# **Biosolids Composting Taking Root in Florida**

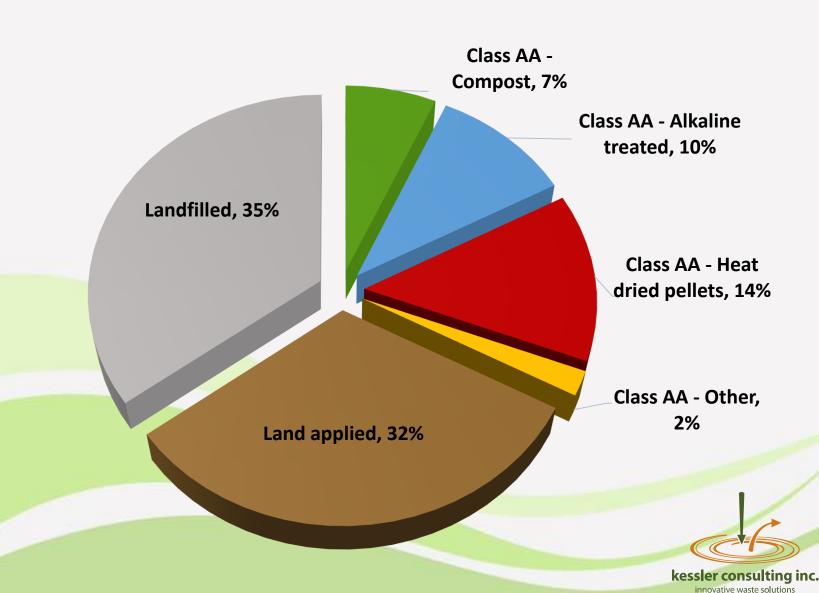
Peter Engel & Miriam Zimms

Senior Consultants, Kessler Consulting, Inc.

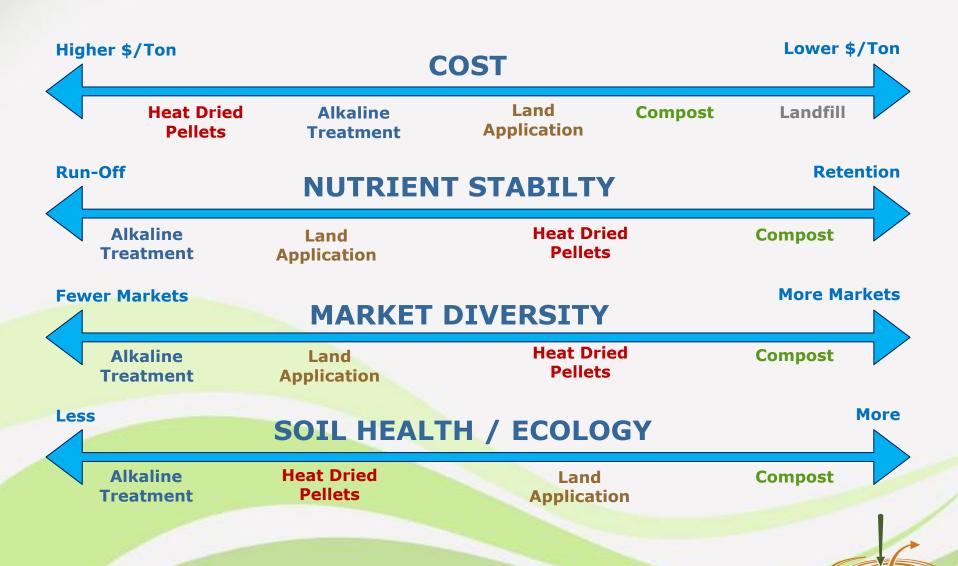
Recycle Florida Today, Annual Conference St. Augustine, FL June 14, 2016



#### The State of Biosolids in Florida



# **Biosolids Management Options**



kessler consulting inc.

