



Florida Organics Recycling Update

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Florida Department of
Environmental Protection

Recycle Florida Today
Virtual Conference
June 9, 2021





Florida Food Waste Prevention Week

- **Raise awareness about the impacts of food waste in our homes, schools, workplaces, and communities**
- **Foster an engagement level that encourages commitment beyond just the designated week**
- **Develop strong and well-defined partnerships between both government agencies, non-profits, and private organizations to eliminate food waste**



www.savethefoodfl.com

Florida Food Waste Prevention Week April 5 - 9, 2021





Communications Toolkit

- Full Overview of Daily Activities
- Checklist for Advance Preparation
- Libraries for Promotional Material and Links to Resources
- Internal and External Message Templates

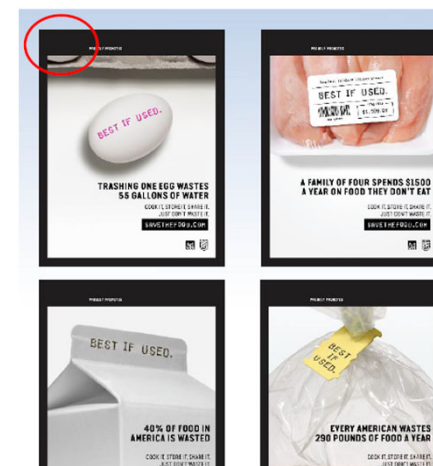


Communications Tool Kit

The purpose of this Toolkit is to provide resources and guidance to our partners who join Florida Food Waste Prevention Week (FFWPW) to help them raise awareness and inspire behavior change to reduce food waste in Florida during the week of April 5-9, 2021.

The Toolkit provides:

1. Target Audiences
2. Prepare for Launch Day
3. Advance Tasks to Complete
4. Templates for Messaging
5. Planning Schedule for Daily Events
6. Advance Preparation Overview/Timeline
7. Social Media Calendar
8. Co-Brandable NRDC Marketing Materials





Daily Social Media Guide

- Multiple Choices
- Journey of Food
- Daily Themes
- Hashtag Tracking

Food Waste Prevention Week

Social Media Calendar



MONDAY ▪ *What Food Means to Me*

Journey of Food: Introduction, Connecting People to Food



Love Letter to Food [3:22]
Why should we care about preventing food waste? From love to family to medicine, the **Love Letter to Food** video clip highlights the various roles food plays in our lives.



40% of all food in the United States does not get eaten. "It's like buying 5 bags of groceries and then dropping 2 in the grocery store parking lot and not bothering to pick them up," Dana Gunders shares in the Waste Free Kitchen Handbook. Each day this week we will follow the **Journey of Food**. Learn why we care about where food is before it hits your plate and what happens if we can't eat it.

Your **Organization's Leadership Video**, if available. (See **toolkit** for further instructions) Please add hastags **#SaveTheFoodFL #SaveTheFood #GoFurtherwithFood** <http://savethefoodfl.com/>



Natural Resources Defense Council
Food Matters: Food Waste [3:08]
Check out this **@SaveTheFood** video to learn how food waste is generated and its implications.

Food Hero Photo Challenge

1. **What does food mean to you?** We want to know! Show us and tell us why you care about food by posting pictures of what food means to you and follow us for a week of learning and action. Tag **#SaveTheFoodFL #SaveTheFood #GoFurtherWithFood**.



2. **Take Action:** Take this **quiz** to see what you know at the start of the week and see how much you've learned.

Journey of Food #SaveTheFoodFL #SaveTheFood #GoFurtherwithFood <http://savethefoodfl.com/>



Chapter 62-709, F.A.C. Rulemaking

Criteria for Organics Processing and Recycling Facilities

- **Notice of Development of Rulemaking published in the Florida Administrative Register on October 1, 2019**
- **Last Rule update in 2010**
- **Summary of proposed changes**
 - **Provide clarification to current definitions, including food waste**
 - **Inclusion of new definitions**
 - **Addition of Community composting**
 - **Tier registration/permitting for composting facilities**
 - **Operations plan requirement for registered facilities**
 - **Addition of new organic feedstocks under the registration program**
 - **Sargassum seaweed**
 - **Liquid wastes**
 - **Compostable products**
 - **Domesticated pet waste**



