

Making Waves

USCC COMPOST CONFERENCE 2024



February 6 - 9, 2024 | Daytona Beach, FL

FLORIDA ORGANICS CENTER for EXCELLENCE (F.O.R.C.E.)

Randy Rudd, Senior Consultant Kessler Consulting Inc.

Session 5D

Florida Track

State of Composting in Florida

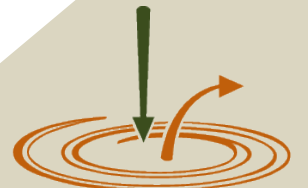
Feb, 8, 2024

Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (F.O.R.C.E.)

The mission of F.O.R.C.E. 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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Florida Organics Recycling (1988-2001)

- Solid Waste Mgt. Act Passed by Legislature (1988)
- 1988 Yard Waste Landfill Ban (YWLB)
- Started as Mulching State (prior to 1988)
- FL DEP Active Permitting Staff (Francine Joyal)
- FORA – FL Organics Recycling Association (early 90s)
- RFT – Organics Committee, DOT Outreach, ELLS Events, FDACS, FL Food Prevention Week, etc.
- University Research, UF IFAS Composting Research
- FORCE Established by the Legislature in (2001)



Florida Organics Recycling (2011-2023)

FORCE Website Clearinghouse of Information (2011)

EPA Shifts focus to *Food Waste* Reduction Prioritization

DACS *Wasted Food* Reduction Prioritization

FL DEP Active Permitting Staff (Lauren O'Connor)

Private Organics Recycling Facilities Reemergence

FL Composting Council (FLCC) Created (USCC affiliate and RFT)

FAC 62-709, Criteria for Organics Recycling Facilities coming back up for review with new criteria

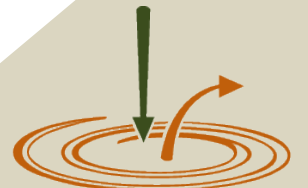
FORCE Website

www.floridaforce.org

It serves as a clearinghouse of organics recycling information since 2001 for the FDEP. Use the words “Florida Force” in your web browser to find it. We will review the six (6) key header pages on the site and a few subpages.

- About
- Education
- Events
- **62-709 Rule**
- **R&D Projects**
- Resources
- **Facilities**
- Contact

<https://floridaforce.org/>



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FORCE Updates FY 2023-2024

Presentations at conferences (e.g. RFT, FLCC, SWANA)

Adding an all-inclusive research sub-page to the website.

Organics regulations support (62-709)

Annual update of the facilities Map.

Increase website exposure with partner organizations through “FORCE Corner” on RFT, FLCC, and SWANA FL newsletters.

Send organics support questions to me or info@floridaforce.org.

FORCE Contact Information

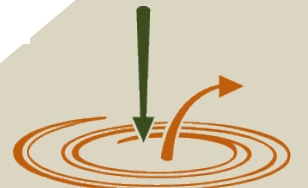
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FLORIDA ORGANICS RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Lauren O'Connor

