

## FORCE RESOLUTION

The accomplishments of FORCE, Sumter County, and our project participants have been recognized by the State of Florida with Senate Resolution No. 2760, which was presented to the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners on July 26, 2005. Drafted by State Senator Paula Dockery and adopted by the Florida Senate, the resolution commends the Sumter County Commission for outstanding efforts to reduce solid waste and improve soil and groundwater in the state, through FORCE.

**Congratulations!**



State Senator Paula Dockery presents the FORCE Resolution to the Board of County Commissioners

## 14th Annual USCC Conference and Tradeshow

The U.S. Composting Council will hold its 14th annual conference and tradeshow at the Park Plaza Hotel, in New Orleans, on January 22-26, 2006. The conference is open to all interested individuals and there are still opportunities to become an exhibitor or sponsor.



For more information on registration or becoming an exhibitor visit:  
[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)  
or call (631) 737-4931

## Efforts Underway to Recover Reusable Tsunami Debris

While the tsunami that hit the Indian Ocean last December has come and gone, the effects of the storm are still being felt. In Banda Aceh alone, residents are dealing with more than 13 million cubic yards of debris.

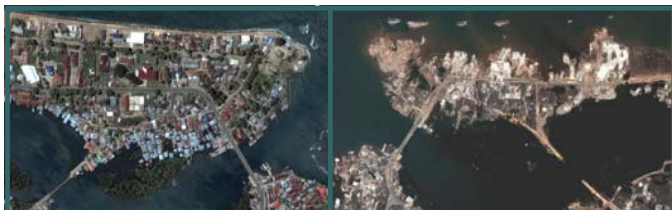
In an effort to manage this debris, the United Nations Development Program initiated a recovery program that will eventually employ up to 30,000 people. In addition to providing employment to those unemployed by the storm, the Recovery Program will also provide vaccinations, clothing, and health and safety training to its employees.

The Recovery Program will target plastics and metals for recycling, organic waste for composting, concrete and stone (crushed) for use in future construction, as well as other reusable materials. The compost produced by the Program will be used to fill areas eroded by the storm.

For more information about this recovery program please visit the UNDP website at:

<http://www.undp.org/tsunami/indonesia.htm>

Article Source: <http://www.undp.org/tsunami/indonesia.htm>



Before and After Pictures of the Devastation



Some of the Various Types of Debris to be Recovered



### Group Seeks Uniform Legislation and Regulation of Compost

The Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) is an organization of fertilizer control officials from each state in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico; who are actively engaged in the administration of fertilizer laws and regulations.

As most of you are aware, at the current time it is very difficult for compost producers to make claims as to the benefits of their product or the nutrients levels contained therein. AAPFCO, with assistance from the U.S. Composting Council, is working hard to change all that.

They have been working with the Uniform Bills Committee for several years to develop a uniform regulation, pertaining to the sale of compost. The development of this new language, which would be added to the Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, would allow for both soil amending and nutrient claims to be made about the compost. The draft language, has been approved by the AAPFCO board and will be voted upon by the entire association this month.

AAPFCO is also creating a list of scientifically verified compost benefits that could be used by compost producers nation-wide. The acceptance of these benefits, or labeling claims, would reduce the negotiation phase that composters must undergo when trying to have their product labeled for end use.

The following 13 compost benefits, which have been approved by the Environmental Affairs Committee of AAPFCO, represent a **minimum** list of allowable product claims. This list may also be added to by manufacturers with verifiable research data.

For more information on AAPFCO and the progress of the Uniform State Fertilizer Bill please visit: <http://www.aapfco.org/>

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### Verified Benefits of Compost Utilization

1. Improves soil structure and porosity – creating a better plant root environment.
2. Increases moisture infiltration and permeability, and reduces bulk density of heavy soils – improving moisture infiltration rates and reducing erosion and runoff.
3. Improves the moisture holding capacity of light soils – reducing water loss and nutrient leaching, and improving moisture retention.
4. Improves the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of soils – improving their ability to retain nutrients for plant use.
5. Supplies organic matter.
6. Aids the proliferation of beneficial microbes.
7. Supplies beneficial microorganisms to soils and growing media.
8. Encourages vigorous root growth.
9. Allows plants to more effectively utilize nutrients, while reducing nutrient loss by leaching.
10. Enables soils to retain nutrients longer.
11. Contains humus – assisting in soil aggregation and making nutrients more available for plant uptake.
12. Buffers soil pH.
13. Binds and degrades specific pollutants.

For more information on FORCE please contact Stacie Stokes at:

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