Composting Feedstocks

For Further Assessment

SARGASSUM SEAWEED COMPOSTING

- Sargassum is present 4-6 months of the year
- Management practices include integration into the beach and disposal in the landfill
- Transport and disposal costs are high
- City of Ft. Lauderdale, Snyder Park Seaweed Composting Facility
 - Authorized as a registered SOPF since 2010, under “yard trash” designation
 - Product is not tested and is used in county roadway projects
- Hinkley Center Research
 - Project with the University of Miami
 - Initial research completed to determine viability of composing Sargassum
 - Next phase of research will include testing
- Florida International University Research
 - Research conducted on the Sargassum species
 - Determined that Sargassum seaweed contained high levels of arsenic



Composting Feedstocks

For Further Assessment

LIQUID BEVERAGE WASTES

- **Currently authorized as a pre-consumer vegetative waste, if the waste is vegetative in origin**
- **Newly proposed definition of “food waste” to include all liquid beverage wastes**
- **Soda Waste**
 - **Contains phosphoric acid**
 - **Impacts to groundwater and lime rock in Florida unknown**
 - **Authorized feedstock for composting in Texas**
- **Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) composting of liquid beverage wastes**
 - **Beer, wine and dairy wastes**
 - **Soda waste has been processed previously with few issues**
- **Two registered facilities in Florida are accepting and applying soda waste to compost**
 - **All beverage waste is generated from Pepsi Co. and may contain liquid waste other than soda**
 - **Liquid waste is received in tanker trucks and applied to the top of the windrow**
 - **Piles must be turned frequently**



Composting Feedstocks

For Further Assessment

COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

Compostable products proposed definition:

“Compostable product” means containers, films or food service wares such as bowls, plates, cups, cutlery, that are composed of materials such as vegetable matter, paper, cardboard, and plastics that meet the following ASTM standards required by Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI): ASTM D6400-19, June 2019, *Standard Specification for Labeling of Plastics Designed to be Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities*, or ASTM D6868-19, October 2019, *Standard Specification for Labeling of End Items that Incorporate Plastics and Polymers as Coatings or Additives with Paper and Other Substrates Designed to be Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities*.



Composting Feedstocks

For Further Assessment

COMPOSTABLE PRODUCTS

- **Current definition of “vegetative waste” includes food waste packaging that is vegetative in origin such as paper or corn-starch products**
- **Challenges with composting this feedstock:**
 - **Difficult to determine what products are BPI certified**
 - **Not all waste labeled as compostable is truly compostable**
 - **Issues with depackaging and contamination**
 - **Microplastics in final product**
- **May require additional management and testing**



Composting Feedstocks

For Further Assessment

DOMESTICATED PET WASTE (DOG POOP)

- Not specifically addressed in rule, but Chapter 62-709, F.A.C. has a definition of “Manure”
- Currently, domesticated pet waste must be disposed of in a lined landfill
- Interest in composting this material in Florida
- EnviroWagg – Colorado permitted dog waste composting facility
- Pet Poo Skiddoo – Pet Waste Removal & In-Vessel Composting in Asheville, NC
- Guidance:
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Composting Dog Waste Manual (2005)
 - UF IFAS Composting Dog Waste: [Composting Dog Waste - UF/IFAS Extension \(ufl.edu\)](http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/composting-dog-waste/)
- Issues:
 - Should be mixed with equal parts of saw dust
 - Limited uses – flower beds or shrubbery
 - Unknown if round worms are killed through the composting process



Composting Feedstocks

For Further Assessment

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **May consider including all feedstocks in rule change**
- **Limit end uses – Land application, landfill cover and a soil amendment for growing plants**
- **Consider a tiered permitting system with additional criteria for management of these materials**
- **May create a middle tier between registered SOPFs and permitted Solid Waste Composting Facilities**

Summary:

These feedstocks are of great interest in Florida. If managed properly, the product could become a nutrient rich soil amendment that is beneficial to the environment. Municipalities are interested in guidance for recycling these materials and limiting the cost of transportation to the landfill. Further, these feedstocks are being used in other state composting programs with success.



Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE)

The mission of FORCE is to provide a framework to promote organics recycling and serve as clearinghouse of information in a statewide effort to streamline compost processing, food diversion, research, demonstration, marketing and education information in Florida



FloridaForce.org



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For more information on the state of organics in Florida and for updates on rule development for chapter 62-709, F.A.C., please visit:

FloridaDEP.gov/OrganicsRecycling



Questions

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<https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-reduction/content/recycling>

