

## FORCE Pre-Consumer Food and Yard Waste Composting Pilot Project Kicks-Off

FORCE is proud to announce that its second composting pilot officially kicked off in October 2010. This pilot project focuses on composting pre-consumer vegetative food waste from supermarkets and ground yard waste at a registered yard waste processing facility. Pre-consumer vegetative food waste is currently being collected from three Publix Supermarkets by Florida Refuse and being delivered and ultimately composted at the Polk County Landfill Yard Waste Facility. Kessler Consulting, Inc is managing the project and providing organics technical assistance to all project partners.

The goal of this project is to demonstrate proper design and operations, and help to promote diversion of this major source of food waste in Florida. Additionally, the purpose is to demonstrate what can be accomplished under the revised Chapter 62-709 F.A.C., that provides a registration process for source separated pre-consumer food waste composting. This project will ultimately serve as a model for governments and private enterprises seeking to implement cost-effective and environmentally-sound composting solutions in Florida.

Collection and composting activities are being closely monitored so that practical information regarding operational procedures; best practices; feedstock and compost quality; and economics can be shared with Florida's organic recycling community. This project will also serve double duty as a demonstration site for the Florida Compost Education and Training Course that will be offered by FORCE in January 2011. More information regarding the training course can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

### *On-Farm Composting Pilot*

The on-farm composting pilot has concluded as of November 2010. Final results are currently being compiled and analyzed, and will be featured in future issues of *ForceMatters* or on the FORCE website when available.



*Receiving of pre-consumer food waste from Publix*



*Mixing of pre-consumer food waste and yard waste*



*Constructed Pilot Piles*

### Free Florida Compost Training Course for Facility Operators

The FORCE Project Team has designed a Florida-specific training program for compost facility operators (e.g. public, private, farmers) or those who plan to compost under the new FDEP registration program.

The free course has been developed in partnership with SWANA International, while focusing on Florida's unique climate and organic wastes. Florida specific issues addressed include the physical characteristics of yard trash, vegetative food waste, and the impact of tropical climate on composting operations.

Major topics to be covered include:

- Florida revised regulations
- Feedstock characteristics and selection
- Materials handling
- Active composting
- Post-processing, monitoring, and testing
- Odor control
- Diagnosis and solutions for optimal composting
- Compost marketing and community relations

The free course will be offered as a combination of lecture, case studies, small group exercises, and peer-to-peer discussion. The program will include FORCE demonstration projects and field visits or videos.

The course will be held on the following dates and at these locations:

- **Polk County Waste Resource Mgmt Division**  
10 Environmental Loop S., Winter Haven, FL 33880  
January 6-7, 2011
- **Hillsborough County Extension Service**  
5339 S. CR 579, Seffner, FL 33584  
January 10-11, 2011
- **Tallahassee Community College**  
Center for Workforce Development  
444 Appleyard Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32304  
January 13-14, 2011

Preference will be given to operators of large scale composting facilities as described above. If you are interested in registering for this course, please click the following link and complete the online registration form <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Compost>. If you do not have access to the internet, or need additional information, please contact Maureen Schaefer at: 813-971-8333 or [mschaefer@kesconsult.com](mailto:mschaefer@kesconsult.com).

If your company or organization would like to be a sponsor for any of the site offerings, please contact Maureen Schaefer as instructed above.

### Okaloosa County Recycles 74% of Yard Waste

Okaloosa County, with technical assistance from Kessler Consulting, Inc., recently completed its FDEP innovative grant project with remarkable results! The objective of this grant project was to improve the value and marketability of ground yard waste and storm debris by removing contaminants such as plastic bags through innovative processing equipment, with the ultimate goal to recycle clean yard waste for beneficial use.

