



FORCE TAG Meeting

January 19, 2006

The FORCE Technical Advisory Group (TAG) consists of members from many different industries. Each industry represented in the TAG falls into one of two categories: 1) End-users of organic composts or 2) generators of organics feedstocks.

With the assistance of the TAG members, FORCE understands the sentiments of Florida industries with regards to compost production and utilization. The FORCE TAG remains focused on expanding organics recycling in Florida.

The next TAG meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19 at the Sumter County Public Works Facility in Bushnell. Please call 1-800-566-4413 for directions and meeting room location.

The TAG consists of members from the following industries:

Horticultural Industry	Citrus Industry
Peat/Media Blender Industry	FL DEP
Poultry Industry	Biosolids Industry
Private Sector Processing	Golf Industry
Public Sector YW Processing	FL DOT
RecycleFlorida Today, Inc.	

14th Annual USCC Conference and Tradeshow

The U.S. Composting Council will hold its 14th annual conference and tradeshow at the Park Plaza Hotel, in New Orleans, on January 22-26, 2006. The conference is open to all interested individuals and there are still opportunities to become an exhibitor or sponsor.



For more information on registration or becoming an exhibitor visit:
www.compostingcouncil.org
or call (631) 737-4931

FORCE Compost Workshop A Great Success

On December 7, FORCE, in association with Recycle Florida Today, SWANA Florida, the Florida Departments of Transportation and Environmental Protection, held a composting workshop focusing on the advancement of organics recycling in Florida.

The workshop included a tour of current, FORCE funded, Research and Development (R&D) projects as well as presentations of three R&D projects completed earlier this year.

The main focus of the workshop was an open discussion regarding the 'State of Organics Recycling in Florida.' This discussion featured an update from the RFT Organics Committee Chairperson, a presentation by Chris Snow (Hillsborough County) on Storm Debris Management and Processing Options, and a presentation by Mitch Kessler comparing compost regulations in various states.

Other presenters included Francine Joyal, the Florida DEP's 'compost guru', Josh Boan of the Florida DOT, Jennifer O'Leary, Monica Ozores-Hampton and Jim Stevens, the latter of whom were past R&D project participants.

FORCE would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued support and assistance:

- A-C Equipment Services
- JL Environmental Services
- Organic Matters

**FORCE would like to wish
each of you a happy
holiday season and
wonderful New Year.**





Florida Composting Regulatory Report

This report provides an analysis of several states' solid waste regulations for organics recycling facilities for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). While FDEP staff is aware of the need for revising Florida's compost regulations, they currently do not have the time and resources needed to take on such a task. It is hoped that this report will 1) support the conclusion that Florida's organics recycling regulations need to be updated, 2) help FDEP establish a schedule for revising the compost regulations and 3) provide useful information during the regulatory revision process.

The scope of this report's is limited to organics recycling facilities that are regulated under solid waste rules; it contains a comparison of the following states' regulations regarding organic recycling: CA, ME, MA, NJ, NY, NC, VA, & FL.

Ultimately, the information in this report and the discussion it may generate will help establish Florida composting regulations that further enhance diversion and proper management of organic wastes as well as encouraging growth and diversification of the organics recycling industry in Florida.

The report, funded through FORCE and completed by Kessler Consulting, Inc., will be available to the public after the first quarter of the new year.



Sumter County Facility Featured in BioCYCLE Magazine

Congratulations to Sumter County, FORCE, and FORCE project consultant Miriam Zimms for the August 2005 BioCycle article on the Sumter County/FORCE composting facility. The three-page article detailed the design of the operations at the facility, which contain upfront separation of recyclables with intensive composting of MSW and biosolids, information on future facility retrofits, as well as details on past and current R&D projects funded through FORCE.

To request a copy of this article, contact FORCE project specialist Stacie Stokes at 1-800-566-4413.

Sumter County Facility – Update

The Sumter County Commission recently approved several actions for consideration. Among them, an RFP for privatizing the operations of the County's solid waste and recycling facility, the continuation of planning, permitting and retrofitting the existing facility, and the continued use of the digester for FORCE-related activities.

FORCEMatters will keep you updated on the latest developments in Sumter County in future issues.

