

Food for Thought:

The idea of establishing a similar operation to support Southeastern Arizona appears to be a fit with ADEQ’s SWIFR focus, specifically Wasted Food. This could become a model hub and spoke program for the county. It also dovetails with ADEQ’s focus on Local Circular Solutions to “concentrate on developing local end markets so materials can stay in the different regions and not be transported hundreds of miles away”.

Key Factors:

- Sierra Vista maintains a 640-acre Environmental Operations Park.
- Similar to Phoenix, Sierra Vista has a Green Waste program.
- This could create an interesting dynamic with Bisbee, e.g. Bisbee processes glass in exchange for food waste processed in Sierra Vista. Similar to Arizona Worm Farm, bi-products could benefit all county residents.
- This operation could be managed by the City of Sierra Vista or could become a model ‘partnership’ between a 501c3 and the City.
 - This does not violate the non-compete with Recyclops.
- Creates green jobs in Sierra Vista
- Once established, the income streams could hopefully cover the cost to offer free drop-off recycling to the 100,000 people who shop in Sierra Vista’s thriving business district.
- The success of this approach could influence future housing subdivision designs, encouraging homeowners to recycle food waste on site.
- This approach seems to dovetail with ADEQ’s Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and the EPA SWIFR grant program, based on Karen’s e-mail communication with Joseph Shaw. Specifically, “wasted food” and Joseph’s/ADEQ’s emphasis on creating a hub and spoke system in Cochise County.
- While the ESC awaits early 2025 results from the Recycling Survey, the Poynters would enjoy working with interested parties in Sierra Vista and the rest of Cochise County to thoroughly investigate the potential of this idea, including a tour of Arizona Worm Farm.

Monday, October 21, 2024 at 14:39:19 Mountain Standard Time

Subject: FW: SWIFR grant

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 13:00:53 Mountain Standard Time

From: Karen LeMay

To: Clyde & Joelle

Hi Joelle,

Here is a reply to my email to ADEQ about the EPA SWIFR grant they received.

I've blind copied Sharon and the other commissioners.

Karen

From: shaw.joseph@azdeq.gov <shaw.joseph@azdeq.gov> **On Behalf Of** Recycling - AZDEQ

Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 7:44 AM

To: Karen LeMay <azkai2023@gmail.com>

Cc: Roberto Shapiro Heredia <heredia.roberto@azdeq.gov>; Aaron Tews <tews.aaron@azdeq.gov>

Subject: Re: SWIFR grant

Hi Karen!

Thank you for reaching out! I'm happy to learn of the Environmental Stewardship Commission in Sierra Vista! Sierra Vista was a big recycler when I first started 12 years ago and it was sad to have to see them let that go. Several of our rural communities had that challenge, but some are starting to build recycling back into their programs!

ADEQ hosted public input meetings in June 2024 and also had a public comment portal open to collect comments on the most challenging materials for our different regions of Arizona to guide the development of the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). We found that 7 material streams were the most challenging, so we will be addressing tires, household hazardous waste (HHW), plastics, wasted food, e-waste, textiles and construction & demolition as the main categories in our SWMP.

ADEQ also plans to address recycling programs to help increase access to recycling especially in rural areas. We have been working with Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University for a few years now to develop resources that will help move more regions in Arizona towards a hub and spoke recycling system. Currently in your county, Bisbee is the only municipality recycling and we've worked with them over the last few years to see how we could create a hub and spoke system in Cochise County. We also want to concentrate on developing local end markets so materials can stay in the different

regions and not be transported hundreds of miles away.

LOCAL CIRCULAR
SOLUTIONS (LCS)

We have moved out our schedule for the upcoming November meetings and are planning to have industry specific workshops for the 7 material streams I mentioned. Then we will bring our developed SWMP to everyone again in a public input meeting to get any last thoughts. I've included Roberto Heredia from ADEQ who is managing the SWMP development in case he has more to add on the timeline and I also included your local ADEQ Community Liaison, Aaron Tews, who you may already know.

We're happy to get on a call at some point if you have more questions or would like to talk more about the hub and spoke work we're doing!

Have a great day!!!

On Wed, Oct 16, 2024 at 6:27 PM Karen LeMay <azkal2023@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello.

I am a member of the City of Sierra Vista's Environmental Stewardship Commission (in Cochise County). This commission is working on bringing back recycling to our community and we just learned about ADEQ's award of the EPA SWIFR grant.

Would you please send me any information on this grant and the November meetings for development of the ISWMMMP? Our small community does not want to reinvent the wheel!

