to share more and support this work further. Thank You for reaching out through Nextdoor.com!</p>
30	Apr 22, 2017 3:16 AM	Support local industry
31	Apr 22, 2017 3:16 AM	We need to be able to recycle plastic and also to be able to get our refund from bottles, cans etc.
32	Apr 22, 2017 2:13 AM	In whatever form it takes, minimizing the travel to the facility and then the repurposing of the raw materials is key. The ability to accept a wide range of composting material, even if it had to be bi-sorted into vegetable and animal based for fuel/vegetation end products would be industry leading let alone setting the benchmark for this country. We produce so much organic waste from the wine and beer industries, plus restaurants and our homes, it would be a great achievement to be the leader in closed-loop agriculture.
33	Apr 22, 2017 1:36 AM	How would apartment tenants participate?
34	Apr 22, 2017 1:03 AM	I just think it's time to do all we can to be more aware, less wasteful, and more self sustainable . The organic soil and compost purchased through the landfill site in Petaluma, continues to
35	Apr 21, 2017 10:36 PM	grow the best vegetables and fruit. Looking forward to having it back. Please do not add another service or an additional receptacle to our disposal service and
36	Apr 21, 2017 9:18 PM	rates! I've studied the work of Recology and have a very high opinion of them. This group should
37	Apr 21, 2017 6:07 PM	be strongly considered in the bidding for this contract.

SCWMA RFP for Organic Materials Processing Services
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Number	Response Date	Response Text
38	Apr 21, 2017 5:13 PM	We should see these materials as a resource.
		<p>Interra strongly believes that the best end use for waste organics is to process them via thermochemical systems. Interra's patented thermochemical conversion system efficiently and cost effectively processes waste biomass to produce biochar and syngas that is readily convertible to renewable electricity. Interra's technology has lower capital cost due to the patented design's use of standard off the shelf equipment, lower operating cost due to the ability to accept lower cost heterogeneous feedstock, and higher yields than competing technologies due to efficient heat recycling characteristics.</p> <p>Due to the dual products, Interra can accept waste organics at lower prices than competing solutions. There is even potential for free disposal if land is provided by the region for the project.</p> <p>Alternatively, it makes a lot of sense to co-locate thermochemical systems at new or existing composting facilities. The biochar produced can be integrated with the compost in the windrows to help the composting process and generate a higher value blend.</p>
39	Apr 21, 2017 3:55 PM	If you have any questions on our system please do not hesitate to reach out.
40	Apr 21, 2017 3:11 PM	Please consider providing composting workshops and home compost bins to paying customers, free of charge. Other municipalities in CA do this with great success.
41	Apr 21, 2017 6:28 AM	I am horrified that we are currently hauling green waste out of the county. I would think there is a huge market here for finished products/compost. It makes no sense to haul the green waste out of county, process it somewhere else, and then have to buy it in bags from the garden store.
42	Apr 21, 2017 1:24 AM	We need compost for our home gardens please 😊🌻🍷
43	Apr 20, 2017 10:31 PM	Yes, do not contaminate this stuff with sewage sludge--or this will backfire on the county.
44	Apr 20, 2017 9:44 PM	Thank you very much for offering opportunities to comment via the survey. The ranking questions are excellent. I would love it if edible food forests and community garden plots were also made available at geographically distributed composting facilities. Local food production is another important aspect of climate adaptation and resiliency. THANK YOU!
45	Apr 20, 2017 9:36 PM	We need this. The closing of Sonoma Compost was a big loss for our county.

