

**Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE) – SW204
YEAR 6 QUARTERLY REPORT
For the Period Ending March 31, 2007**

1.0 DESIGN

1.1 Engineering, Planning, Construction, and Inspection: \$ 0.00

All necessary engineering work is continually reviewed by County and FORCE staff as well as Kessler Consulting, Inc. (KCI) to ensure proper planning and inspection of the FORCE site and relevant equipment as required by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Southwest office.

1.2 Plan Certification and Permitting: \$ 0.00

The following regulatory documents are continually reviewed to meet the local DEP permit requirements and deadlines to operate the digester purchased through FORCE. KCI is currently responsible for overseeing Sumter County Solid Waste staff, PBS&J, The Colinas Group, and Test America to meet deadlines and maintain proper communication with the DEP Tampa office if deadlines will be missed and why (e.g. hurricanes, broken rig equipment, etc.).

1. Composting Permit
2. MRF Permit
3. Model Consent Order

All of the Model Consent Order items have been completed. The County is awaiting word from the local DEP district office on its submitted Contamination Assessment Plan (CAP).

FORCE staff is currently in discussion with the DEP Tallahassee office regarding performing a yard and food waste demonstration project at the Sumter County composting facility in Year 7. The Tallahassee office is assisting the County with communication with the local district office in Tampa. A conference call was held in March between DEP Tallahassee and FORCE consulting staff regarding the direction for the project methodology, testing, and permitting work. PBS&J will be handling the engineering needs while Kessler Consulting, Inc. will prepare all the necessary supporting project documents. A minor permit modification will be requested of the existing composting permit.

2.0 CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

2.1 Modular Office Space (trailer): \$ 0.00

No activity to report at this time.

2.2 Demonstration Farm Site Preparation and Maintenance: \$ 0.00

County staff continues to mow and maintain the farm site as needed each quarter.

UF/Dr. Rockwood's Forestry Project:

Work continues on the FORCE Demonstration site. See Section: 4.3 – UF/Rockwood project update, which is occurring on the FORCE 40-acre farm.

2.3 Installation and Maintenance of Digester: \$ 4.30

County staff continues to start the digester once a week for fifteen minutes as recommended in the long-term storage procedures from A-C Equipment Services, the manufacturer. *Parts from Napa where charged to this line item.*

2.4 Laboratory: \$ 0

There were no laboratory purchases this quarter.

2.5 Irrigation System and Maintenance: \$ 0

All charges for expenditures related to the irrigation system, maintenance and water usage (through a specific meter) for the forestry farm are billed here.

3.0 OPERATION

3.1 Process Technology Procurement and Testing: \$ 312.77

The research and review continues of relevant technology information for uploading of vendor information onto FORCE website and hard copies into the FORCE library at the modular office.

Wright Environmental System:

Program information is described below in Section 4.3.

Earth Tub:

The equipment was transferred in August at the County Board meeting along with the letter from UF accepting the offer of the vessel. There are no new updates at this time.

3.2 Feedstock Procurement/Processing: \$ 0

Any outstanding payments for the purchase of feedstock additives are listed here. There is no activity to report at this time.

3.3 Administrative Costs – Supplies and Travel: \$ 1,985.52

Various administrative office supplies/costs are charged to this line item, such as telephone services, satellite-internet access, cleaning services, utilities, etc. Most travel expenses are reported and billed in task 4.4.

4.0 MARKET DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING

The following provides an update on the website, outreach and education material developed, 1-800-#, USCC listserv, and industry articles and publications featuring FORCE activities.

4.1 Education, Outreach, and Website: \$ 5,185.00

Website:

The Calendar of Events is updated regularly to reflect the latest in organics recycling news.

To date the website has received approximately 9,002 hits. The email address on the website, info@floridaforce.org, receives approximately ½ dozen emails per month regarding assistance on organics information. Inquiries are met with research information to the party requesting the organics information. In the last quarter there has been a slight increase in organics information from the private sector – small farmers, corporations, and large food retailers.