Session 5D

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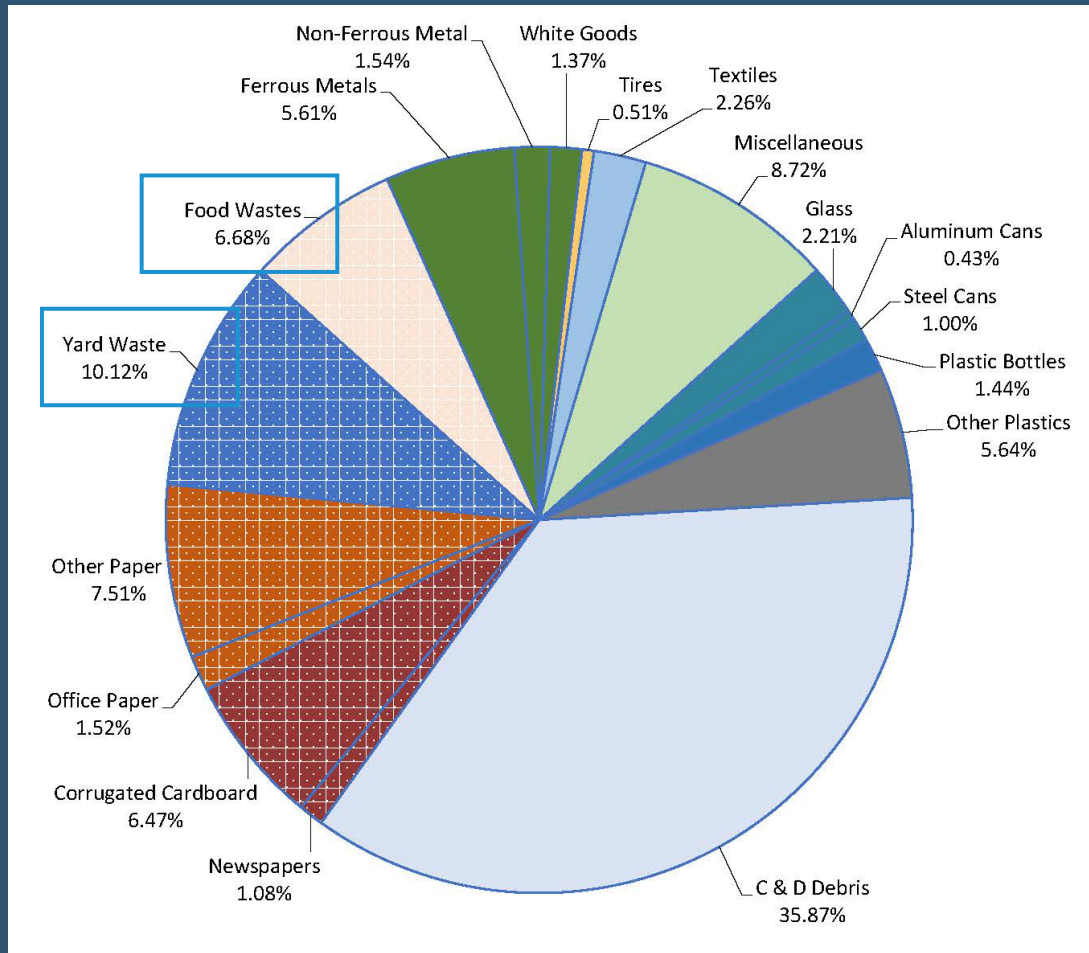
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CURRENT STATE OF ORGANICS IN FLORIDA

2022 FLORIDA MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE (MSW)

MSW COLLECTED - 50.7 MILLION TONS



MSW COLLECTED AND RECYCLED - ORGANICS

ORGANIC MATERIALS	MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTED ¹		MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE RECYCLED		
	TONS PER YEAR	% OF TOTAL TONS PER YEAR	TOTAL TONS RECYCLED	% OF TOTAL TONS RECYCLED	MATERIAL RECYCLING RATE ² (PERCENT)
Newspapers	548,096	1.1	68,123	0.3	12%
Corrugated Cardboard	3,284,760	6.5	1,292,183	6.3	39%
Office Paper	772,232	1.5	125,677	0.6	16%
Other Paper	3,812,386	7.5	304,762	1.5	8%
Yard Waste	5,132,790	10.1	3,043,215	14.7	59%
Food Wastes	3,391,072	6.7	211,106	1.0	6%
Process Fuel ³	N/A ⁴	N/A	111,460	0.5	100%

¹Municipal solid waste collected is the total recycled, landfilled and combusted.

²Unadjusted traditional recycling rate.

³Process fuel is composed of yard, wood and paper waste used in process boilers.



CURRENT STATE OF ORGANICS IN FLORIDA

- The focus of Florida organics recycling has been on the production and use of compost processed at source-separated organic processing facilities (SOPFs). SOPFs include yard trash, manure, animal byproducts and vegetative wastes.
- In 2023, Florida had over 300 SOPFs processing over 3 million tons of organics that were diverted for beneficial use.
- In 2023 there has been an increase in community compost operations processing food waste throughout the state.
- FDEP is in Rulemaking to update Chapter 62-709, F.A.C. – Criteria for Organics Processing and Recycling Facilities for updates.



