

Pope Douglas Solid Waste Management Collaborates with Organix Solutions Bringing Organics Recycling to Rural Minnesota
Thursday, January 31, 2019
NERC - Northeast Recycling Council

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In July 2018, Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management, a multi-faceted and comprehensive waste and recycling operation located in Alexandria, Minnesota, spearheaded a new Green Bag Organix™ program in the rural Minnesota communities of Glenwood, Osakis and Elbow Lake.



The municipal organics recycling program rollout began with the City of Osakis and as the success of the program became apparent, more cities were excited to join. The participants receive educational materials to review prior to their 1-year supply of Green Bag Organix™ certified compostable bags. The bags and all educational materials ship directly to their homes, ensuring that they are prepared to implement the program in their household. Due to early education and additional outreach efforts, the contamination in the organics-filled compostable bags has remained low and participants are satisfied. Program success would not have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of the Pope Douglas Solid Waste Management leadership team and employees.

Organix Solutions has truly enjoyed getting to know the Pope/Douglas team and walking through the new processes that are required for sorting the Green Bag Organix™ compostable bags from the general trash at their facility.

Organix Solutions believes that the best organics recycling programs include hands-on assistance and training, reoccurring organics audits at the facility and ongoing education for residents to ensure success with the launch phase and program growth.

Currently serving 300 households, the organics program has already seen tremendous success in diverting approximately 9,000 pounds of organic waste. The average weight of the collected Green Bags is on par with the average 6-8 pounds of organic waste generated by most households each week.

Most importantly, the Green Bag Organix™ bags are specifically designed to not zipper or tear when punctured and have been able to withstand compression and punctures from curbside collection throughout Pope/Douglas' waste facility process. The organics-filled compostable bags are then sent to a local composting facility.

Organic waste is the single largest component in the municipal solid waste stream. Decomposition of organics in a landfill produces methane, a greenhouse gas 20 times more