#### **Modified Static Aerobic Pile (MSAP) Method**

Operational Simplicity





**Cost Efficiency** 

MSAP





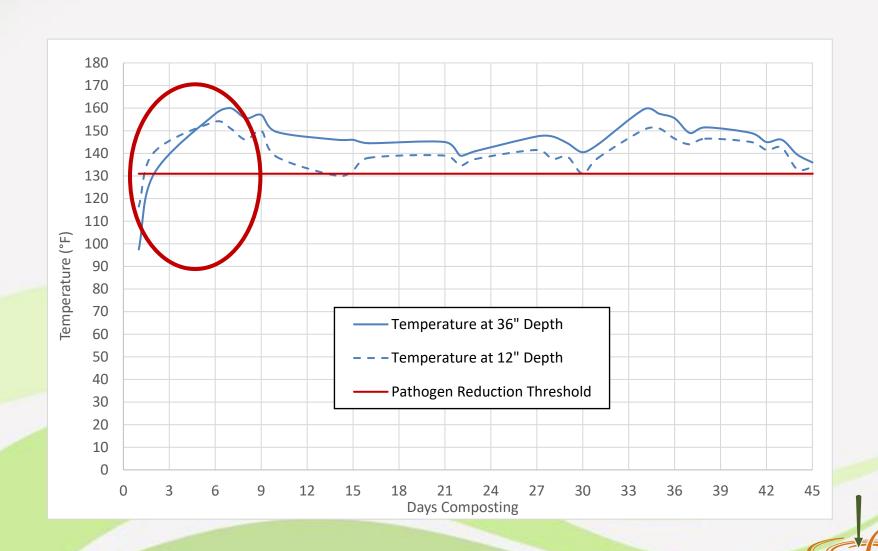




**Product Quality** 

kessler consulting inc.

# **Composting From the Outside In**

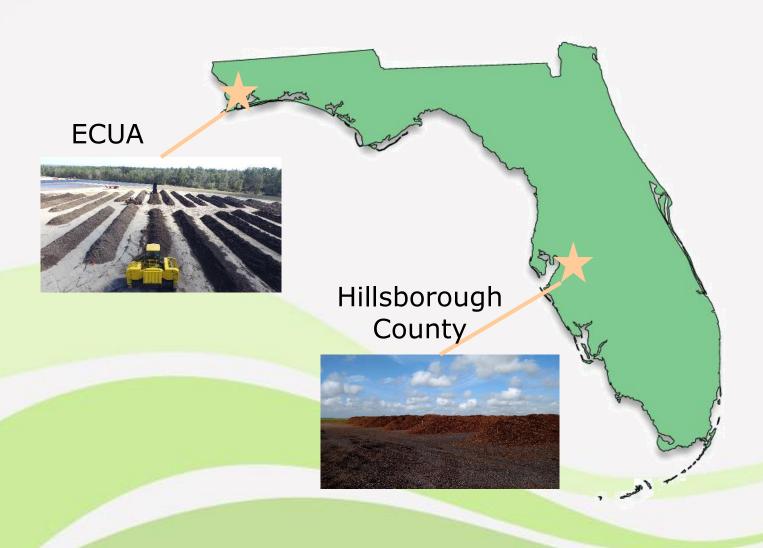


#### **Compost Helps Control Plant Diseases**

- Studies show compost's diseasesuppressing properties for Florida crops
- Beneficial microbes in compost:
  - Outcompete harmful microbes
  - Produce antibiotic compounds
  - Parasitize and predate harmful microbes
  - Activate disease-resistance genes in plants
- MSAP compost has a several-fold higher population of beneficial microbes compared to other compost



#### **Two Biosolids Composting Case Studies**





# **Overview**

	Hillsborough County	Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA)
Project type	Pilot	Full-scale operation
Previous disposal method	Land application & Landfill	Heat drying & Land application
Site size	3.48 acres	24.5 acres
Timeframe	Mar. '15 – Aug. '15	Nov. '15 - Ongoing
Biosolids capacity (wet tons/day)	53	80
Estimated compost production (cubic yards/day)	101	128
Estimated operating costs (per wet ton of biosolids)	\$20-\$25	\$23-\$28