For more information on FORCE please contact Stacie Stokes at:

1-800-566-4413 or 352-793-8775

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FORCE RESOLUTION

The accomplishments of FORCE, Sumter County, and our project participants have been recognized by the State of Florida with Senate Resolution No. 2760, which was presented to the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners on July 26, 2005. Drafted by State Senator Paula Dockery and adopted by the Florida Senate, the resolution commends the Sumter County Commission for outstanding efforts to reduce solid waste and improve soil and groundwater in the state, through FORCE.

Congratulations!



State Senator Paula Dockery presents the FORCE Resolution to the Board of County Commissioners

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Efforts Underway to Recover Reusable Tsunami Debris

While the tsunami that hit the Indian Ocean last December has come and gone, the effects of the storm are still being felt. In Banda Aceh alone, residents are dealing with more than 13 million cubic yards of debris.

In an effort to manage this debris, the United Nations Development Program initiated a recovery program that will eventually employ up to 30,000 people. In addition to providing employment to those unemployed by the storm, the Recovery Program will also provide vaccinations, clothing, and health and safety training to its employees.

The Recovery Program will target plastics and metals for recycling, organic waste for composting, concrete and stone (crushed) for use in future construction, as well as other reusable materials. The compost produced by the Program will be used to fill areas eroded by the storm.

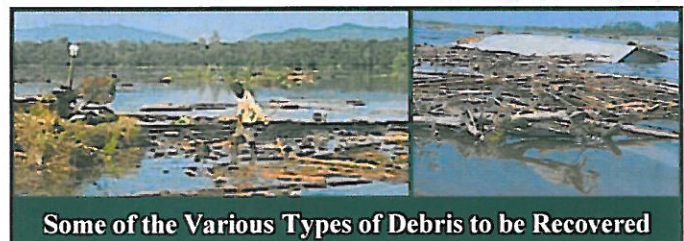
For more information about this recovery program please visit the UNDP website at:

<http://www.undp.org/tsunami/indonesia.htm>

Article Source: <http://www.undp.org/tsunami/indonesia.htm>



Before and After Pictures of the Devastation



Some of the Various Types of Debris to be Recovered



Group Seeks Uniform Legislation and Regulation of Compost

The Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) is an organization of fertilizer control officials from each state in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico; who are actively engaged in the administration of fertilizer laws and regulations.

As most of you are aware, at the current time it is very difficult for compost producers to make claims as to the benefits of their product or the nutrients levels contained therein. AAPFCO, with assistance from the U.S. Composting Council, is working hard to change all that.

They have been working with the Uniform Bills Committee for several years to develop a uniform regulation, pertaining to the sale of compost. The development of this new language, which would be added to the Uniform State Fertilizer Bill, would allow for both soil amending and nutrient claims to be made about the compost. The draft language, has been approved by the AAPFCO board and will be voted upon by the entire association this month.

AAPFCO is also creating a list of scientifically verified compost benefits that could be used by compost producers nation-wide. The acceptance of these benefits, or labeling claims, would reduce the negotiation phase that composters must undergo when trying to have their product labeled for end use.

The following 13 compost benefits, which have been approved by the Environmental Affairs Committee of AAPFCO, represent a **minimum** list of allowable product claims. This list may also be added to by manufacturers with verifiable research data.

For more information on AAPFCO and the progress of the Uniform State Fertilizer Bill please visit: <http://www.aapfco.org/>

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Verified Benefits of Compost Utilization

1. Improves soil structure and porosity – creating a better plant root environment.
2. Increases moisture infiltration and permeability, and reduces bulk density of heavy soils – improving moisture infiltration rates and reducing erosion and runoff.
3. Improves the moisture holding capacity of light soils – reducing water loss and nutrient leaching, and improving moisture retention.
4. Improves the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of soils – improving their ability to retain nutrients for plant use.
5. Supplies organic matter.
6. Aids the proliferation of beneficial microbes.
7. Supplies beneficial microorganisms to soils and growing media.
8. Encourages vigorous root growth.
9. Allows plants to more effectively utilize nutrients, while reducing nutrient loss by leaching.
10. Enables soils to retain nutrients longer.
11. Contains humus – assisting in soil aggregation and making nutrients more available for plant uptake.
12. Buffers soil pH.
13. Binds and degrades specific pollutants.

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