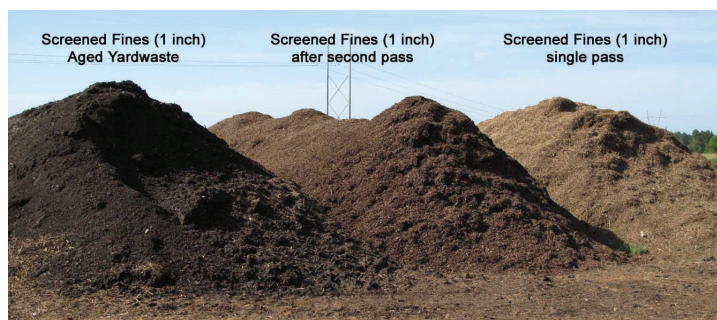


The fundamental backbone of this project was researching and leasing innovative processing equipment that effectively removes plastic bags from yard waste and storm debris. A public demonstration event was held to test and evaluate processing equipment. Three pieces of equipment were featured at the event including, Airlift Separator, Redox, and Doppstadt.

As a result of the demonstration event and evaluation, the Doppstadt 720 Trommel and Wind Sifter were leased and processed material. The equipment successfully processed a total of 2,800 cubic yards of aged fines and fresh yard waste. The total processed material product split for both aged and fresh yard waste resulted in 14 percent overs, 70 percent fines, and 16 percent separated plastics.

Extensive research was conducted to identify potential local and regional beneficial use markets, other than biomass or boiler fuel. As a result, 100 percent of the aged and fresh fines were recycled with the Florida Department of Transportation and Okaloosa County Parks, Road and Maintenance Departments. Both entities utilized the material in roadside maintenance projects for erosion control purposes. Approximately, 37 percent of the fresh overs were recycled for beneficial use in the GeoHay WoodWattle (erosion control sock).

In total, the County successfully recycled 74 percent of the total processed yard waste using the Doppstadt 720 Trommel and attached Wind Sifter to screen and separate plastic contaminants. The successful results of this project have provided the County with useful information for future compost and/or mulch processing operations.



### EPA CoEAT Tool Recently Released

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released the Co-Digestion Economic Analysis Tool (CoEAT). The tool assesses the initial economic feasibility of food waste, fats, oils, and great co-digestion at wastewater treatment plants for the purpose of biogas production. This tool is FREE to use and allows users to enter community-specific information to calculate the economics, environmental, and operational viability for food waste co-digestion system including:

- Fixed and recurring costs
- Solid waste diversion savings
- Capital investments
- Biogas production and associated energy value

CoEAT is designed for decision-makers with significant technical expertise in wastewater treatment and/or solid waste management, including municipal managers, engineers, and wastewater treatment plant managers.

This tool can be found at:

[www.epa.gov/region9/organics/coeat/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region9/organics/coeat/index.html)

### FDEP Organics Processing Facilities List Update

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has recently updated their yard waste processing facility list to include information on facility type (yard trash processing, manure blending, source-separated organics composting) and materials handled (yard trash, manure, animal by-products, pre-consumer vegetative, and vegetative). The list, which was updated as of September 27, 2010, is now called the Source-Separated Organics Processing Facilities Database. The updates were made to incorporate the recent revisions to Chapter 62-709, which allow owners and operators of source-separated processing facilities, that meet certain criteria, to register with the FDEP instead of obtaining a permit. There are currently 269 source-separated organics processing facilities in Florida.

To view the database, please follow this link:

[www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/solid\\_waste/pages/SOPF.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/solid_waste/pages/SOPF.htm)

### Notice to FL Recycling Coordinators

FORCE invites all Recycling Coordinators to include a link on their County or City web page that would direct their visitors to the FORCE website.

The FORCE website showcases valuable information and resources in support of organics recycling in Florida, and complements the work of Recycling Coordinators to encourage residential recycling.

The FORCE site primarily focuses on the commercial and agriculture organics recycling community, and will complement your compost information for the residential sector. It can serve as a natural extension of the education and outreach efforts that Recycling Coordinators make to achieve the success of their programs.

Please feel free to add the following link to your resources section or organics recycling section on your County or City website:

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

### Organics Rule Change Brochure Announcement

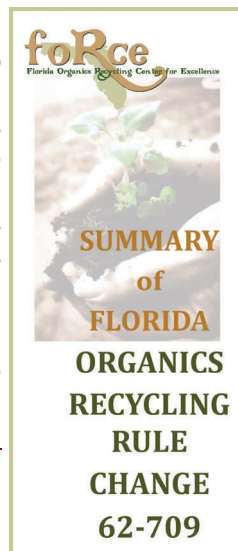
FORCE recently developed an informative brochure, which summarizes the recent changes to the Organics Recycling Rule 62-709. The newly revised organics recycling facility regulations were officially adopted on February 15, 2010. Please note that this brochure is a summary and does not describe all changes made in the regulations.

