

Environmental Affairs Committee

Topics identified for potential
future work

.The Environmental Affairs Committee is charged with maintaining member's awareness of by-products and recycled materials proposed for use in fertilizers, soil amendments or conditioners, and the environmental concerns associated with them. This committee's goals are to develop and recommend guidelines that address the major concerns about by-products and recycled materials proposed for use. Another key role of this committee is to inform the AAPFCO membership about state and national legislation on nutrient management and to draft and update a model bill and rules that will guide agencies in developing nutrient management legislation.

.Recent committee work has focused on the development of Statement of Uniform Interpretation of Policy regarding Fertilizer Restrictions for Urban Landscapes and on updating the definition of compost to more accurately reflect currently accepted compost manufacturing practices and the science underpinning the composting process. In addition, presentations have been delivered at recent annual meetings on such topics as anaerobic digestion and nanotechnology in agriculture.

.To seek ideas on topics of interest and emerging issues for future meetings, and for **help in identifying areas that the committee should be working to address**. This is an opportunity to help set the course for the committee, and to ensure that it is responsive to the needs of its members.

.Identify issues, emerging technologies, or shifts in policy that are of interest or concern to you so that they can be addressed through this committee.

Nutrients

- .Nutrient pollution of waterways (e.g. algae blooms in Lake Erie, eutrophication of lakes, etc.).
- Direct (sewage treatment) vs. indirect [agricultural (urban?) runoff]
- Possible presentations and discussion of issue.

Nutrients Cont'd

.When everything is guaranteed at a minimum, and companies “over-formulate” to avoid testing under their guarantee, there is a potential concern related to N and P pollution that is not being addressed by the current consumer protection focus (make sure they get what they pay for) of most fertilizer regulatory programs. The whole “when is too much, too much?”

–Is under reporting of N or P content an issue for the industry; especially in states with water quality problems (most states don't require testing for baseline N-P-K, or other nutrient claims)

–Should testing for water-extractable P content be required for P fertilizers?

–Are upper tolerances required for:

- Nitrogen

- Phosphorous

- Micronutrients

Materials / Sources

- .Alternative sources of fertilizers being diverted from waste stream. Increased tipping fees, focus on waste reclamation over landfill, etc.
- Any problems / impacts from the stack scrubber gypsum products that are out and about now?
- Other sources of waste-derived nutrients (recycled batteries → micronutrients)