FLORIDA COMPOSTING FACILITIES

REGISTERED / PERMITTED

Registered Source-Separated Organics Processing Facilities Recycling / Composting Organics

- Yard trash mulching/composting. 325
- Manure composting/blending. 7
- Pre and post-consumer vegetative (food) waste composting. 20
- Animal byproducts (meats, eggs & dairy) composting. 5
- Sargassum seaweed. 1

Permitted Solid Waste Composting Facilities

4

Permitted Biosolids Composting Facilities

15

Permitted Anaerobic Composting Facilities

3



COMPOSTING FACILITIES EXEMPTIONS

Composting on the farm

- Applies to normal farming operations.
- For use on and off the farm.
- [Exemptions - 62-709.305, F.A.C.](https://www.facs.org/62-709.305)
- [Agricultural Best Management Practices - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services \(fdacs.gov\).](https://www.facs.org/agricultural-best-management-practices)

Community Composting – 15 known operations

- Composting < 100 cubic yards of organic solid waste.
- Material generated onsite or offsite.
- Neighborhood, school or university and other institutions.
- [Composting for Community Map – ILSR.org.](https://www.ilsr.org/composting-community-map)

Backyard Composting

- Composting of grass clippings, leaves and food waste.
- Waste is generated by the homeowner or tenant.





ORGANICS RECYCLING FACILITIES

REGISTRATIONS AND PERMITS

Source-Separated Organics Processing Facility (SOPF) Registration

- Chapter 62-709, F.A.C.
- Chapter 62-701, F.A.C. – general provisions.
- Limited to 1 year – must renew annually.

Solid Waste Composting Facility Permit

- Chapter 62-701, F.A.C.
- Chapter 62-709, F.A.C.
- Permit required – 5 years.

Solid Waste Organic Recycling Pilot Project Permit

- Chapter 62-709, F.A.C.
- Permit required – 18 months, with option to extend.



ORGANICS RECYCLING FACILITIES

REGISTRATIONS AND PERMITS - CONTINUED

Biosolids Processing/Composting Facility Permit

- Chapter 62-640, F.A.C.
- Permit required – 5 years.
- Biosolids with yard trash is regulated under Chapter 62-640, F.A.C.
- Biosolids with organics other than yard trash is regulated under Chapters 62-640 and 62-709, F.A.C.

Air Program Anaerobic Digestion Permit

- Chapter 62-210, F.A.C.
- Required for digestion of organic waste in the production of renewable natural gas (RNG).

Stormwater and Multi-Sector Generic (MSGP) Permits

- Chapters 62-620 and 62-621, F.A.C.
- Each facility is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- [NPDES Stormwater Program | FDEP](#) and [Stormwater FAQ's](#).



CHAPTER 62-709, F.A.C RULEMAKING

CRITERIA FOR ORGANICS PROCESSING & RECYCLING FACILITIES

- FDEP Rulemaking for Chapter 62-709, F.A.C.
- Last Rule update in 2010.
- Summary of proposed changes:
 - New definitions.
 - Tier registration composting facilities.
 - Operations plan requirement for registered facilities.
 - Addition of new organic feedstocks under registration:
 - Sargassum seaweed.
 - Liquid food waste.
 - Compostable products.
 - Domesticated pet waste.



CHAPTER 62-709, F.A.C RULEMAKING

DEFINITION UPDATES - PROPOSED

New Definitions

- Feedstock.
- Tier 1 and Tier 2 Facilities.
- Community composting.
- Mechanical compaction.
- Sargassum seaweed.
- Domesticated pet waste.
- Compostable products – BPI and ASTM specifications.
- Food waste:
 - Pre and post consumer food waste.
 - Opened to residential collection.
 - Will replace current definitions of animal byproducts, pre-consumer vegetative waste and (post-consumer) vegetative waste.



THANK YOU

Lauren O'Connor

Waste Management / Waste Registration & Recycling
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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Conference Recordings



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