Thank you,

Karen LeMay
Commissioner, Sierra Vista Environmental Stewardship Commission

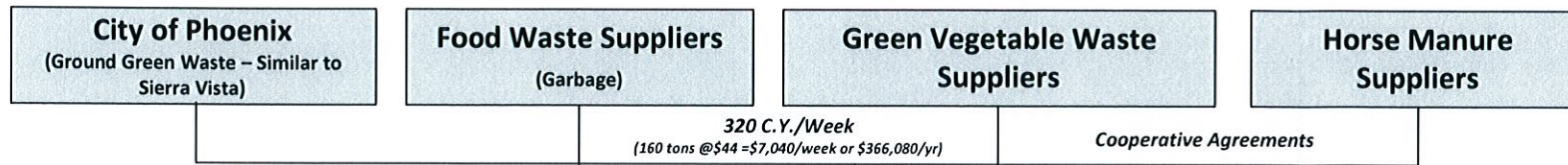
Email: azkal2023@gmail.com

J.B. Shaw

Recycling Coordinator

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 W. Washington St., #160

8/30/24



Cooperative Agreements

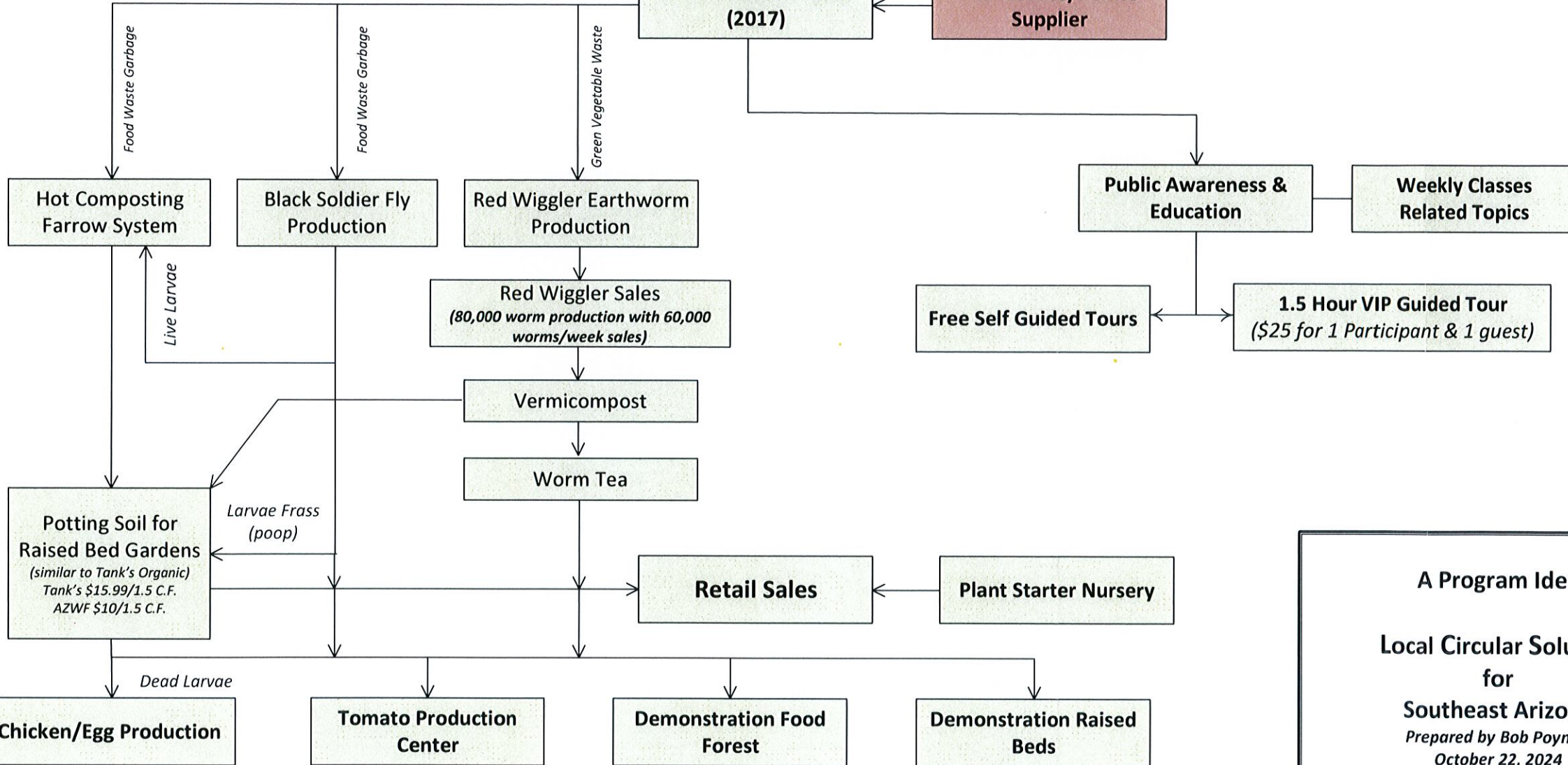
320 C.Y./Week
(160 tons @ \$44 = \$7,040/week or \$366,080/yr)

Cooperative Agreements

Diverted Waste Stream Flows

Arizona Worm Farm (2017)

Vermiculite/Perlite Supplier



Food Source For Needy/Homeless Shelters??

A Program Idea

Local Circular Solution
for
Southeast Arizona

*Prepared by Bob Poynter
October 22, 2024*