



MfE project to address the challenge of contaminants in organic waste material streams: Letter to Stakeholders

Tēnā koe,

The Ministry for the Environment has contracted experts from Eunomia Research & Consulting, Whetū Consultancy Group, and Massey University to examine issues of contaminants in organic waste. The project aims to understand and address the challenges posed by contaminants in our organic waste material streams in order to mitigate risks to soil, human and animal health and expand end markets for processed organic waste. The project outputs will build on existing knowledge and standards and provide clear action recommendations for addressing the contaminants challenge.

A key part of this project is engagement with stakeholders across the waste sector, including end users of processed organic waste products (compost, digestate and other soil amendment products, energy etc), processors of organic waste, waste generators (domestic and commercial), waste management service providers, regulators and certifying agencies. It also includes dedicated Māori engagement to understand and reflect te ao Māori perspectives on these issues as we seek to transition towards a circular economy.

The attached RFP document details the various aspects of the project and the connections of this work to our wider circular economy, waste minimisation and emissions reduction goals.

We seek your assistance/engagement with what is an important project for the Ministry. Your engagement and input will help us get the much needed and important diversity of perspectives but also an understanding of the varied challenges and opportunities when it comes to addressing the issue of contaminants in organic waste streams. It will help guide the Ministry's policy thinking on addressing contaminant organic waste streams and on updating existing guidelines and standards for processed organic waste.

We request you to engage with Eunomia (Duncan Wilson, Director) and Whetū Consultancy (Amy Whetu, Director), and Massey University (Dr Jonathon Hannon) as they go about setting up stakeholder conversations. We expect most of these to take place by phone or as virtual/online sessions.

It may not always be possible to have one-one-one conversations and interaction may be in the form of workshops that invite stakeholders in the organic waste sector to share their insights and experiences on the challenges and opportunities to make progress on this issue. The project team will do its best to ensure that no commercially sensitive topics will form part of any topics for discussion.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important work. If you have any further questions, please contact Harshal Chitale (Harshal.Chitale@mfe.govt.nz) or Duncan Wilson (duncan@eunomia-consulting.co.nz).

Please contact MfE if you have any questions using the details below.

Ngā mihi,

Harshal Chitale
Principal Economist
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao