

Renewable news

Spring 2000



2000, A Recycling Odyssey... RecycleFlorida Today's Annual Conference June 4-7, 2000, Saddlebrook Resort, Tampa

By Miriam Zimms, Annual Conference Chair

Mark June 4-7 on your calendar and plan now to attend this new millennium event at beautiful Saddlebrook Resort near Tampa, one of Florida's premier golf and tennis resorts.

This year's conference will start the new millennium by launching you on an exciting journey – 2000, A Recycling Odyssey. Conference sessions have been developed to meet your educational needs. General sessions will address broad recycling issues, and breakout sessions will focus on specific areas of waste reduction and recycling, including two recycling sessions and one organic session to address your specific waste reduction interests.

The conference committee is proud to announce that Ford Motor Company and Union 76-Circle K have agreed to co-sponsor the event. Sponsorship opportunities are still available as well as exhibitor booths. This year the conference will feature twenty-seven indoor exhibitor booths and three outdoor spaces. Space is rapidly running out, so call **RFT's Administrative Manager, Gaylene Stanley** now at **1-877-867-4RFT** to secure your space.

RFT golfers will have the opportunity to enjoy two golf outings on Saddlebrook Resort's Arnold Palmer signature championship golf courses. We encourage you to make the conference a family event. The resort offers daily supervised activities for kids for a nominal fee.

The annual awards banquet will be a Space Odyssey theme party. We invite you to wear a **mask** or **costume** of your favorite space alien or futuristic character. The committee encourages you to add variety to this party by becoming *Mork*, *Spock*, *Mini-Me* or your favorite character from *My Favorite Martian*, *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, *The Jetsons*, or *Third Rock from the Sun*.

As you can see, we are counting down to launch time for an exciting **Recycling Odyssey**. To secure your spot on the mission, please be sure to make your hotel reservations in advance by contacting the Saddlebrook Resort at **1-800-729-8383** or 813-973-1111 or visit www.recyclefloridatoday.org/rft2000/ for more information. I look forward to seeing everyone there!



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Unless otherwise noted, the opinions expressed in RENEWABLE NEWS are those of the author of the respective article and not necessarily the opinions of RecycleFlorida Today, Inc.

Printed on Recycled Paper



Letter from the Chair



The Board recently approved the appointment of Victor Storelli to replace Miriam Zimms as a private sector representative on the RFT Board. The Board thanks Miriam for her hard work and valuable contributions. Her energy and enthusiasm will be missed. Miriam will continue to serve RFT as Chair of the Annual Conference Committee.

The Board welcomes Victor, Recycling Group Director for Waste Management. Throughout his 20-year career in the industry, Victor has been an innovator and a strong advocate for corporate and government recycling and buy-recycled programs.

The Florida Legislative Session is now underway, and Legislators will be considering several bills of interest to the recycling industry. The RFT Legislative Committee will be monitoring the status of these bills, but I encourage RFT members to follow their progress and be alert to their potential impacts.

In an effort to maintain a vigorous dialogue among members and adopt a more proactive stance, the Board plans to initiate a new, more interactive forum in the coming months. The Board hopes to hold at least two "town meetings" each year to give members the opportunity to discuss issues, identify areas of concern, and develop action plans for our organization.

Based on the incredible efforts of the entire Annual Conference Committee, this year's conference, 2000, A Recycling Odyssey, promises to be an epic event. Many thanks to Miriam Zimms and the entire conference committee for their great efforts to make this conference a success.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Odyssey.

Mitch



ASK US HOW YOU CAN GET PAID TO RECYCLE!

And keep your city streets litter-free!

The OMG Media INFO BOX will enhance the city's streetscape and provide recycling on the run. Three compartments in one: trash/litter; recyclable paper; and recyclable bottles and cans. Positive revenue generation for the municipality on an on-going basis. Also suitable for parks, stadiums, transportation facilities. Sturdy stainless steel construction. Call for more details!

NAPCOR: National Association for PET Container Resources

Sandi M. Childs (SChilds@NAPCOR.com)
Eastern Regional Director
Phone 828/236-9006



Committee Updates

Communications

Announcing RFT's New Connections...

Spread the word that RecycleFlorida Today has 2 brand new communication tools! Tell interested associates to seek information through our new toll free number **1-877-867-4RFT(738)** or our website at: www.recyclefloridatoday.org

Also note RFT's new mailing address: **RecycleFlorida Today, Inc.**
c/o PIAM
P.O. Box 328
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Wanted: 2 Good Volunteers

Seeking RFT Communications

Chair who serves as Renewable News Editor. Duties include notification of article submission deadlines, issue reminders, compile news, edit text, include graphics & captions, determine layout then coordinate with publisher and PIAM for final printing of each issue.

Also a Florida contact person for America Recycles Day 2000. For details about this event, visit

www.americarecyclesday.org. If interested, Contact Gene Jones at 850/386-6280.



Numbers Fun

From Rebecca Stone

I recently found a poem which I received in 1993 from Dakota Co., MN. With all the talk about "counting" and accuracy in recycling percentages and SW tonnages, I thought you all might enjoy the following:

"A ton is a ton is a ton
Unless it's a source reduced one
In which case it was
But now it isn't
Because it's missing
Which makes counting it fun!"

Care to Advertise?

Renewable News Advertisement Rates:

Ad Size	Cost (for three issues)
Business Card:	\$50
1/4 Page:	\$150
1/2 Page:	\$250
Full Page:	\$750

Send your advertisement in electronic postscript format(eps) along with payment to: RFT, c/o PIAM, P.O. Box 328, Tallahassee, FL 32302

Legislative

By Ivan Lawyer

RFT Seeks Statutory Revisions to 403.7095(9), F.S.

In late February, RFT proposed changes to the existing *Innovative Recycling Grants Program* and transmitted these changes to the Staff Director (Cynthia Kelly) of the House General Government Appropriations Committee, Chaired by Representative Pruitt (St. Lucie County).

The major changes proposed include:

- Increasing amount of innovative grants available in fiscal year 2000-2001 from 10% of total funds available in R&E grants program to 25%.
- RFT involvement in the development of selection criteria and grant recipient selection process
- Changes to the existing criteria for determining whether a grant proposal is innovative

A full version of proposed changes are available from Gaylene Stanley At PIAM or through RFT's Web Site at www.recyclefloridatoday.org.

For Earthday 2000

Leon County and Tallahassee government agencies will team up with area recyclers for a week long "Clean Your Files and Recycle It!" event. Government employees will participate in book and office paper recycling all week long to raise recycling levels and waste reduction awareness at the office.

Additionally, all area businesses and residential offices are invited to recycle April 21-22nd. These events combined will collect and recycle office paper, hard and soft bound books, computers, televisions, stereos, VCRs, telephones and even Pallets!

Third Year Innovative Recycling Grants Awarded

The DEP's Review Committee recently selected the following projects:

- Broward- Develop Glass Processing Facility \$300,000
- Charlotte- Roofs to Roads \$150,000
- Charlotte- Web-Based Waste Comp. Model \$240,000
- Hillsborough & Leon- DormOutfitter.com \$45,000
- Leon- Carpet Recycling \$250,000
- Orange & Osceola- Development of Drywall Processing Capacity \$280,000
- Pinellas- Advanced Waste Composition Model \$240,000
- Sarasota- On-line Sorting Technology for CCA Treated Wood \$294,100

You may read these project proposals on line at: www.dep.state.fl.us/dwm/programs/recycling/igg2k

Business Bravos

Dei-Tec Corporation Develops Renewable Automotive Oil Filtration

Dei-Tec Corporation is known for the stewardship and responsibility it prides itself in dealing with renewable oil filters. This corporation strives to provide the highest quality of renewable filtration products while protecting the environment and serving its clientele to the best of their ability.

The company's purpose is stated in its message to "STOP WASTING NATURAL RESOURCES". Dei-Tec has been able to maintain consistent oil filtration efficiency through the Dei-Tec Cycle reclamation process of returning, renewing and reusing. Dei-Tec stresses the availability of leasing renewable oil filters with unlimited free exchanges. The Dei-Max is a renewable filter that hot drains 99.9% of the used oil and recovers 100% of the waste. Through this beneficial product they are able to help in conserving landfill space, reduce oil consumption, reduce the solid waste generation and reduce groundwater contamination.

To obtain information concerning Dei-Tec Corporation's Dei-Max renewable oil filter, contact: Mr. Jeff Deibel at 803/822-8445 or jdeibel@dei-tec.com



FPL

statewide conferences – Florida League of Cities and Florida Hotel/Motel Association. Attendance at the conferences is projected to exceed 2,500 people — all potential new members for RFT.

FPL, celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, began its recycling and waste minimization efforts in 1981. Today, its Corporate Recycling & Services Department processes and markets a variety of commodities including metals, wood and plastics, as well as paper and corrugated cardboard. FPL continues to drive down its disposal costs through recycling and waste minimization. Committed to efficiency and environmentally – beneficial recycling, the company has its own in-house Reinvestment Team. This group includes representatives from various departments who identify recycling and waste minimization opportunities throughout the company and peruse solutions. For details, contact Russell Ketchem-an FPL Corporate Recycling Coordinator and an RFT member—at (561) 845-4976.

RFT and FPL Make For A Powerful Connection

By Dianne Reale

As Recycle Florida Today works to build its membership among private companies, Florida Power & Light Company is helping to light the way. FPL will be supporting RFT's membership expansion activities by making it possible for RFT to exhibit at two annual

Mark Your Calendar

May 8-10 BioCycle's Annual National Conference, Orlando Hyatt. For information visit www.jgpress.com

May 15-18 Waste Expo, Atlanta, GA. For information call (203) 358-3705.

June 1-4 Key West Recycling Seminar. For information, contact Herb Lund at 954/973-8010.

June 4-7 Don't miss "2000 A Recycling Odyssey", RFT's Annual Conference and Exhibition, Saddlebrook Resort, Tampa. For information call 1-877/867-4RFT or visit: www.recyclefloridatoday.org/rft2000.

June 7-8 Fourth Annual Statewide Pollution Prevention Conference at the Adam's Mark in Clearwater, FL. For information contact Carol Magary at 352-392-9570, ext.109, or SUNCOM 622-9570 or visit www.dep.state.fl.us/dwm_programs/p2

June 18-22 Air & Waste Management Association's Annual Meeting Salt Lake City, Utah. For information visit www.awma.org

June 25-27 Paper Recycling 2000 Conference, Grand Hyatt Buckhead Atlanta, GA. For information contact Maria Miller at 800/456-0707 or visit www.recyclingtoday.com

August 7-10 SWANA Training Institute - Omni Hotel, Jacksonville, FL. For more information contact SWANA at 301/585-2898.

August 10-11 SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter Annual Meeting, Omni Hotel, Jacksonville, FL. For more information contact Karen Johnson 800/626-4723

September 10-13 NRC's 19th Annual Congress & Exposition, Charlotte, NC. Save money by registering before January 31st. Respond to the call for papers by submitting your abstract by February 28, 2000. For information visit: www.nrc-recycle.org.

September 14-15 International Containerboard Conference, Miami Beach, FL. Contact: Dana Jacoby at 415/538-3808.

September 20 The 5th Annual Southeast Recycling Investment and Environmental Business Forum Adam's Mark, Charlotte, NC. The Forum offers expanding recycling companies the opportunity to present their business plans to private investors, venture capitalists, bankers, economic developers and recycling officials. This year, the Forum has been broadened to include expanding environmental businesses and programs specifically for the investment community.

The South Carolina Recycling Market Development Advisory Council again will host this Forum, along with partnering states throughout the Southeast. For presenter applications or sponsorship or registration information, contact Ted Campbell at 803/737-0477, Dottie Landry at 803/737-0239 or visit www.callsouthcarolina.com/recycling

Also note— **Upcoming Deadlines for Renewable News articles:** Please make note of these deadlines and make certain to coincide your article submissions with the DUE OUT timeframe.

July 7 Summer 2000 Issue **due out mid August**

October 6 Fall 2000 Issue **due out early November**

A Ton And A Half Of Fun Sailed Into the Capitol March 7, 2000

What weighs one and a half tons, stretches 22 feet in length, is made of recycled plastic and will help to revitalize a Southside neighborhood? The "S.S. Recycle" play ship!

The massive recycled play ship will eventually become the centerpiece of Tallahassee's Pocket Park which is currently undergoing permitting on the corner of Magnolia and Dantzler streets. It has been donated to the City of Tallahassee and Leon County by the Florida Plastics Industry Council (FPIC) and the American Plastics Council (APC). "This donation will not only bring many fun-filled hours of play, it also complements the Governor's "Front Porch Initiative" which was created to revitalize and strengthen urban communities," said Brogan.

