

the **BENEFITS**

Food waste, yard waste and paper make up nearly 40 percent of Florida's municipal waste stream. FORCE research and demonstration (R&D) projects have investigated various recovery technologies and feedstocks in a variety of field applications. The FORCE program provides the following benefits:

- Promoting the benefits and usage of organics to enhance water conservation and nutrient retention in sandy Florida soils
- Providing a cooperative effort created between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Sumter County and statewide stakeholders
- Performing environmental research and demonstrations related to organic and agricultural feedstocks
- Promoting the integration of compost feedstocks and technologies
- Creating awareness, educating and stimulating markets for recycled organic products
- Providing a comprehensive statewide organics website and electronic newsletter to provide up-to-date information to the public, private and agricultural communities
- An organics library at the FORCE office containing relevant industry articles and equipment vendor information, videos, brochures and DVDs

What's on the **FORCE Website**

- Organics recycling technology database with information on more than 200 state, national, and international organics vendors, composting equipment, ancillary items and additives
- Bibliography with more than 300 organics related articles
- Educational materials specific to the organics industry
- Organics directories for end-users
- Listing of Florida-permitted composting and registered yard waste processing facilities
- Comprehensive list of Florida compost regulations
- Listing of quality assurance compost testing laboratories
- Research and demonstration reports on project activities and results

The website contains much more, so please take a moment to visit:

www.floridaforce.org



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the benefits of
FORCE
to Florida

What is FORCE?

The Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE) is Florida's organics recycling effort involving the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Private and Public Researchers, and Sumter County. This legislatively funded organization provides a framework to promote organics recycling through a statewide initiative to streamline compost processing, research, demonstration, marketing and education in Florida.

As a component of the FORCE program, Sumter County has installed an additional digester at the Solid Waste Facility in Lake Panasoffkee and is utilizing a 40-acre site to demonstrate a variety of organics recycling applications.

A FORCE FOR A GREENER FLORIDA

FORCE program objectives include:

- Supporting research related to processing and utilization of organic feedstocks from agricultural, municipal and industrial sources
- Funding research, demonstration and education projects
- Delivery of educational programs and materials targeting organics feedstock generators, processing facilities and end-users
- Promoting the integration of feedstocks and technologies

Organics are the largest portion of Florida's waste stream providing valuable feedstocks for the production of mulches, composts, growing media and soil amendments. With the state's fluctuating and seasonal drought conditions, compost can be an important agent in conserving water and adding nutrients to Florida soils.

Through various partnerships, FORCE advances Florida's organics recycling infrastructure, bringing together researchers, entrepreneurs and end users to formulate practical, sustainable solutions to recycling problems and issues.

CO-DIRECTORS: Sumter County & Kessler Consulting, Inc. **SUPERINTENDENT:** Sumter County

PROJECT SPECIALIST: Sumter County **PROJECT CONSULTANT:** Kessler Consulting, Inc.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP Representatives from: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Transportation, Citrus Industry, Golf Industry, Horticultural Industry, Peat/Media Blender Industry, Poultry Industry, Private Sector Processing, Recycle Florida Today, Inc., Biosolids Industry, Public Sector Yard Waste Processing

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