

DEP Compost Rule Change 62-709 Finalized

The newly revised Florida composting facility regulations (Chapter 62-709) have been officially adopted as of February 15, 2010. The regulations include significant changes that are summarized below. Please note this is a summary and does not describe all changes made in the regulations.

Activities Exempt from Regulation

On-site composting activities that meet the following limit are exempt unless they cause a nuisance or adversely affect public health or the environment:

- Backyard composting
- <100 cubic yards of materials in total on-site at any time (materials to be composted, composting, and compost stored)
- Normal farming operation as defined below based on the source of materials to be composted and the end-use of the compost:
 - Source of material: on-farm materials only
End-use of compost: on-farm
 - Source of material: on-farm materials only
End-use of compost: off-farm (must meet testing, classification, and usage rules)
 - Source of material: include off-farm yard trash, manure & vegetative waste
End-use of compost: on-farm
 - Source of material: include off-farm yard trash, manure & vegetative waste to optimize composting of on-farm materials
End-use of compost: off-farm (must meet testing, classification, and usage rules)
- Facilities that are regulated under 62-670 for manure management as animal feeding operations (CAFOs & AFOs)

Facilities that are Eligible for Registration

Facilities that handle the following materials may operate under an annual registration much like the current yard trash facilities; solid waste permits are not required, provided that they meet certain design, operating, and product quality criteria:

- Source-separated vegetative materials (including vegetables, fruits, or breads from commercial and institutional generators)
- Source-separated animal by-products (including meat, fats, dairy, or eggs from commercial and institutional generators but excluding butchers and abattoirs)
- Manure
- Yard trash

Disinfection

Facilities that handle pre-consumer source-separated vegetative materials and/or yard waste are excluded from regulatory disinfection requirements. All other composting operations must meet disinfection requirements. Facilities subject to disinfection requirement must meet one of the following two options:

Option 1:

- Fecal coliform <1,000 Most Probable Number per gram or Salmonella sp. <3 Most Probable Number per four per gram, and
- One of the following process controls:
 - 55°C or higher for 3 consecutive days in an aerated static pile or in-vessel composter, or
 - 55°C or higher for 15 consecutive days in a windrow with at least 5 windrow turnings.

Option 2:

- Fecal coliform <1,000 Most Probable Number per gram or Salmonella sp. <3 Most Probable Number per four per gram, and
- Enteric virus <1 Plaque Forming Units per four grams, and
- Helminth ova <1/4 grams.

Pilot Projects

The revisions establish a new way to permit pilot projects for organics recycling which meet the following parameters:

- Do not qualify for registration
- Handle no more than 10,000 cubic yards of feedstock during the entire project
- Operate no more than 18 months (with the option to extend an additional 18 months).

These changes are intended to make it easier to try out a new or experimental technology or process without needing to meet all the requirements of a full-scale composting facility permit.

For further support or additional information, please contact Francine Joyal with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection at (850) 245-8747 or Francine.Joyal@dep.state.fl.us

To view the complete Chapter 62-709 Rule, please follow this link:

http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/quick_topics/rules/default.htm



Proposed Yard Waste Landfill Ban in Florida

The following is a summary of the Recycle Florida Today (RFT) March 15, 2010 letter to Florida Senator Don Gaetz regarding HB 569 and SB 1052:

The State of Florida is currently proposing (HB 569 and SB 1052) a significant policy change to allow landfilling of yard waste in Class I landfills, provided that there is a landfill gas collection system and the landfill gas is beneficially used.

Currently, Florida prohibits the disposal of yard waste in Class I landfills. The State established this prohibition in 1992, in part to save valuable landfill capacity. As a result, both the public and private sectors in Florida have invested considerably to establish separate yard waste collection programs, yard waste processing facilities, and end-markets for products produced from yard waste. The proposed policy change would likely have significant adverse impacts on current collection programs, existing infrastructure and end-markets, as well as the accelerated depletion of valuable disposal capacity. There are currently 264 facilities in Florida registered to receive and process yard waste in approximately 52 counties.

RFT believes that landfill methane capture and beneficial reuse is appropriate. However, RFT also believes that it is preferable to minimize methane generation by recycling yard waste through composting, mulching, and more effective biomass energy utilization programs.

This is especially important now as Florida considers laws and policies to meet a 75 percent recycling and diversion goal by 2020 and in doing so, provide national leadership in solid waste management. HB 569 and SB 1052 would lead to increased disposal of yard waste, set back recycling efforts across the state, and undermine Florida's ability to achieve its proposed recycling and diversion goal.

For more information, please contact RFT Organics Committee Chair, Chris Snow, at 813-276-8408 or SnowC@hillsboroughcounty.org



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

Phone: 1-800-566-4413
Email: info@floridaforce.org
Website: www.floridaforce.org

FORCE Announcement

FORCE is currently organizing two pre-consumer vegetative food waste and yard waste composting research and demo projects. These projects include an on-farm composting project, as well as composting at a registered yard waste processing facility. Progress and results of these projects will be featured in upcoming issues of ForceMatters.

FORCE is also currently developing a comprehensive Florida-specific training course for compost facility operators (e.g., public, private, farmers, grocers) or those planning to compost under the newly adopted compost registration program. Information on this course will be issued state-wide as it is made available.

DEP/SWIX Food Waste Workshop Proceedings

Thank you to all who attended the Food Recycling and Composting Workshop that was held on December 9, 2009 in Orlando, FL. It was a very successful event with 75 attendees. And thank you for participating in the FORCE roundtable discussion/focus group and providing feedback on training, marketing, and education items.

The workshop proceedings are available via this link: http://proceedings.swix.ws/2009_12_09_Food-Recycling-and-Composting-Workshop/index.cfm

For more information, please contact Ray Moreau at (850) 386-6280 or ray@swix.ws.

Upcoming Events

BioCycle 25th Annual West Coast Conference

April 12-15, 2010, Town & Country Resort
San Diego, California
www.jgpress.com/bcwc25/



Waste Expo 2010 Conference

May 3-5, 2010, Georgia World Congress Center
Atlanta, Georgia
www.wasteexpo.com/wasteexpo2010/public/enter.aspx



RFT Annual Conference

June 13-15, 2010, DoubleTree Resort
Orlando, Florida
www.recyclefloridatoday.org/conference.cfm



SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter Summer Conference

July 12-14, 2010, Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort
Naples, Florida
<http://s106960635.onlinehome.us/swana/events/conferences.asp>



SWANA WASTECON 2010

August 15-17, 2010, Boston Convention Center
Boston, Massachusetts
www.wastecon.org