SCWMA RFP for Organic Materials Processing Services
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Number	Response Date	Response Text
46	Apr 20, 2017 9:24 PM	I would love a combination of composting and anaerobic digestion to provide both the garden resources and energy development.
47	Apr 20, 2017 9:13 PM	Yeah - do something to bring back Sonoma Compost. They know what they were doing...
48	Apr 20, 2017 7:18 PM	This process should bring jobs to our county or it isn't worth doing. It should not be done by computers. Real people real jobs.
49	Apr 20, 2017 7:17 PM	Compost palm fronds also
50	Apr 20, 2017 4:52 PM	My first priority centers around having a facility that can handle PLA 7 plastics (compostable plant-based plastics).
51	Apr 20, 2017 2:14 PM	There are significant educational opportunities from having a compost facility in Sonoma county relating to sustainable agriculture and landscaping. With increased occurrence of drought the use of compost and mulch to improve soil moisture holding capacity is essential.
52	Apr 20, 2017 1:54 PM	It would be helpful to send out information so the survey can gather a better response.
53	Apr 20, 2017 6:31 AM	Sonoma Compost
54	Apr 20, 2017 5:17 AM	Thank you. This is not my area expertise but I am very glad that it is yours. And that you are making plans to do something about it.
55	Apr 20, 2017 4:50 AM	I am interested in this topic. I consider myself educated and well informed, I'm a county employee, yet I haven't heard any information that would help me make a decision or educate myself on the topic.
56	Apr 19, 2017 7:55 PM	Not at this time.
57	Apr 19, 2017 5:39 PM	This is a poorly worded survey, please have someone rethink it and issue it again. Is the scale on #5 1=first priority, 10=least or the other way around? And you are using acronyms that I have no idea what they are 'GHG'
58	Apr 19, 2017 4:07 PM	The sooner, the better.
59	Apr 19, 2017 7:06 AM	I would like a composting facility that encourages waste pickup companies to accept all compostable materials in one waste stream. And, I would like a coherent message to the public on what to do with each type of waste. As far as I know right now, pizza boxes go in trash, milk cartons go in recycling, veggies go in compost, meat goes in (??? who knows), clean foil goes in recycling, greasy foil goes in (??? who knows), padded envelopes go in trash, un-padded envelopes go in recycling, light bulbs go in (????)
60	Apr 19, 2017 5:31 AM	I can't make the meetings. Is there written information available about this issue? Where can I read about this process.

SCWMA RFP for Organic Materials Processing Services
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Number	Response Date	Response Text
61	Apr 18, 2017 10:12 PM	Your community is ready to support this!
62	Apr 18, 2017 9:43 PM	Thank you!
63	Apr 18, 2017 9:12 PM	So glad that this is being considered. Thank you.
64	Apr 18, 2017 4:16 PM	Our waste management company needs to find a way to recycle plastic bags. Countless bags are being thrown into the landfill because they will not take them in the recycling bin. Monterey County, for one example, does take plastic bags. This needs to be a number one priority.
65	Apr 18, 2017 8:26 AM	composting our organic materials as a community is essential. BOS, be assertive about this, please!
66	Apr 18, 2017 5:19 AM	I've answered for my needs and really don't have sufficient understanding of the topic to be a wise respondent.
67	Apr 18, 2017 3:58 AM	Please keep residents informed of what's going on with where our compost is going now and how that is serving or not serving the county. I miss our local compost for my vegetable garden
68	Apr 18, 2017 3:41 AM	Sonoma Compost seemed to be great pioneers on this, and had the full vision of respecting the earth and serving our community. I hope that they can play a strong role in the new path, or at least someone with this strong eco-value system. Thanks for asking our opinions in this survey.
69	Apr 18, 2017 2:40 AM	My concern is protecting the environment and SUSTAINABILITY.
70	Apr 18, 2017 1:02 AM	Please provide green-bin pick-up in our neighborhood. We are approaching 70 years old and will not be able to burn our plant debris much longer. Plant debris can be easily recycled and used to make compost--nothing better than returning it to the ground!
71	Apr 18, 2017 12:46 AM	I'd like to be able to divert as much waste from the landfill as possible, and I'd like to be able to put compostable plastics in the green waste bin.
72	Apr 18, 2017 12:24 AM	Yes, where can I read for more information regarding this composting facility? I do not get the Press Democrat.