Newsletter:

In an attempt to enhance communications and better serve Florida's organics recycling industry, FORCE continues to offer a periodic E-newsletter. During this quarter, FORCE transmitted the Volume 4, Issue 1, Spring 2007 issue of *ForceMatters* E-Newsletter via email. The Spring edition focused on the FDOT demonstration event (including photos), introducing the new FORCE Specialist, and the upcoming DEP/Organic Recyclers Regulatory Review Public Meeting.

The E-Newsletter distribution list was updated to reflect current email addresses and add new recipients. The list currently contains 310 email subscribers. This newsletter provides updates to industry professionals, on upcoming events throughout the state, the status of FORCE grant projects and grant opportunities, website updates and pertinent organics recycling information. The goal is to provide timely, relevant and useful information as well as to solicit feedback from readers. Should the DEP like to include information in this newsletter, please contact Christie Revenaugh or Miriam Zimms. A copy of the newsletter is attached.

FORCE Brochure:

The project brochure was distributed at the FORCE U.S. Composting Council conference booth in Orlando in January 2007. *Costs for reprinting of the FORCE brochure are being billed this quarter.*

FORCE 1-800 Number:

The FORCE toll-free line is being monitored by Christie Revenaugh, FORCE Specialist. Calls continually come in and staff provides answers, solutions, and/or direction as appropriate. On

average, this toll-free number receives about ½ dozen calls per month. In the last quarter there has been a slight increase in organics information from the private sector – small farmers, corporations, and large food retailers.

USCC Listserv:

The USCC listserv is monitored by KCI regularly for items of relevance to the FORCE program. Additionally, industry journals and the Florida Clipping Services are monitored for articles of relevance to the project and appropriate articles are forwarded to appropriate FORCE staff, TAG members and industry representatives or uploaded on the project website.

Industry Articles and Publications:

Preliminary discussions were had with Biocycle magazine regarding FORCE regulatory report and potential future article. In addition, an article on the recent demonstration event was developed for Recycle Florida Today (RFT) and KCI spring edition e-newsletters.

The following update applies to the previous quarter, but its being provided in this once since we were not aware the article was published until this quarter. FORCE and Sumter County were featured in a November 2006 *Biocycle Magazine* article by Nora Goldstein and Robert Spencer titled “*Mixed MSW Composting is Steady as She Goes.*” *A copy of the article is attached.*

FORCE staff continues to monitor the local and regional newspapers to identify any articles that may have been written about the project. The newspapers being reviewed include the Sumter County Times, The Villages Daily Sun, The Ocala Star Banner, the Lake County Daily Commercial, and the Florida Clipping Services.

4.2 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Committee Meetings & Updates: \$527.64

FORCE staff is in contact with various TAG members as needed, specifically, RFT Organics committee representative Chris Snow, Hillsborough County, regarding the USCC 2007 Conference held in Florida, that included a joint FORCE/RFT booth on January 22 and 23 and the USCC equipment demonstration event on January 24.

The DEP confirmed that there will be no Year 6 TAG meeting required for the Year 7 Operating Plan.

4.3 Market Development: \$ 24,094.97

The information below provides an update on the status of the Research & Demonstration projects funded through FORCE. KCI conducted various research and funding information for Our Vital Earth, as well as conducted further discussions regarding their composting operation and recommended they make a presentation at RFT conference in April. Feedback was provided to the City of Tampa regarding limited potential for food waste composting program at the St. Pete Times Forum. Also, vermicomposting, organics research and grant information was provided to Gabriel

Emery and Peter Jordan of Apopka, FL.

Research, Demonstration, Education, Marketing, and Outreach Projects (Grant Projects):

State Organics Regulatory Research Report:

The final report has been completed and has been uploaded onto the website. An electronic Microsoft Word version was sent to the DEP representative Richard Tedder. Chris Snow of the FORCE TAG and Hillsborough County presented the results of this report at the January USCC conference held in Orlando, FL on January 22 – 24. Mitch Kessler was scheduled to make the presentation, but became ill and had to leave the conference.

An organics regulatory rule workshop will be held by the DEP on May 9th in Orlando, Florida. Information about this workshop has been distributed by RFT, SWANA Florida Chapter, Tampa Matters and to the TAG, Monica Ozores-Hampton, and Aziz Shiralipour. FORCE project team members.

