

## USCC Issues Model Compost Rule Template

The USCC has published a model compost rule template to be used by state regulatory agencies in developing and/or revising their composting regulations. The model rule is intended to help regulators adopt rules that will ensure consumer confidence in compost quality as well as encourage continued building of composting facilities. The rule aims to uphold high standards that are protective of public health and the environment.

The template addresses three feedstock categories which are defined as Tier 1, 2, or 3 based on the materials' potential risks to human health and the environment. Design and operating requirements are applied to facilities based on the materials to be processed and the technology to be employed.

For example, Tier 1 materials include yard trimmings, woody materials, crop residues, and other materials that pose a low risk to human health and the environment. Design and operating standards are in keeping with this relatively low level of risk. In contrast, the standards and operating requirements for Tier 3 materials are much more stringent. Tier 3 materials include mixed solid waste, diapers, sewage sludge, biosolids, and food processing residuals.

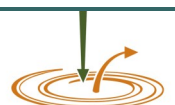
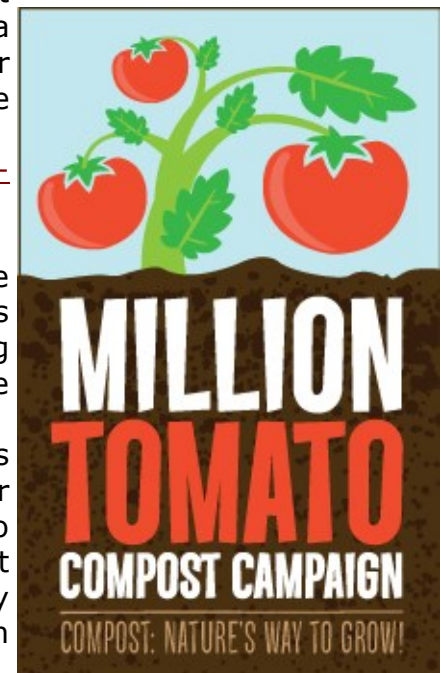
Visit the USCC website to download the template for a detailed explanation of feedstock categories and requirements. <http://compostingcouncil.org/advocacy-resource-materials/>. The USCC invites public comments or suggestions.

## USCC Million Tomato Compost Campaign

On April 21st, the U.S. Composting Council (USCC) launched its "Million Tomato Compost Campaign", a nationwide effort to bring together the nation's compost manufacturers, community gardens and food pantries, and chefs to help build healthy soil that produces nutritious, sustainably grown, local food for the nation's communities.

USCC's Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) certified compost producer members are donating STA-certified compost to participating community gardens who sign on to the campaign. The community gardens are using the donated compost to grow one million tomatoes, either for their own use or for donation to local food banks. The gardens will track the number of tomatoes grown, and the USCC will report their progress on a "tomato counter chart" on the campaign's website [www.buy-compost.com](http://www.buy-compost.com).

During the campaign, chefs will be working with the community gardens, schools and other nonprofit groups to teach people about using sustainably grown local food in recipes.



### A Compost Success Story— Charleston County, SC

We have highlighted the growth of organics recycling programs in earlier issues of the newsletter, and introduced some of the new and/or expanding programs in Florida and the Southeast. This month we're providing an update on the very successful composting program in Charleston County, SC.

The County has targeted organics recycling as a key element in their effort to achieve a 40% overall recycling goal. In September 2009, the County banned all yard waste from disposal in the landfill. That, along with the implementation of best management practices, resulted in a more than doubling of tons recycled per year (now approximately 59,000.)

In June, 2011 the County enacted a plastic bag ban to ensure the quality of the finished compost product. The compost program was further enhanced with the addition of commercial and institutional food waste, the first such program approved in the state. In January 2013 the program earned the "USCC's Seal of Testing Assurance (STA)" which testifies that the finished compost consistently meets that program's high quality standards.

The program's success can be measured by the increased tons of material diverted from the landfill, as well as the rising sales of compost. The County sells its compost in bulk by the ton as well as in more easily handled bags (1.5 cubic feet.) The compost is popular with professional landscapers and golf resorts as well as local backyard gardeners. Both bulk and bagged sales are on track to more than triple those of 2012 and reach over \$210,000 by the end of the current fiscal year.

KCI is proud to have provided technical assistance to the Charleston County program, which is fast becoming a model for others to emulate.



### Upcoming Events

#### **SWANA Florida Summer Conference,**

July 28—30, 2013

Hyatt Regency, Sarasota

*Information coming soon!*

#### **SWANA's Managing Composting Programs Course**

September 15—17, 2013

Long Beach, CA

<http://wastecon.org/EventDetails/TrainingCenter.aspx>

#### **SWANA's WasteCon 2013**

September 17—19, 2013

Long Beach, CA

<http://swanastore.stores.yahoo.net/wa20eabisp.html>

#### **61st Florida Turfgrass Association Conference**

Central Florida

September 9—12, 2013

Caribe Royale

Orlando, FL

<https://www.ftga.org/events/ftgas-60th-annual-conference-show-0>

#### **USGBC GreenBuild 2013**

November 20—22, 2013

Philadelphia, PA

Pennsylvania Convention Center

*Information coming soon!*

#### **Great Southern Tree Conference**

November 2013

Gainesville, FL

<http://www.fnqla.org/events/great-southern-tree-conference/index.aspx>

#### **USCC Compost Operations Training Course**

September 16—20, 2013

NC State University at Raleigh, NC

<http://compostingcouncil.org/training/>

**For more information about organics recycling in Florida, please call Kessler Consulting**

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