SCWMA RFP for Organic Materials Processing Services
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Number	Response Date	Response Text
73	Apr 18, 2017 12:22 AM	<p>While high grade compost can support high prices (particularly from specialty farmers) and provide needed income for composters, low grade compost is valuable for rangeland management and increasing carbon sequestration there.</p> <p>Sonoma County needs to meet organics diversion requirements and recycling rate requirements but is failing now and will continue to struggle without local composters. It is very difficult to compost food waste, there is no drop off in the county and the fairgrounds lacks a program for events. Richmond sucks.</p> <p>Cold Creek Compost is a great facility, I have visited it and it is very clean compared to others I have seen. I would support another one of those type of facilities here in Sonoma County. For now, it is the best solution for Sonoma County to send material to, until we get our own facility back.</p> <p>Compostable plastics are also very prevalent here but unacceptable in Richmond or in Recycling. We need a facility that can handle this even if the material is considered a lower grade after processing. These materials facilitate a huge amount of organics diversion that would be too contaminated otherwise.</p>
74	Apr 17, 2017 11:48 PM	<p>Would like to have green waste and food scraps pick up from any household that cannot compost.</p> <p>We live in Bodega Bay and there is no garbage pickup for green waste and food scraps...residential, commercial or schools. Wrong message! And we need a local facility to make good compost that useful for agriculture and/ or energy.</p>
75	Apr 17, 2017 11:05 PM	I'm really glad this is back in consideration. I believe it is essential to have our local green waste turn into a local product.
76	Apr 17, 2017 11:01 PM	GHG...why not spell it instead of an acronym...there is enough room to do so.
77	Apr 17, 2017 11:01 PM	Again. We had a wonderful company already located in our county. Bring Back Sonoma Compost.
78	Apr 17, 2017 10:59 PM	I put my yard waste can out every week, but it doesn't get picked up very often, why not??
79	Apr 17, 2017 10:49 PM	I'm soooo glad you are considering this!
80	Apr 17, 2017 10:23 PM	You should contact GreenLynx.net about reclaiming usable lumber from the waste stream.

SCWMA RFP for Organic Materials Processing Services
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Number	Response Date	Response Text
81	Apr 17, 2017 10:13 PM	SoCo should interview/visit other counties/states where this has been done successfully. RFP should not be lowest cost but should be 'best value/cost basis' and in addition to focus on producing quality compost also to incentivize a reduction of waste, training for those who create waste as well as those who use it (a communications program and recommendations to county policy makers to enforce desired practices), facilitate jobs in SoCo, with transition schedule/plan/ strategy from landfills...
82	Apr 17, 2017 10:11 PM	Yes, please we need a commercial facility in sonoma county. As a progressive county in CA, need to put our \$ where our mouth is. Preferably a facility that will accept containers and such so people can stop eating off or petroleum plastic containers gross!!
83	Apr 17, 2017 9:52 PM	We should ideally have a facility (or multiple) that can process as much 'compostable' material as we produce in our county. This should include all types of yard and food waste, as well as compostable packaging. This way, we can reduce material sent to landfills and also produce compost for use in this rich, agricultural region.
84	Apr 17, 2017 9:41 PM	Important to do this and get it done soon. Keep it up!
85	Apr 17, 2017 9:40 PM	I think this is a much needed service and I'm really excited to see this announcement. I think resources will need to be spent for education on composting so the public can effectively sort their trash. This would be a great opportunity to teach more about how and what to recycle as well.
86	Apr 17, 2017 9:40 PM	A positive about vermicompost is that it doesn't smell.
87	Apr 17, 2017 9:38 PM	We need local commercial composting!
88	Apr 17, 2017 9:35 PM	Unable to attend these important meetings. Would like to be added to distribution list: m
89	Apr 17, 2017 9:33 PM	We need to have locally produced compost in Sonoma County again!
90	Apr 16, 2017 6:30 PM	To provide high-quality product for compost users in Sonoma County. I do not think any of the above priorities are more important than the other, but I have numbered them in the order I think practical to implement.
91	Apr 14, 2017 7:41 PM	Yeoman's work. Thank you for being persistent.
92	Apr 14, 2017 4:08 PM	the loss of Sonoma Compost is felt every day, which was our SC big component of keeping local our support of building healthy soil. Organic compost is now a difficult to find and expensive. what we had at the Mechum dump was a great loss felt by gardeners and agriculture. a similar model, SC Compost, would be highly desirable.

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Number	Response Date	Response Text
93	Apr 14, 2017 3:03 AM	With over 27,000 horses in the county, we need a place to properly dispose of manure at a reasonable or zero cost!
94	Apr 14, 2017 2:54 AM	All the above! Run the whole program it like Sonoma Compost was operated at Meecham. They were an amazing, inspiring operation. Hire Will Bakx to plan, implement and run the whole who. No, I'm not an acquaintance or relative, but a HUGE fan of what he did!!!
95	Apr 13, 2017 3:42 PM	County & City members don't need additional energy. They need to divert material from their waste stream-land fill according to state goals and the agricultural community need quality compost for their operations.
96	Apr 13, 2017 3:30 PM	These priorities are not mutually exclusive. Clearly, the most important priority is to insure organics do not go to landfill, are properly process via digestion and composting and are returned to the soil for maintenance of soil quality and avoidance and sequestration of greenhouse gases. Sonoma County will NOT meet its GHG reduction goals without an active and ambitious soil carbon sequestration program, and compost is a critical component of any such program for Sonoma County.
97	Apr 13, 2017 5:14 AM	I would like for the focus to be on creating locally-made compost of high quality, and marketing and educating said compost to the broader community, to increase compost application on a landscape scale in Sonoma County.
98	Apr 13, 2017 2:05 AM	Sonoma is an agricultural county, we need to deal with our own compostable waste.