Organics Educational and BMP Listing for Website:

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) listing discussed last quarter was uploaded on the FORCE website this quarter.

Wright Environmental System:

The project team has decided not to extend the project and has sent the University of Florida (Dr. Kibert) a letter stating the reasons (two year delay to begin the project) for the decision; however, a decision has been made to donate the equipment to the University and they have been asked to submit an invoice for any expenditures and final report. The Department concurred with the County's decision. County staff prepared a project timeline status report back up for the denial decision. A copy of the timeline is attached.

Earth Tub:

The equipment was transferred in August at the County Board meeting along with the letter from UF accepting the offer of the vessel. All reimbursements have been made. All quarterly and final reports have been uploaded on the FORCE website. This project is complete. The County was notified last year of a crack in the Tub, but it was found that the tube was not cracked. It was identified this quarter that two plastic inserts that go into the Earth Tub were broken; Jackey Jackson ordered and received the parts and tools to repair the tub on March 23, 2007. The following information below details how the plastic inserts were fixed. *Charges for parts for a minor repair to the Earth Tub are billed this quarter.*

- Thursday March 29, 2007: The track assembly was reattached under the push handle for the mixing assembly.

- Friday March 30, 2007: Port 00 and Port 45 were taken out of the earth tub by hammer and chisel. Both holes were cleaned, both parts were replaced.
- Monday April 2, 2007: After the glue had time to dry, the biofilter was hooked back up.

Everything in the Tub is now working well. In the upcoming quarter, samples of compost produced from the vessel will be collected and sent to a NELAC certified lab for analysis. The County is still trying to find a NELAC lab that can meet all the DEP requirements.

UF/Dr. Rockwood's Forestry Project:

Dr. Rockwood and his associates continue to monitor the tree growth and responses from Sumter Compost. A fourth year extension request by Dr. Rockwood has been made. Verbal approval was granted upon receiving notice that the FORCE program will be extended for year 7. The project team developed an extension approval letter to Dr. Rockwood that is expected to be transmitted early next quarter along with the amendment. The County received final outstanding travel documentation from UF grants office and is currently sifting through this information to bring closure to any outstanding invoice related travel payments. *Billing for any reimbursements are charged in this task line for Dr. Rockwood's project. The report for the quarter is attached.*

Environmental Assessment of Products Derived from Yard Trash:

The final report showing these results has been completed. *The cover letter to the report is attached for your review and use.* The entire report will be sent to the Department via U.S. Mail. And the report will be uploaded on the website next quarter. *Charges for the research work Dr. Shiralopour performed for this project are billed in this quarter.*

City of Tallahassee Water Efficiency Project – USGBC LEED Silver Certified Building:

The contractual documents are being finalized between Sumter County and the City of Tallahassee. The City requested a grant extension until June 2007, which was granted by FORCE. The project team developed an extension approval letter for the City of Tallahassee that is expected to be transmitted early next quarter. *The quarterly report document for the period is attached.*

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Demonstration Event:

As a part of the FDOT grant project, a public demonstration event was conducted on January 25, 2007 to evaluate yard waste processing equipment that effectively separates plastic bags from yard debris. The demonstration event was held at the Seminole County Yard Waste Processing Facility, two very different pieces of equipment were featured: 1) Komptech – Multistar L3, Star Screen with Air Classifier and, 2) Airlift Separator – AL 200D. The public demonstration was flanked by two days of sample testing, data gathering, and further equipment evaluations. Moisture tests on six samples, but not a broad spectrum of tests, were performed on the yard waste for the demonstration.

The goal was to identify equipment that will improve the marketability of compost and yard waste products that are often undervalued due to their residue contamination like plastic bags.

The event was a great success with over 50 public and private attendees. Both equipment vendors were invited to conduct further performance tests within Florida; the Komptech machine performed a follow up demonstration immediately after the public event for Consolidated Resource Recovery at the Seminole County Yard Waste Facility. They were also invited to demonstrate in Okaloosa County on February 7, 2007, at the Wright Yard Waste Facility in Fort Walton Beach. The Airlift Separator was requested to perform another demonstration in Orange County with Bell Corp, immediately following the January 25 event. A copy of the demonstration flyer and data forms are attached.

