

Compost Rule Change UPDATE

In response to the Compost Regulatory Report completed by FORCE last year, the DEP held a workshop to discuss the potential for rewriting Rule 62-709, which regulates Florida's composting industry.

At the Composting Rule 62-709 Workshop, Kessler Consulting, Inc., FORCE, and the Recycle Florida Today Organics Committee presented varying research and industry organics feedback to support the decision to rewrite Florida's compost regulations.

A variety of public and private sector organizations attended the May 9, 2007 workshop. As a follow-up to the May workshop, the DEP created a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to help the DEP begin the regulatory process to rewrite the Florida compost rule.

At this time, the rule rewrite will not be a comprehensive one, but will allow for a change of language to make the permitting process for the composting of yard waste, food waste, and agricultural waste much simpler.

The current rules deters both the private and public sectors from composting these materials by requiring them to obtain full blown permits, which is costly and time consuming. The entire TAG process is estimated to last about 6 months.

NEXT TAG MEETING: November 6, 2007

**LET FORCE BE YOUR VOICE ON THE TAG.
SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK AND WE'LL
MAKE SURE YOU ARE REPRESENTED AT
THE MEETING!**

For more information contact Francine Joyal with the DEP at: Francine.Joyal@dep.state.fl.us

US Composting Council Affirms Safety of Compost

Recently, several food distributors have indicated that they will not accept produce grown in soils amended with compost because they are worried about potential contamination with *E. Coli*. O157:H7. This reaction is neither logical nor supported by the facts and conditions. First, no evidence exists that links compost to the recent *E. Coli*. outbreaks. Furthermore, compost products are manufactured under conditions that are known to kill pathogens, including *E. Coli*. O157:H7. Also, mature compost is a medium that is not conducive to the growth of pathogenic organisms. Most importantly, compost provides many environmental benefits to the plants and soils that ultimately improve food safety. The US Composting Council believes that to stop using compost or to stop buying food grown in compost is a short-sighted reaction to a difficult situation that will further impair vegetable production, food quality, and food safety.

Compost is not one product but a class of products made from a great variety of ingredients and by many methods. Fundamentally however, composting is a natural, biological treatment process, which exposes organic materials (like yard trimmings, manure, and agricultural residues) to high temperatures and results in a stable, useable product with numerous benefits. The ingredients in part determine the potential for pathogens but the high temperatures and competitive activity of the composting process effectively destroy pathogens regardless of the ingredients.



US COMPOSTING
COUNCIL

For entire press release:

http://www.compostingcouncil.org/pdf/USCC_e_coli_PR.pdf



RECYCLE FLORIDA TODAY ORGANICS COMMITTEE



The Organics Committee participates in and supports many workshops and events specifically targeted towards organics recycling. Previously known as the Florida Organics Recyclers Association (FORA), this RFT committee is recognized as a leader in organics recycling in the State of Florida. They are continually working with FORCE to promote workshops in state-of-the-art projects that benefit both the private and public sector as well as being a big supporter of continuing education in the organics field.

The Organics Committee's Mission and Purpose is to:

Foster high standards and ethics in the business of recycling and reusing organic materials to assure safe production and beneficial use of compost, mulch and other recycled organic materials.

Serve as a unified voice on important issues related to organics recycling by providing a forum for organics recyclers from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to mutually discuss and resolve organics recycling issues.

Inform and educate the public, governmental and business community of the economic significance associated with organics recycling.

Encourage research and educational dissemination of organic recycling information and to assist in development of markets for mulch, compost and other organic materials.

Work in conjunction with state agencies assisting in the development, promulgation, implementation, and enforcement of rules and regulation related to recycling and reuse of organic materials.

To get involved with RFT's Organics Committee plan to attend the RFT Issues Forum to be held in St. Augustine, Florida on January 24 - 25, 2008.

For more information contact:
Chris Snow, RFT Organics Committee Chair
snowc@hillsboroughcounty.org

US Composting Council's 16th Annual Conference and Tradeshow - 2008

The USCC's Annual Conference & Trade Show is the Composting and Organics Recycling Industry's premiere event, providing industry professionals with educational, networking, and career advancement opportunities.

From February 9 – 12, 2008, the US Composting Council will be hosting the 16th Annual National Composting Conference and Exposition. During this time, the Marriott, Oakland City Center, Oakland, California, will attract the largest group of composting and organics professionals in the country to participate in a comprehensive program of workshops, training courses, and educational and technical sessions designed specifically to provide you with the information needed to solve your composting challenges.

WHEN: February 9 – 12, 2008

WHERE: Oakland City Center Marriott,
Oakland, CA

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
<http://www.compostingcouncil.org/section.cfm?id=12>

**For more information on FORCE or organics recycling
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