

The Future of FORCE is NOW!

After two years of limited capacity, FORCE is excited to announce that the Sumter County program is BACK with additional funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). FORCE will continue to build upon its previous seven years of success with the following projects and objectives over the next two years:

- Pre-consumer food waste and on-farm composting **research** and **demonstration projects**
- Update the FORCE **website** including online listing of approved compost testing laboratories, directories of organics generators, processors and end users, database of companies in the organics industry, searchable organics bibliography, organics regulations, and a calendar of upcoming events (www.floridaforce.org)
- Develop and distribute new **outreach** and **educational** materials
- Continue distribution of periodic **electronic newsletter** ForceMatters
- Conduct a Florida **compost training course** for compost operators (e.g., public, private, farmers, grocers) in coordination with the proposed compost regulations
- Participate in industry **conferences** and **workshops**
- **Promote** and **publicize** FORCE activities to Florida's organics recycling community and beyond at the national level

We look forward to working with you all to further promote organics recycling in Florida!

USCC Weighs in on the House Climate Bill

In July 2009, the US Composting Council (USCC) issued a position statement on the performance standard provisions in the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES) of 2009.

The USCC states that the ACES, as it is currently written, does not fully accomplish the goal of reducing methane emissions. The proposed "performance standards" within the Act may inadvertently discourage the diversion of methane-producing wastes from landfills, such as organic wastes, and may ultimately lead to an overall increase in landfill methane emissions.

The Act should include, not cut, carbon offset incentives for composting and municipal anaerobic digestion

projects. Avoiding landfill methane is much more effective than capturing it. USCC states that for each ton of organic waste that is landfilled in the US, only about 45% of the methane it produces is captured.

The USCC believes that market-based, carbon offset incentives for landfill methane avoidance projects will provide a more flexible, sustainable and cost-effective mechanism for reducing landfill methane emissions, while returning carbon to the soil.

The USCC recommends removing the "performance standards" for landfill methane emissions in the ACES Act, and encourages the inclusion of composting as eligible offset carbon credits.

To read the full position statement please visit the USCC website at:
www.compostingcouncil.org

Source: US Composting Council



Separating Plastic Bags From Yard Waste

On June 24, 2009 and July 28, 2009, Okaloosa County, with technical assistance from Kessler Consulting Inc. (KCI) and FDEP Innovative Grant funding, hosted a public demonstration showcasing innovative equipment that separates plastic bags from ground yard waste.

With Florida's 75% recycling goal looming in the minds of local government, creating a better mulch and compost product is becoming a part of the planning process for Florida's Solid Waste Managers.

The demo event was a great success with over 40 industry professionals in attendance. Three pieces of equipment were featured including, Airlift Separator, Redox, and Doppstadt. Each piece of equipment processed both fresh and aged ground yard waste using their unique plastic separation methods.

The Airlift Separator is a vacuum system that is mounted above the overs discharge conveyor of a screening plant. For this demo, the Airlift separator was utilized in conjunction with a CEC mobile deck screener. As the screened yard waste passes beneath the hoses, the lighter materials (i.e. film plastics) are drawn off and contained in a woven cylindrical fabric tube/sock.



The Redox equipment consists of a feed hopper supplying material to a pair of deck screens, and also employs a built-in air separation unit. Separated fines are discharged from the rear of the unit and overs are removed via a small side conveyor. The removed plastics component can be fed directly into a roll-off container or can be discharged on the ground.



The Wind Sifter is a separate attachment that mounts directly above the overs conveyor of the Doppstadt 720 Trommel and is powered via auxiliary hydraulics on the trommel. The unit consists of a fan with flail blades, which create a vacuum drawing plastic out of the overs and discharges them through a 14 inch flexible hose.



After the conclusion of the public event, a performance evaluation was conducted by KCI to measure throughput and plastic separation efficiency. Stay tuned for a future article featuring the equipment evaluation results. For more detailed information, contact Jessica Delgrosso at (813) 971-8333 or jdelgrosso@kesconsult.com.

Upcoming Events

USCC/EPA Region 4 Conference Fly-In: Working Toward a Sustainable Tomorrow

September 28-29, 2009, Hilton Atlanta Airport Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia
www.ggia.org

Tentative: Food Waste Recycling & Compost Rule Workshop (SWIX/FDEP)

December 9, 2009, Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Florida
Workshop information will be distributed once finalized, including the time of the event

US Composting Council (USCC) 18th Annual Conference and Trade Show

January 24-27, 2010, Wyndham Resort, Orlando, Florida
www.compostingcouncil.org/conference

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

Phone: 1-800-566-4413

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