

Proposed Florida 62-640 Biosolids Management Rule

The proposed 62-640 Biosolids Management Rule presents a significant regulatory and financial barrier to the production, distribution and marketing of biosolids compost in the State of Florida.

Proposed language in Chapter 62-640.850 requires that all Class AA biosolids and biosolids products must be licensed and registered as a fertilizer in accordance with Chapter 576 FD and Chapter 5E-1 FAC (Florida's Commercial Fertilizer Law). Biosolids compost will be subjected to a per ton inspection fee of \$1.50 per ton. FDEP has proposed the fertilizer requirements as a way to limit nitrogen and phosphorus from biosolids contaminating surface or ground water.

Biosolids compost is distinct from other Class AA biosolids produced by lime stabilization, heat drying, and pelletizing. Composting converts water soluble nutrients into an organic non-soluble form. Unlike other biosolids and inorganic fertilizers, compost increases soil cation exchange capacity and water hold capacity, both of which help to reduce nutrient leaching. In fact, biosolids compost has been successfully utilized in wetland restoration projects and can actually be used as a filter media for stormwater runoff.

The fertilizer inspection fee also places an unfair economic burden on biosolids compost versus other biosolids. Compost is made with a bulking agent that contributes significantly to the final weight of compost. Compost has comparatively high moisture content and low nutrient content. These factors mean that biosolids compost is subject to a much higher fee per dry ton of nutrient than other biosolids – without considering the fact that those nutrients are in a form and product that actually reduces surface and ground water contamination. Consequently, Kessler Consulting, Inc. (KCI) has concluded that Class AA biosolids compost should be exempt from the fertilizer registration requirement.

KCI helped coordinate submission of comments to FDEP and the Environmental Regulatory Commission from Recycle Florida Today, the U.S. Composting Council, and biosolids composters in Florida. Status on the biosolids rule adoption can be found online at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wastewater/dom/resmake.htm>.

The rule adoption is expected to take place in January 2010. Please send questions or comments to Maurice Barker of the FDEP at maurice.barker@dep.state.fl.us.

San Francisco Mandates Compost Collection

San Francisco recently became the first city to mandate the separation of compostable materials from garbage. This law is part the city's plan to divert 75% of waste from landfills by 2010 and 100% by 2020.

Both residents and commercial businesses are required to have three color-coded containers for recycling, composting, and garbage. Compostable items include food waste, yard waste, and soiled paper.

The new rule is enforced by a warning system, followed by fines issued at \$100 for small businesses and single-family homes and up to \$1,000 for large businesses and multi-family units. Composting containers are supplied to residents at no additional cost.

Source: Waste Business Journal, *New San Francisco Law: Residents Must Separate Trash*, October 19, 2009.

EPA Food Waste Management Cost Calculator

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently launched the new Food Waste Management Cost Calculator. This tool estimates the cost competitiveness of alternatives to food waste disposal, including source reduction, donation, composting, and recycling of yellow grease. Specifically, the calculator:

- Develops an alternative food waste management scenario based on:
 - Your waste profile;
 - Availability of diversion methods; and
 - Preferences.
- Compares cost estimates for a disposal versus an alternative scenario.

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserves/materials/organics/food/tools/index.htm>

Featured Conference:

US Composting Council Annual Conference & Trade Show

The Florida organics industry is fortunate in this time of reduced travel budgets to have a national conference held in the State of Florida. The **18th Annual US Composting Council (USCC) Conference and Tradeshow** will be held on **January 24-27, 2010** in **Orlando, Florida** at the Wyndham Resort.

As the State of Florida adopts new regulations to expand the ability to compost food wastes, this is a great opportunity to learn how to properly incorporate food wastes into your yard waste operations, and obtain valuable information on how to market these new products.

Several Florida speakers will be presenting at the conference to discuss local organics issues including:

- Management of Odors through Design and Operations. *Elliot Epstein, Epstein Environmental Consultants, West Palm Beach, FL*
- Using Innovative Equipment to Separate Plastic from Yard Waste. *Jim Reece, CHMM, Fort Walton Beach, FL*
- Making the Case for Organics Diversion from Landfills. *Chris Snow, Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Department, Tampa, FL*
- Compost: The Connection to GHG and Global Warming. *Monica Ozores-Hampton, University of Florida/IFAS/SWFREC, Immokalee, FL*
- Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE). *Miriam Zimms, Kessler Consulting, Inc., Tampa, FL*
- Roadmap for Maximizing Organics Recycling. *Mitch Kessler, Kessler Consulting, Inc., Tampa, FL*
- Department of Transportation (DOT) Compost/Mulch Roadside Programs in Florida. *Josh Boan, Florida Department of Transportation, Tallahassee, FL*
- Compost Influence on Dendroremediation of Pulpmill Effluent by Fast Growing Eucalyptus, Populus, and Corymbia Species. *D. L. Rockwood, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL*

The Conference is also going carbon neutral! The USCC is offsetting the greenhouse gas emissions associated with conference activities and attendees' travel, totaling up to 500 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. Environmental Credit Corporation is providing carbon offset credits and retiring them on behalf of USCC. The carbon credits will come from specific projects that reduce methane from manure and organic residuals management.

For full agenda details and registration please visit the following website:

www.compostingcouncil.org/conference



Demonstration Results

Separating Plastic Bags From Yard Waste

Results from the June 24 and July 28, 2009 public demonstration for equipment separating plastic bags from yard waste, hosted by Okaloosa County, have been compiled and finalized.



The results report will be made available on the FORCE website in January 2010 at www.floridaforce.org. For more information, contact Jessica DelGrosso at (813) 971-8333 or jdelgrosso@kesconsult.com.

Upcoming Events

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

December 9, 2009, Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Florida

<http://swix.ws/pdf/Food-Waste-Registration-Form-Revised.pdf>



RFT/SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter Joint Issues Forum Winter Conference

January 26-27, 2010, Doubletree Resort, Orlando, Florida

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



SWANA's Thinking Outside the Blue Box

February 8-9, 2010, The Embassy Suites, Charlotte, North Carolina

<http://thinkingoutsidethebluebox.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