4/14/2017

Patrick Carter
Sonoma County Waste Management Agency
2300 County Center Dr. B100
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: RFP for Organics Processing

Dear Patrick,

The Compost Coalition of Sonoma County (Compost Coalition) is an ad hoc group representing a range of farming and agricultural interests, compost producers, environmental groups, and concerned citizens who have a unified interest in ceasing the outhaul of the county's green waste and food scrap resources, and the development of local infrastructure to produce quality finished products for use in restoring soil health in our local communities.

The Compost Coalition submits the following comments for consideration as the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA) proceeds with their Request for Proposal (RFP) process to identify one or more entities and processes that may ultimately develop new facilities and infrastructure to manage the county's organic stream.

It is understood and expected that any new or expanded facilities or projects will meet or exceed CalRecycle and CDFA Standards, including contamination, testing, and prohibition of land application.

In addition to meeting regulatory standards, the Compost Coalition would like the following to be incorporated into the RFP process and addressed by proposers:

Contamination

Minimal contamination in end product is important to end users.

What is the methodology for addressing dirty input materials?

End users are dependent on safe end products that will not damage valuable crops

Describe the testing protocol to be utilized to test for anti-germinating and persistent chemicals. What is the testing protocol, and to what degree of detail is testing conducted?

Resource Management

The Compost Coalition views the organics stream as a resource, and not as a waste management problem.

Please discuss your approach to managing this Sonoma County resource, and specifically how you will enhance, provide added value to end products, and minimize waste of the resource?

It is expected there will be no land application or use as alternative daily cover.

What is the plan for "overs" management?

Transportation

Current overhaul of material provides limited and expensive opportunities for local growers to obtain compost and mulches. In addition, keeping the processing local helps reduce greenhouse gases associated with transportation.

What is the transportation methodology for collection of materials, consolidation or transfer locations, and delivery to processing facilities?

What is the plan for delivery to end-users?

Consumer

A range of material types and qualities have typically been available in the County. At this time, there is an inadequate supply of quality materials to meet market demand.

Please describe the intended finished product line, including high and low nitrogen composts, types of mulch products and the projected quantities of each.

Maturity and stability of end products is important to end -users.

Describe your methodology for meeting consumer standards, and your adaptability to addressing consumer requirements?

What products will meet current organic certification standards?

What testing (and to what level of detail) will be conducted? Specifically, will products be tested for NPK and micro-organisms? Will those results be made available to the consumer?

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What public education will be conducted to educate the public and promote the use of finished products?

What access will end-users have to finished products? To deliver self-haul materials? Describe facility proximity for delivery and pickup.

Funding

What is the funding mechanism for the facility? Will the tipping fee cover processing costs?

How does end product sales factor into meeting operating costs?

Contract Flexibility

Technology and the regulatory environment are in a period of change. Describe how your project can provide flexibility under a long -term agreement include the flexibility to adapt to changing regulatory environment, and advancements in technology.

Capacity

Sonoma County's population and economy are growing. How much additional capacity will your proposed facility handle?

Energy

Energy usage at processing facility(ies).

What will be the net energy usage of the facility; energy consumption in the processing less the energy if any fuels produced.

Sincerely,

Leslie Lukacs
For Compost Coalition of Sonoma County
www.compostcoalitionsoco.org

I just saw the notice regarding a workshop for a new composting facility for Sonoma County.

I am unable to attend the meeting, but please address this issue and provide a response.

The current operator transports green waste outside the County. In an effort to deliberately cut down on the amount of green waste (which they are legally required to accept), they have changed their practices in the last two months.

In the past, (after the upper site closed) green waste was deposited on the floor of the Meacham shed facility, and moved by forklift to the truck. Now, we are not allowed to place the material on the ground, we are required to lift the green waste individually into a dumpster. This is almost impossible to do with material such as lawn clippings, tree branches, leaves or other green waste, and it is a deliberate attempt by the operator to reduce the amount of green waste they have to deal with.

This is wrong.

Please fix this problem, and please provide green waste and composting facilities in our LOCAL AREA. GO SONOMA BE LOCAL.