

FORCE Technology Demonstration Event

On January 25th & 26th FORCE conducted an evaluation and public demonstration of equipment that separates plastic bags from compost and yard waste. The event was funded by the Florida Department of Transportation as part of a larger project to increase beneficial use of yard waste and vegetative storm debris. On the 25th more than 40 waste industry professionals from the public and private sector were on site at the Seminole County Yard Waste Processing Facility to watch as two different vendors demonstrated their equipment:

1) Komptech Multistar L3 – star screens separate ground yard waste into three fractions (fine, medium, and coarse texture) and removes plastics using air vacuums from the medium and coarse fraction.

2) Airlift Separator – mounts on the discharge conveyor of a screening plant and removes plastics using an air vacuum from the screen “overs” or coarse fraction.

Over the course of two days, equipment performance was measured to determine throughput and separation efficiency. The Airlift handled a screen throughput of approximately 80 cubic yards per hour; and the screen “overs” still contained 2.7% plastic film by weight. The Komptech processed approximately 160 cubic yards per hour and produced fine, medium and coarse fractions with 0.2%, 0.4% and 2.1% plastic film by weight.

The demonstration event provided an excellent opportunity for many in the Florida organics industry to observe two mechanical systems that have been used elsewhere to effectively remove plastic bag contamination. However, both pieces of equipment were challenged by plastic bag fragments tangled in the coarse and stringy yard waste, which is typical in Florida.

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New FORCE Specialist

FORCE would like to take a moment to introduce Christie Revenaugh, our new FORCE specialist. Christie will be taking over for Stacie Stokes, who will resume her previous position with Sumter County Solid Waste. Special thanks to Stacie for all of her work over the last few years and welcome aboard Christie!



Christie Revenaugh

DEP/ORGANIC RECYCLERS REGULATORY REVIEW MEETING

The DEP is holding a open meeting in Orlando to discuss organics recycling and regulatory issues. As DEP potentially proceeds with revisions to 62-709, the Compost Rule; we need to work with DEP to change the provisions of 62-709 that negatively impact our industry, and ensure that those provisions that help our industry remain. Your attendance in this meeting is requested and important. This discussion will allow you the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to the DEP.

Date: May 9, 2007

Time: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: Orange County Public Library
Albertson Room
101 East Central Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 32801
(407) 835-7481



Airlift Separator: AL200D



Airlift - Plastic removed and contained in discharge sock



Komptech: Multistar L3 - Star Screen with Air Classifier



Komptech - End result (medium fraction) after processing fresh ground feedstock

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The character of the material makes plastic film separation extremely difficult and slow, even when being sorted by hand. Future evaluations should focus on 1) the economic and political implications of prohibiting plastic bags from yard waste collection, and 2) more expensive processing systems that may be able to effectively remove plastic bags (e.g. low-speed shear shredder and two-stage screening).

As a result of this event, several attendees arranged for further demonstration and evaluation of the equipment at their own sites.

Photos from this event above

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

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