# **Hillsborough County**



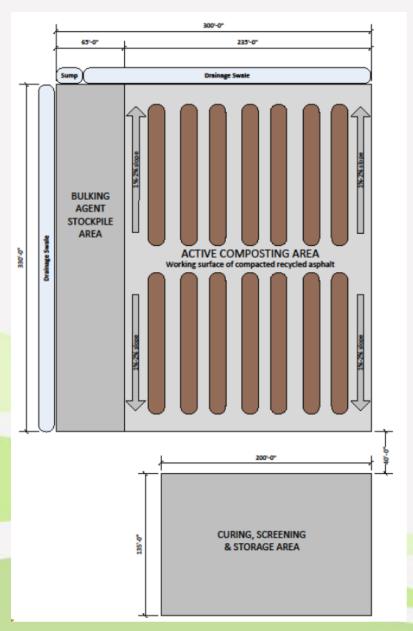








# Hillsborough - Site Plan





# Hillsborough - Financial Analysis

	Full Scale –	Full Scale –
Item	<b>Equipment Lease</b>	<b>Equipment Purchase</b>
Capital Cost		
Site Development	\$232,540	\$232,540
Equipment	\$0	\$900,000
Total Capital Cost	<i>\$232,540</i>	<i>\$1,132,540</i>
Annual Capital Cost	\$44,360	\$155,322
Operating Cost		
Labor	\$123,200	\$123,200
Equipment O&M	\$163,168	\$231,832
Equipment Lease	\$201,500	\$0
Other Costs	\$63,150	\$63,150
Total Operating Cost	\$551,018	\$418,182
Revenue		
Biosolids Tip Fee	\$0	\$0
Finished Compost Sales	\$121,176	\$121,176
Total Revenue	\$121,176	<i>\$121,176</i>
Net Annual Cost	\$474,201	\$452,327
Net Cost Per Wet Ton Biosolids	\$25.49	\$24.32



# Hillsborough - Results

- High quality compost produced
- Very low odor generation
- Compost distributed to nearby sod farm
- Strong interest from other markets



# **ECUA's Biosolids Compost Facility**



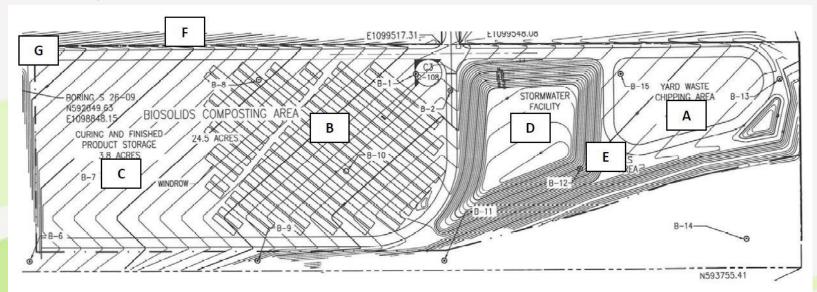






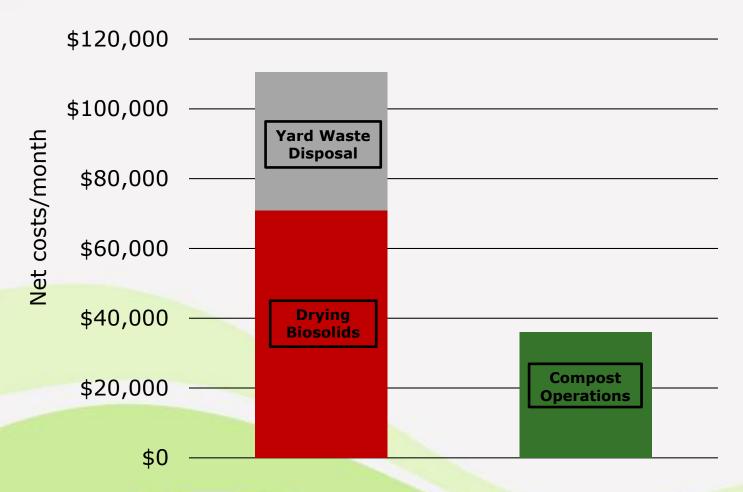
#### **ECUA - Site Plan**

- A) Grinding Area
- B) Active Compost Area
- C) Curing and Compost Storage Area
- D) Stormwater Facility
- E) Lift Station
- F) Perimeter Berm
- G) Entrance Road





#### **ECUA - Results**



Composting saves nearly \$75,000 per month!