Constructed from recycled plastic lumber, the S.S. Recycle requires little maintenance and offers durability unrivaled in other building materials. Unlike wood, concrete and metal, plastic does not splinter, rot, crumble, rust or need painting, which increases its level of safety. "This unique and wonderful piece of fun play equipment will help to improve the quality of life in one of our Southside neighborhoods," Mayor Maddox said. "Safe, well-maintained playgrounds are known to help build civic pride by offering a haven for children to develop physically and socially."

Introducing Earth's 911-2000!

By Meryl Klein

Earth's 911 has been re-released in partnership with dozens of public sector organizations to ensure ease of use and to allow for the unprecedented growth of this Public and Private Sector Partnership. Earth's 911-2000 is an exciting environmental information system upgrade that will meet your education and resource needs for years to come.

Earth's 911-2000 highlights include:

- 1) A new main menu with more recycling, local programs and environmental information options (i.e., water quality, air quality, composting, shopping with the environment in mind, renewable energy, and energy conservation)
- 2) New recycling options including local curbside services, permanent and single-event household hazardous disposal info and locations, and redemption value recycling info and locations (for states that have container redemption programs).
- 3) Enhanced search capabilities taking into consideration political boundaries and designated search radii.
- 4) Expanded list of recycling services, including electronics recycling, reuse services and medical waste management options.

To add, review or change your community's information on-line in our State & Local Public Sector Resources Section, www.1800cleanup.org/states/state_coordination/default.asp

You can check it all out at www.1-800-CLEANUP or dial 1-800-CLEANUP or e-mail me at mklein@cleanup.org. I look forward to talking with you at the RFT conference in June.



New report out: "Wasting and Recycling in the U.S. 2000"

GrassRoots Recycling Network has released a report to provide recycling professionals, policymakers, and other planners with the information needed to support expanded resource conservation, recycling activities and policies to build a new paradigm based on eliminating waste rather than managing waste. Key benefits of recycling identified in the report include:

- Reducing greenhouse gases. Reaching a 35 percent recycling rate and reducing wasting to 1990 levels would eliminate 11.4 million metric tons of carbon equivalent (MTCE). This is equivalent to taking nearly 7 million cars off the road.
- Reducing reliance on virgin resources protects habitats and eliminates pollution from extracting resources, processing and manufacturing. Producing aluminum from bauxite is highly energy intensive and generates a ton of caustic waste for every ton of bauxite mined. Recovering the more than 45 billion aluminum cans wasted in 1998 in the U.S. would conserve enough energy to supply the electricity needed by the city of Atlanta for two years.
- Creating sustainable jobs and businesses. A survey by ten northeastern states found that industries manufacturing with recycled materials employ 103,413 people in the region. North Carolina recycling industries employ over 8,700 people. California is expected to create 45,000 recycling jobs when it reaches 50 percent waste reduction and recycling goal.

Wasting and Recycling in the United States 2000 identifies several factors adversely affecting recycling and waste reduction, including:

- Corporations backing away from commitments to use recycled materials in products and packaging.
- Subsidies for virgin resource extraction and waste disposal which put recycling at a competitive disadvantage, including \$2.6 billion annually in federal taxpayer subsidies and billions more spent by local governments supporting landfills and incinerators.
- Products and packaging are often made with little regard for recycling and waste prevention. For example, new plastic beverage containers are made with colored resins or labels and caps making recycling technically more difficult and expensive.

You may read or download this report at: www.grrn.org

Reuse-A-Shoe Program

By looking at the environmental effects throughout the lifecycle of an athletic shoe, Nike realized the significant impact of discarded shoes. Nike and its retail partners are trying to be part of the solution. Through the Reuse-A-Shoe program, you can get involved too. Just return your old athletic shoes to one of the Nike collection partners listed below. You can even recycle non-Nike athletic shoes. They will collect the shoes and return them to Nike and we will process them into new products. It's the reverse of buying a shoe. To learn more about the Reuse program visit: <http://nikebiz.com/environ/reuse.shtml>

ACTION ITEM, PLEASE FAXBACK

(Please remove or photocopy and Faxback)

Member's Survey Recycle Florida Today, Inc. (RFT)

In order to better serve it's membership, RFT's Membership Committee is conducting this short survey to obtain first hand knowledge of member needs and thoughts on the present and future activities of RFT. *Please fax your responses to Gaylene Stanley of Partners in Association Management no later than May 12th 850/877-2198.*

1. What is single most important service that RFT provides for you personally and why?

2. What is a service either NOT currently provided by RFT, or NOT provided to the extent you feel it should be, that you feel strongly should be? Why?

