

## **FORCE Seeks Year Seven Extension**

FORCE is currently seeking FDEP approval to extend the FORCE project for a seventh year. If approval is granted, Year 7 activities will focus on the following items:

- Yard Trash and Commercial Organic Waste Composting Demonstration - This project would involve doing low technology composting at the Sumter County facility with yard trash and some other nitrogen sources yet to be identified like possibly food waste, manure or biosolids. This project will not use the digesters but will focus on using windrows in the pole barn area near the digesters.



- FORCE Website - The website will continue to be updated with valuable and relevant information for the Florida organics industry.
- Sumter County Compost for Forestry Crops - This is the University of Florida's Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences project, conducted by Dr. Don Rockwood using compost to grow trees. This will be the third year of the project which continues to produce good data for compost applications.
- Other projects for year seven may include an Environmental Assessment of Products Derived from Florida Yard Trash.

## **Two New FORCE Reports Now Available on the Website**

There are two new reports, prepared by Kessler Consulting, Inc., available on the FORCE website this quarter. Visit the Florida Organics Regulations page of [www.floridaforce.org](http://www.floridaforce.org) to download these newly completed final reports.

### Final Composting Regulatory Report

This report compares the organics regulations from several states to provide an analysis of Florida's solid waste regulations for organics recycling facilities and recommendations to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). It is hoped that this report will 1) support the conclusion that Florida's organics recycling regulations need to be updated, 2) help FDEP establish a schedule for revising the compost regulations; and 3) provide useful information during a potential, future regulatory revision process.

Ultimately, the information in this report will provide comparative information to help revise Florida composting regulations that further enhance diversion and proper management of organic wastes and encourage growth and diversification of the organics recycling industry in Florida.

A workshop is expected to be held in 2007 to discuss Florida's organics regulations and next steps.

### Feedstock Composting Project Final Report

As part of its Year 5 Operating Plan, the Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE) completed composting trials at the Sumter County Solid Waste Composting Facility. The purpose of the Year 5 Organic Feedstock Project was to evaluate various organic feedstocks that could be added to the composting operations at the Facility. These trials were performed in the Sumter County digester and on the finishing building floor. Please download the report for more information on the types and results of the feedstocks and additives tested.



### Florida BMP's and Opportunities to Enhance Compost/Mulch Markets

Many Florida government agencies have developed Best Management Practices (BMPs) for a broad range of activities such as agriculture, construction, bioremediation, environmental control, and xeriscaping. The goal of this project was to identify opportunities to enhance compost and mulch markets through BMPs. This was done by researching state agency BMPs that may or may not contain organics (compost/mulch) language.

Once identified, FORCE created a listing to keep track of the BMP research results. The listing details the agency from which the BMP came from as well as the publication date, and the author/organization responsible for writing the manual. It notes the BMP title accompanied by a web link to locate the BMP on corresponding agency websites. Finally, it provides a column that states whether or not the BMP listed contains organics practices.

The spreadsheet is organized in alphabetical order according to agency, allowing BMPs to be grouped together by subject matter and/or agency.

To view the listing of State Agency BMPs please visit the FORCE website at:

[www.floridaforce.org](http://www.floridaforce.org)



### City of Tallahassee Water Efficiency Project

FORCE is in the process of awarding a \$15,000 grant to the City of Tallahassee to help it secure the water efficiency points needed to obtain LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certification for their Solid Waste Services building, which is being renovated as the City's first green building. These LEED points include the use of organic material, xeriscaping with native vegetation and no use irrigation to conserve water.



### UF/IFAS Local Extension Equipment Demonstration Utilizing the Earth Tub System

The Sumter County Extension Service recently completed a series of field trials at the Sumter County Youth Center utilizing a small-scale composting vessel, known as the Earth Tub. Compostable organic materials were collected by local volunteer groups to serve as the feedstock for the field tests. Testing was conducted to determine the effectiveness of the Earth Tub composting vessel. The Earth Tub composting vessel was selected for this study by the Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE). Testing and data collection included: type and quantity of feedstock, elapsed time to compost various feedstock, and weekly temperature readings and compost analysis by a private laboratory.

To create awareness of the program and to provide educational opportunities, a composting informational kiosk was created to showcase composting techniques and the results of the Earth Tub demonstration. Children and adults will continue to learn about composting while visiting the Sumter County Youth Center and educational publications will soon be available for home, school, office or business applications. A Home Composting Brochure, which can be found on the education page of the FORCE website, was also created by the grant recipients.

### Environmental Assessment of Products Derived from Yard Trash

A three part research study has been underway to assess the potential for herbicide, pesticide, and heavy metal contamination in yard waste mulch and compost. The research assesses the issue of contamination from three perspectives: a review of existing published literature, an inventory and environmental assessment of herbicides and pesticides utilized in Florida, and lab analyses performed by major compost and mulch handlers in Florida. Research on this project is being performed and coordinated by Kessler Consulting and Dr. Aziz Shiralipour.



### - ARTICLE SPOTLIGHT -

#### San Francisco Marriott's Food Composting Program

By Glenn Hasek—Green Lodging News

SAN FRANCISCO—Turning food waste...into wine? In a roundabout way, that is what is happening to the composted food scraps and other items generated at the 1,498-room San Francisco Marriott hotel. Once hauled away by Golden Gate Recycling, the waste is taken to an organics composting facility where it is ground up, heated and converted to nutrient-rich mulch. Many vineyards in Napa Valley then use that mulch to help grow grapes.

The real story here is not the wine but the effort Randy Nelson and the other associates at the San Francisco Marriott have made to divert as much food waste from landfills as possible. In 2004, 500,000 pounds was compacted, hauled away, and then composted off site. In 2005, 750,000 pounds was diverted from the waste stream.

"Our goal is 1 million pounds a year," says Nelson, full-time recycling coordinator at the busy hotel that features multiple restaurants and cafeterias where food waste is generated.

For the entire story, please visit:

<http://www.greenlodgingnews.com/Content.aspx?id=181>

### USCC Conference in Orlando January 21-24, 2007

The U.S. Composting Council will be holding its 15th Annual Conference and Trade Show at the Wyndham Orlando Resort in Orlando, Florida on January 21-24, 2007.

The USCC's Annual Conference & Trade Show has become the Composting Industry's premiere event, providing industry professionals with educational, networking, and career advancement opportunities. The Annual Conference is now the largest composting conference and exhibition targeted for the composting, wood waste, and organics recycling industry in North America, and the only national composting conference and exhibition run by and for composting and organics recycling professionals.

For more information: [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

### Compost Training and Operator Workshops

Force has compiled a list of organics training and operator workshops, which is now available on the FORCE website. The list contains information on training courses and workshops held all over the country.

The information is intended to provide Florida's organics professionals with information on where to get training and certifications

Visit [www.floridaforce.org](http://www.floridaforce.org) today to view the list!

### Old Borrow Pit Now a Compost Products Site

A Thonotosassa site that was once a borrow pit is now being converted into a compost products site where residents can purchase organic compost. The term borrow pit is literal—meaning a pit from where material was borrowed. These pits will now be used to decompose yard waste into usable mulch. The operation will be run by Mother's Organics, Inc; which is in the process of obtaining its final permit from the FDEP.