#### **ECUA - Results**

- Composting facility solves 2 problems: yard waste disposal and biosolids treatment.
- Generates more revenue than heat drying
- Lessons learned
  - Remote thermometers
  - Cover to keep finished compost dry
- ECUA expanding to compost all biosolids



# **ECUA Facility & Product Marketing**



# **Keeping It Clean!**



Brown is the new
Green

Leaf the Plastic Behind - Brown Bag It Instead!
ecua.fl.gov







#### **Branding the Product**





# **End-User Targets**

- Target Audience
- Target Database
- Tracking Mechanism
- Reporting Mechanism
- Follow-up Protocol

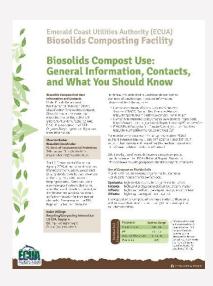
# **Target**

20	Agriculture
3	Bulk materials
7	Gardens
1	Mannco
36	Golf
12	Green lodging
14	Landscape contractors
15	Lawn maintenance
2	Institutional (FDOT and KPB)
87	Nurseries
34	Retail
4	Recreational
5	Sod farms
240	Total



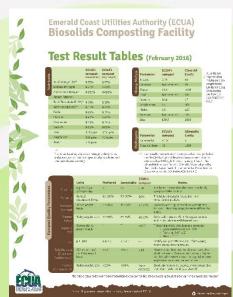
# **End-User Target Marketing**

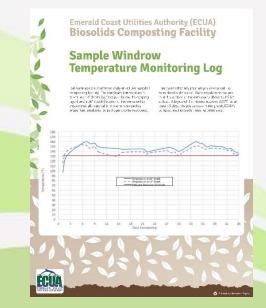
















#### **Creating Facility & Product Awareness**

Website

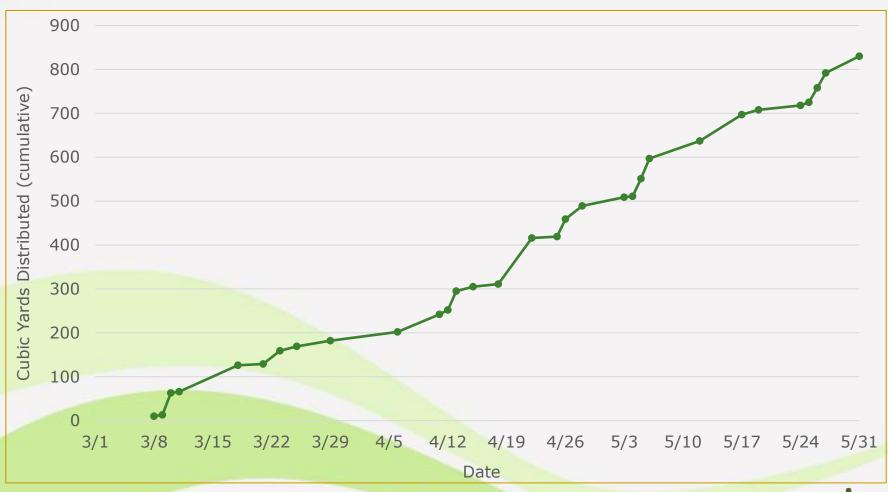
http://www.livegreenecua.com/composting.php

- News Articles
- Field Day
  - Direct Mail
- Brochure
  - Direct Mail
- Recycling Coordinator
- Public Information Officer
- State and National Awards





# Sales/Distribution Results To Date



Total Cubic Yards: 830



#### **Next Steps**

- Hillsborough county
  - Permitting and constructing a full-scale facility
- ECUA
  - Expanding the facility to double capacity and compost all of its biosolids
  - Continuing sales and distribution
  - Securing a large bulk buyer
  - Maintaining local education and outreach
  - Procure and utilize a ¼ inch screen



#### Thank you!

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