4.4 Conferences and Meetings: \$ 2,598.68

In January, the FORCE Superintendent attended the 15th annual United States Composting Council (USCC) and Tradeshow in Orlando. In conjunction with RFT, an exhibitor's booth was set up, Jackey Jackson manned the booth. While at the booth he distributed FORCE brochures, explained what the FORCE program is, he told people of the FORCE website and explained how it can be used to market products, search for and purchase products, find vendors, and that it provides information on other upcoming events. Chris Snow gave a presentation on the Organics Regulatory Report on January 22, 2007. A copy of the USCC exhibitor list notating FORCE is attached.

NOTE: WE ARE CURRENTLY RESEARCHING WHY JACKEY JACKSON WAS CHARGED TO MAN THE BOOTH AT THE USCC CONFERENCE SINCE FORCE WAS A PAID EXHIBITOR AND HAD TWO FREE REGISTRATIONS AS A RESULT. THE CHARGE FOR THIS IS BILLED IN THIS QUARTER, BUT WE RECOMMEND THE DEP WAIT TO REIMBURSE (\$485) FOR THIS UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO FIND A CONCLUSION.

The same technical presentation was conducted by Mitch Kessler and Chris Snow on February 26, 2007 at the SWANA conference held in Tampa.

FORCE Directors and TAG members assisted the DEP in developing the Organics Recyclers Regulatory Review Public Meeting agenda and workshop to be held in Orlando on May 9, 2007, as well as distributed the finalized agenda to industry contacts.

Meetings and conference calls were conducted regarding permitting options for food and yard waste composting demonstration event for Year 7, as well as the Sumter County MRF retrofit and operation proposal.

4.5 Demonstration Farm Operations: \$ 0.00

See section: 4.3 – UF/Rockwood project update, which is occurring on the FORCE 40-acre farm.

5.0 EVALUATION, MONITORING, AND TESTING

5.1 SAC Protocol Development: \$ 0.00

The SAC Protocol has been developed and is uploaded on the FORCE website.

5.2 Feedstock and Products Testing: \$ 0.00

The feedstock testing report has been uploaded on the FORCE website. Any outstanding charges for feedstock or products testing are billed in this line-item.

5.3 Environmental Monitoring: \$ 0.00

Any outstanding charges relative to environmental monitoring are billed in this line-item.

6.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

It is the intent of the County to continue to house FORCE on-site at its existing location for the duration of the existing contract period and beyond. No impact to FORCE objectives is expected as a result of the activities regarding the future changes to the Solid Waste, Recycling, and Composting Facility.

6.1 Personnel: \$ 3,684.16

The County feels that at this time, the FORCE project team has the goals and management of the FORCE objectives on track with a working combination of team players that understand the County's commitment to organics and its commitment to the requirements of the DEP contract and project objectives for the State. Appropriate Sumter County FORCE staff continues to be paid through FORCE funds for time spent on FORCE activities.

Christie Revenaugh has replaced Stacie Stokes as the new FORCE Specialist. Ms. Stokes continues to work with Ms. Revenaugh and KCI to bring closure to outstanding items in Year 6. The FORCE project team has provided various technical support to aid in this transition.

6.2 Administrative Fees – Indirect Costs: \$ 0.00

No activity to report this period.

6.3 Quarterly Reports, Annual Work Plans and Budgets: \$ 5,222.00

The quarterly report for the period ending December 31, 2006 was prepared and transmitted to the DEP. FORCE received feedback from DEP staff on the proposed objectives for Year 7. The Year 7 extension request was transmitted to the DEP this quarter.

The quarterly report for the period ending March 31, 2007 was drafted and will be transmitted next quarter.

6.4 Project Coordination and Administration: \$ 5,265.11

The FORCE project team meets or communicates approximately one time per month either by telephone conferencing or physical meetings at the FORCE modular office or FORCE Director's office at the County Administration building to discuss all facets of the project. Kessler Consulting, Inc. (KCI) continues to provide project coordination, contractual administrative support, and ongoing training/feedback to County FORCE staff regarding their responsibilities, documentation, and R&D oversight.

Total Reimbursement Requested: \$ 48,880.15