To view the brochure, please follow this link:

[www.floridaforce.org/educational-materials](http://www.floridaforce.org/educational-materials)

To view the complete Chapter 62-709 Rule, please follow this link:

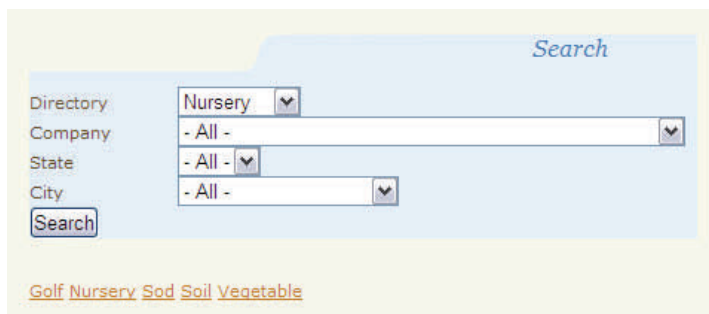
[www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick\\_topics/rules/default.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick_topics/rules/default.htm)



### FORCE Website Updated: End-User Directory

The FORCE project team recently reorganized the project website to provide easier navigation among the pages. The site now includes a new Home Page that directs visitors to newly uploaded information and resources, the latest news and upcoming events, and current FORCE projects. In addition, the team has updated the Vendor Directory to verify its accuracy. The team has updated the Nursery Directory and is actively engaged in updating the other End User Directories – Soil, Sod, and Vegetable producers.

If you, or someone you know, would like to be included in any of the Force Directories, please visit the **Contact FORCE** page on the FORCE website. And check the website periodically for new information, resources, and news: [www.floridaforce.org](http://www.floridaforce.org)



Snapshot of End-User Directory on the FORCE website

### FDEP Acknowledges USCC's STA Program

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) recently became the first environmental regulation agency in the United States to accept U.S. Composting Council (USCC) Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) participation for biosolids compost producers as an alternative to registration as a fertilizer. This represents significant cost savings and eliminates fertilizer tonnage reporting requirements for STA program participants in Florida. Darren Midlane, Harvest Quest International Director and Kessler Consulting Associate, stated that "this is a positive step for the state's composting industry as a whole."

Source: U.S. Composting Council

### Upcoming Events

#### FORCE Florida Compost Training Course - FREE

- Polk County Waste Resource Mgmt Division  
January 6-7, 2011
- Hillsborough County Extension Service  
January 10-11, 2011
- Tallahassee Community College  
January 13-14, 2011

Please see page 2 for registration details

#### RFT and SWANA Florida Joint Winter Conference and Issues Forum 2011

January 25-26, 2011

Doubletree Resort  
Orlando, Florida

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

#### U.S. Composting Council (USCC) 2011 Annual Conference

January 23-26, 2011

Hyatt Regency  
Santa Clara, California

[www.compostingcouncil.org/conference](http://www.compostingcouncil.org/conference)

#### SWANA Thinking Outside the Blue Box 2011

February 16-17, 2011

Crowne Plaza  
Los Angeles, California

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

#### Southeast Recycling Conference (SERC) 2011

March 6-9, 2011

Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa  
Destin, Florida

[www.southeastrecycling.com](http://www.southeastrecycling.com)

#### Residential Recycling Conference

March 29-31, 2011

Opryland Resort  
Nashville, Tennessee

[www.residentialrecyclingconference.com](http://www.residentialrecyclingconference.com)

#### BioCycle Global 2011 International Conference

April 11-14, 2011

Town & Country Resort  
San Diego, California

[www.biocycleglobal.com](http://www.biocycleglobal.com)

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

Phone: 1-800-566-4413

Email: [info@floridaforce.org](mailto:info@floridaforce.org)

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