

A Look Back Over 4 Years

In 2000, the Florida Legislature appropriated \$3.5 million to be utilized over five years from March 2001 to March 2006 for the funding of the Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE). FORCE is located at the Sumter County Solid Waste, Recycling, and Composting Facility. The primary objective of FORCE was to establish a Florida Center to centralize and streamline organics processing, marketing, education, research, and demonstration through one organization in Florida for an integrated, statewide impact to the organics industry. In this issue of **ForceMatters** we will look at some of the ways FORCE has achieved this goal.

40 Acre Demonstration Farm



FORCE recently upgraded to a Netafim USA irrigation system for its 40-acre demonstration farm. The advantages of the Netafim system include: a self cleaning dripper, a techline dripper line (which delivers precise amounts of water to the root zones), a more economical cost, and the system does not require one to manually insert the 2450 drip lines that will be stretching across the site. This new system will help improve the research activity being performed on current and future grant demonstration projects on the farm, including Dr. Rockwood's (UF/IFAS) current forestry project.



The Newly Installed Netafim USA Irrigation System

TAG What? SAC Who?

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is comprised of Florida businesses and public sector representatives with many diverse backgrounds and high expertise in their fields. The TAG meets annually to provide feedback to the FORCE executive staff on topics specific to their respective industries.

TAG member include representatives from the biosolids, citrus, forestry, golf, horticultural, poultry, and sod industries, the Departments of Solid and Hazardous Waste and Transportation, and private and public sector organic processors. The strength of the TAG comes from the diverse backgrounds of its members.

In addition to the TAG, FORCE also created a Scientific Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC was created to establish environmental parameters for the major issues and concerns with compost production and use. These experts have backgrounds in heavy metals, bioavailability, potential organic contaminants, microbial flora, and the composting process.

The contractual requirements of the SAC were:

- To recommend environmental testing of feedstocks and products to UF/IFAS.
- To consult established standards, including those set for drinking water, and the parameters listed in the EPA CFR Part 258, Appendices I and II.
- To consult other appropriate data and then designate the parameters and types of analyses for those environmental measures judged to be important to the feedstocks and products.

To read the Environmental Testing Protocol developed by the SAC, please visit:

<http://www.floridaforce.org/advisory.cfm>



OUTREACH FOCUS

New FORCE Website—Now Online

FORCE is proud to let you know that as of March 31, 2005 the newly revised FORCE site is now online at www.floridaforce.org.

The site has been completely overhauled to make it the most comprehensive and user-friendly Florida organics recycling site on the net. The purpose of the website is to provide up-to-date information to the **private and public sector organics industry, regulators, and the agricultural community**. It was designed to address the needs of three target sectors: organics feedstock generators, organics processing facilities, and end-users of organic products. The following provides just a sampling of the items you will find on the site:

- An Organics Recycling Technology Database
- A Searchable Organics Bibliography
- Information on Current and Past Research and Demonstration Grant Projects
- Several Searchable Organics End-User Directories
- A Comprehensive List of Florida Compost Regulations
- A List of Quality Assurance Compost Laboratories
- Past FORCE Annual Reports and Operating Plans
- Several Educational and Outreach Materials
- A List of Compost Processing Facilities

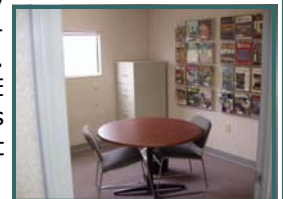
Visit www.floridaforce.org Today!



FORCE Library—Now Open

During the past year, a comprehensive Organics Recycling Technology Library was created in the FORCE office. The goal of this library is to house a statewide composting education and resource center, in which the public and private Industries can research organics technologies, processes, and vendors.

The library contains many brochures, CDs, videos, etc. that were received from the Organics Technology Vendor Survey conducted by FORCE throughout the past couple of years. Also included in the FORCE library are the last two years of BioCycle© and Compost Science© magazines!



Technology Demonstration Event

Due to the presence of other industry related conferences it was decided that the FORCE-RFT Technology Demonstration Event, originally scheduled for April 27-28, 2005, should be postponed. FORCE and RFT have decided to reschedule the Event for this coming winter and plan to add a full day organics recovery workshop to the event schedule.

Stay tuned for further information.

Educational Materials Available

Some of the Educational Materials available on the newly revised FORCE website include:

- An Erosion and Sediment Control Guide
- Past ForceMatters Newsletters
- A Tips of the Trade Guide for Marketing Organics in Florida
- A Guide outlining the Benefits of Using Compost in Florida
- Compost Testing Laboratory Options Chart

For more information on FORCE or organics recycling in Florida, please call/visit/email:

1-800-566-4413 or 352-793-8775

Fax: 352-793-4505

Email Stacie Stokes: [sstokes@scpw.org](mailto:ssstokes@scpw.org)

Website: www.floridaforce.org