

FORCE **Past and Future Program Activities**

In 2000, the Florida Legislature appropriated \$3.5 Million to fund FORCE for five years. At the time, Sumter County was the first facility in the Country to combine up-front recovery of recyclables with MSW and biosolids composting. At the end of 2005, when FORCE was originally scheduled to end, FORCE staff requested and received permission from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to continue FORCE for an additional two years.

During its seven-year history FORCE:

Installed

- In-vessel Compost Digester
- Office/Research Laboratory
- Irrigation System Infrastructure on a 40-acre Demonstration Site

Prepared

- Technology Evaluation Database
- Organics Compost Bibliography
- Compost Regulation Report
- Numerous other reports

Convened

- Technical Advisory Group Meetings
- Safety Advisory Council Meetings

Maintained and Monitored

- Website: www.floridaforce.org
- 1-800 Number: 1-800-566-4413
- Electronic Newsletter: ForceMatters

Funded Numerous R&D Projects, including

- Dr. Rockwood's Forestry Biomass Project
- Food Waste Composting Project
- GOC—Vapor, Odor Control Project
- Training in Production and Utilization of Compost in Florida.
- Double S Ranch Organic Recovery Project
- Numerous other research projects

Now at the end of its additional two-year extension, FORCE staff has once again requested and received permission to extend FORCE in a very limited capacity. FORCE will continue to maintain the FORCE website, 1-800 number, and electronic newsletter. The limited continuation will allow FORCE to continue providing timely organic information to the Florida organics industry.

Please visit the FORCE website at www.floridaforce.org for information on all of the above reports, projects, databases, and other valuable organics recycling information that has been compiled in the past seven years.



FORCE's Disaster Debris Report to Become Workshop at WasteCon!

Maximizing Beneficial Use of Disaster Debris

In the aftermath of a disaster, the primary job of solid waste management officials is to clear and manage debris in the most cost-effective and expedient manner possible. Critical to this task is preserving often scarce local disposal capacity by diverting as much debris as possible to beneficial uses, yet, few training programs have been developed to equip officials with the resources and knowledge to achieve this goal.

Designed based on feedback from a comprehensive survey of Florida disaster debris managers, this workshop, to be held on October 20, 2008, will go well-beyond traditional disaster debris management training courses and focus squarely on implementing tactical plans that maximize recovery and beneficial use of disaster debris.

Through a series of intensive case studies and interactive discussions, the workshop will feature the following best practices:

- Pre-planning steps to identify and secure end-markets for vegetative and other storm debris, and create processing systems to meet the material quality specifications of those markets.
- Key elements in debris management contracts that require contractors to maximize diversion and beneficial use of vegetative storm debris.
- Public outreach strategies to ensure residents and businesses adhere to storm preparedness guidelines and follow curbside debris set-out procedures that maximize material quality and minimize contamination.

Workshop attendees will receive a CD containing several new best practices guides, as well as many other take-away resources to maximize diversion and beneficial use of disaster debris.

More information about WasteCon 2008, held in October in Tampa, Florida in our next newsletter.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES



Recycle Florida Today Annual Conference 2008

WHEN: June 1-4, 2008

WHERE: TradeWinds Resort
St. Pete Beach, Florida

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.recyclefloridatoday.org/>

To download the conference brochure, please visit:

http://www.recyclefloridatoday.org/PDF/RFT_Conference.pdf

FLORIDA COMPOST RULE REVISION UPDATE

In late February, the DEP sent out draft compost rule language to its TAG members for review. FORCE staff participated in the review and sent recommendations and feedback to DEP staff. No further updates are available at this time.

For more information call FORCE at:

1-800-566-4413

For more information on FORCE or organics recycling in Florida, please call/visit/email:

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