

# COMPOSTING CAPACITY IN WASHINGTON STATE

Expanding Programs, Static Composting Capacity

# WHAT DO FRUIT STICKERS HAVE TO DO WITH CAPACITY???



# PROCESSING AND/OR SITE CAPACITY

- Updated 173-350 gave us new terms, but the definition stayed the same:
- “Processing Capacity (*formerly “through put”*) means the amount of incoming material in tons or cubic yards that a solid waste facility can process in a given amount of time, such as a calendar year. ...”
- “Site Capacity means the maximum amount of all material that can be contained on-site at any one time. ... All materials include, but are not limited to, incoming waste, feedstocks, bulking agents, stockpiled waste, active composting, curing piles, composted materials and sorted recyclable materials on-site.”

# WHY COMPOSTERS NEED TO PAY ATTENTION TO CAPACITY

- Efforts on many levels to push more diversion of organics from the disposal stream
- Current infrastructure is being stretched *to capacity*
- Contamination is slowing momentum
- No new compost facilities projected
- Expansion of existing facilities getting more scrutiny



# WHAT CAN IMPACT CAPACITY?

- Mechanical failure
  - Machinery breaks down, but material continues to flow in.
- Contamination requires more processing, keeps finished compost from leaving the site

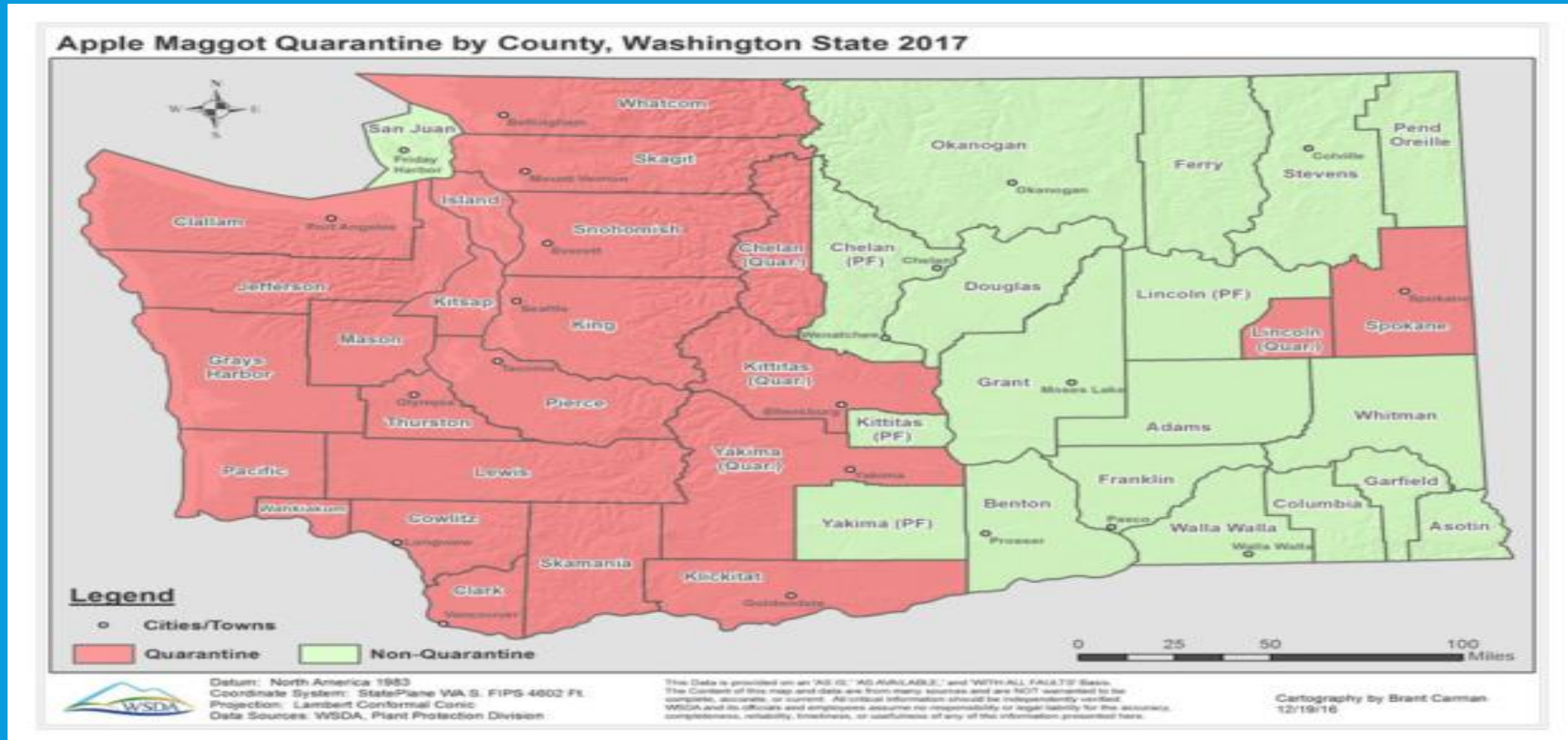


- New Rules like those related to Apple Maggot

# REDUCE CONTAMINATION

- Know what you are willing to accept: composters that make the determination on what they'll take tend to get fewer contaminants
- Develop a program to loop back to customers so they know when they are bad (and when they are good)
- Be willing to reject loads
- Segregate contaminated loads from 'clean' loads on the tip floor
- Charge the customer more to process contaminated loads

# APPLE MAGGOT QUARANTINE ZONE



# APPLE MAGGOT GOOD NEWS/ BAD NEWS

- The Good news:
  - There's no restriction on movement of organics in the pink zone
  - No restriction on the movement of finished compost
  - Most organics are produced in the pink zone
  - More composters in the pink zone than in the green zone
  - Commercial organics are safe to move into green zone
- The Bad news:
  - Apple Maggot may be the tip of the WSDA iceberg
  - Very difficult to site new compost facilities in Eastern WA
  - More expensive to make compost on the Westside and ship it to the Eastside



# FOLLOW THE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY

- The push for diverting organics from the waste stream focuses on the top management priorities



# ON THE HORIZON: CAPACITY AS IT RELATES TO AIR QUALITY

- Possible requirement that larger compost facilities purchase a Title V permit
- Solid Waste Management Program lead by John Cleary working to get emission information specific to WA facilities

# KNOW YOUR MARKET OPTIONS

- Have well developed options for finished compost or other products