

RFT Recognizes Sumter County

Congratulations to Sumter County for receiving the 2004 *Recycle Florida Today's (RFT)* Rural County Recycling Award.

Chuck Jett, Superintendent of the Sumter County Solid Waste Facility, graciously accepted the award from RFT President, Gene Jones.



Sumter County has been composting organics since 1988 and began operating its first digester in 1997. The digester is one of the first of its kind in the U.S. that incorporates upfront processing of recyclables. The function of the digester is to accelerate the conversion of organic wastes into useful compost.

In March 2004, a second digester was purchased through Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE) and began operating after completing the state of Florida's permitting process.

In addition to processing the County's municipal solid waste, the new unit provides an opportunity for numerous organic demonstration projects to be performed by state and private researchers. Some of the demonstration projects are housed at the FORCE program site located at Sumter County Solid Waste Facility. For more information, please call FORCE at 1-800-566-4413.

E News Quarterly Update

FORCE Partners with UF on Zero Waste Project

Earlier this summer FORCE was contacted by Dr. Dave Newport, Director of the Office of Sustainability, at the University of Florida regarding FORCE's willingness to participate in a second season of UF's Zero Waste program.

This program focuses on capturing waste generated from the skyboxes at University of Florida home football games during the 2004 fall season. FORCE plans to return to the UF football stadium this fall to accept food waste, paper plates and napkins, PLA plastic cups and utensils generated from the many fans cheering the Gators on to what we hope will be a victorious season.



FORCE Under Construction: Golf Course and Golf Property Directory To further enhance marketing opportunities for organics recyclers, FORCE is completing a directory of Florida golf courses and golfing properties. More than 800 golf courses have been identified and data is being collected. For more information, call 1-800-566-4413.

Fall Compost Training Opportunity

PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION OF COMPOST IN FLORIDA TRAINING & TOUR OF SUMTER COUNTY MSW COMPOSTING FACILITY TOUR

FORCE, in conjunction with grant recipient Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton and Dr Nancy Roe, would like to invite you to the 2004 Composting School. This free workshop will include the following topics:

Composting biology and core principles, current Florida regulations, food waste regulation in USA, composting facilities in Florida, panel discussion Florida regulation, site safety, odor control, fire prevention, marketing, compost quality and testing.

CEU's, CCA's and SWANA CEU's provided.

Where: Sumter County Solid Waste Facility & Lake Sumter Community College
When: **September 15, 2004.**
How: Please RSVP by September 13, 2004 to:

Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton,
UF North Florida Research & Education Center
Southwest Florida Research and Education Center,
2686 State Road 29 North, Immokalee, FL 34143-9515
Tel: (239) 658-3400, Fax: (239) 658-3469
Ozores@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

*Got questions, suggestions or recommendations?
Please contact us at jbradshaw@earthlink.net*

What's New

FORCE Website: www.floridaforce.org

Coming Attractions: This fall the FORCE website will be undergoing a facelift. Efforts are currently underway to develop an easy access expanded website with search capabilities.

In addition to a fresh new look, the FORCE website enhancements will assist in achieving the goals of:

- Creating new interest and reaching a broader target audience
- Promoting the organics industry and the organization
- On-line seminar registration
- On-line response to questionnaires and database management
- Events announcements
- client information update programming
- E news and E brochures and
- Much, much more.....

For more information, call 1-800-566-4413

New Chair for the Organics Recycling Committee of RFT

FORCE welcomes new RFT Organics Recycling Committee Chair, Dr. Monica Ozores Hampton. Monica brings many years of composting experience and expertise to the Organics Committee and will be working towards enhancing communications and educational opportunities for the betterment of the Florida's organics recycling industry.

To accomplish this goal, Dr. Ozores Hampton is proposing that the Organics Recycling Committee meet quarterly to provide updates on: (a) Organics training and events throughout the state, (b) status of projects and grant opportunities, and (c) pertinent organic recycling information.

Dr. Ozores-Hampton can be reached at:
University of Florida/IFAS/SWFREC
2686 State Rd. 29 North
Immokalee, FL 34142-9515
Tel: (239)658-3400
Fax: (239)658-3469

FORCE FOCUS— Project Update

Intensive Production System for Turfgrass Utilizing MSW Compost Over Ground Cover

Research has shown that sod can be grown successfully using compost over woven landscape ground covering. Before commercial production can begin however, many questions need to be addressed.



FORCE grant recipient, Chuck Todd is focusing on developing a viable cropping system for turfgrass production that will conserve both water and

land. The project will also focus on the feasibility of small and medium-sized businesses using this system for commercially growing turf. The use of solid waste compost over a woven ground cover is intended to provide address these questions.



Chuck is currently growing five varieties of turf on his Webster project site.

To date, turf varieties are maturing at a rate much faster than field grown sod. Currently none of the turf plots are ready for harvesting. Soil and tissue samples have been used to develop a fertilizer program that is being monitored and adjusted as the season progresses. Irrigation requirements are being met and recorded.



Stay tuned for further updates in future **FORCE Site** Issues.

*Got questions, suggestions or recommendations?
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**National Science Foundation Supports
High School Students Visit to FORCE**

The Florida Center for Environmental Solutions, hosted by the University of Florida, initiated a groundbreaking pilot program to educate local area high school students and teachers in the area of phytoremediation and environmental chemistry.

The summer environmental enrichment program is a five week program for a maximum of 20 high school students. This program is funded by the National Science Foundation's *Partnerships for Innovation* (PFI) and offers motivated students a unique opportunity to participate in challenging and inspiring experiences and to stimulate interest in science related careers. In addition to a wide range of environmental topics, participants learned how trees are grown and used for phytoremediation.

On June 22, 2004 seventeen science students and teachers spent the day touring the Sumter County Solid Waste Facility and FORCE demonstration site. Following a tour of the Sumter County Solid Waste Facility, students visited the UF/FORCE Grant Project [Sumter County Compost for Forest Crops](#).



Under the direction of Dr. Don Rockwood, this three-year project addresses the need for environmentally sound, and economically feasible solutions for recycling and utilizing organics. Through research and demonstrations on forest tree responses to Sumter County compost, UF faculty will develop guidelines for compost use as well as provide estimations of the economic and environmental benefits of using compost.



During the second quarter of this year the forest crop project doubled in size through the planting of more than 2,000 trees in four cultural treatments. As part of their educational experience, students measured and recorded the progress of tree growth according to the four treatments. Students performed analyses on Eucalyptus species and provided an interpretation of their findings.

For more information on the Florida Center for Environmental Solutions and the summer Environmental Enrichment program please visit [http:// www.floridaenvironmentalcenter.org](http://www.floridaenvironmentalcenter.org) or contact Marcia Marwede at (352)392-6264.

**Organics Recycling
Links & Contacts**

FORCE
www.floridaforce.org

FDEP
www.dep.state.fl.us/waste//categories/solid_waste/pages/composting.htm

RecycleFlorida Today
www.recyclefloridatoday.org

Sumter County, Florida
www.scpw.org

United States Composting Council
www.compostingcouncil.org

University of Florida/IFAS
www.ifas.ufl.edu

Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)
www.swana.org

SWANA Sunshine Chapter
www.swanaflorida.org

Biocycle Magazine
www.jgpress.com

Florida Center for Solid and Hazardous Waste Management
www.floridacenter.org

For more information on the Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE) please call:

1-800-566-4413 or
352-793-8775
Fax: 352-793-4505

Email: jbradshaw@earthlink.net
Website: www.Floridaforce.org