3. What would you most like to see RFT accomplish during the next year?

During the next 2-3 years?

4. What are the three issues that you think are most critical to RFT and why?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Which committee (s) would you like to be involved with?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications/Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development | <input type="checkbox"/> FORA | <input type="checkbox"/> Conference | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating/Elections |

Signed: _____ Organization/Company: _____

THANK YOU!
Ray Moreau, Membership Chair

County Connection

Spring Fever Hits Alachua County

The *EarthQuest: The Challenge Begins* exhibit has moved on but follow up activities have resulted in double the participation in school presentations and transfer station tours. Alachua was sad to see the exhibit leave but quickly revived the spirit with a visit from **Bill Nye the Science Guy!** Bill performed 2 special recycling shows at the Center for Performing Arts at the University of Florida. Mr. Nye accommodated all who wanted a photo op with him and even managed to create a PSA for the Office of Waste Alternatives. But Alachua County and the City of Gainesville don't stop there...the St. Johns Celebration Clean-Up, the Great Florida Clean-Up, the Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival, Farm and Forest Festival, Tire Round Up and Earth Day in the Plaza are just a few of the activities slated for this spring. Also, this April, the curbside program rolls out a new feature. The Orange Bin. Residents will now separate containers into the Big Blue and fibers into the Orange bin. Staff and Boone Waste Management hope to accomplish two things: 1) placing the Big Blue container on top of the Orange fiber container will reduce blow away paper litter and 2) fiber will be drier and less contaminated in the separate orange bin.

Dade Conveys "Recycle It" Message For Earthday 2000!

Cutler Ridge Elementary School, Miami FL

Ms. Tuttle's and Mrs. McMillan's second grade classes decorated approximately 200 grocery bags. The bags were donated by Publix Supermarkets and redistributed to stores. This project sent customers home with very important environmental care messages. Other Earth Day activities included a composting demonstration and planting flowers.



Hillsborough Raises \$14,500 Recycling Phone Books

From October through mid-January, Hillsborough County students collected old telephone directories from family, friends and local businesses in their effort to recycle and raise money for the individual schools. The top three school that collected the most telephone directories were Bay Crest Elementary (28.77 tons), Temple Heights Christian (23.12 tons), and Maniscalco Elementary (22.4 tons). The 1999 total goal of 150 tons has been exceeded. Enthusiastic students, teachers and family members have set a new record this year by collecting over 193 tons. This equals 89,411 individual directories and represents 3,040 trees saved. Total cash and prizes distributed to all the winning schools amounted to more than \$14,500.

The recycling program enables local schools to conserve valuable paper resources and earn money through their efforts.

Last year's collection was recycled into 150 tons corrugated cardboard. GTE has focused its community investment resources on the enhancement of K-12 technology and literacy programs. GTE has funded \$30,000 to facilitate this program. Schools are awarded cash prizes based on the tonnage they collected. Additionally, the winning schools receive GTE Yellow Pages Shopping Certificates, to be used by the schools with selected advertisers in the directory.

Thirty-three public and private schools in Hillsborough County participated in the 1999 Phone Book Recycling Program, sponsored by GTE, GTE Directories, the Hillsborough Education Foundation and the Recycling Task Force of Hillsborough County. An Award Ceremony recognizing the top six schools was held February 23rd.

Taylor County welcomes new recycling/solid waste director Jacqueline Northrup.

Jacqueline took the reins last March. Taylor's recycling facility has doubled its recycling efforts since the facility opened in 1998. Our facility processed and sold 716.33 tons of recyclable materials bringing in \$18,027 in revenue last year. It also saved the county \$37,249 in landfill tipping fees plus transportation costs to the landfill. Taylor has implemented a very successful mandatory commercial recycling program. Currently we recycle aluminum cans, bi-metal cans, tin, most scrap metals, occ cardboard, hdpe and pete plastics #1 and #2, newspaper, magazines, and office paper. The office paper program took off this year and is growing every day. This year we are moving our operations to a larger location. With this move we will be establishing new recycled product markets. If you have any questions about our program or would like to meet Jacqueline, please call 850/838-3533.

Palm Beach Focuses on Reuse

After 10.5 years working for the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County in its Recycling Department, Jana Haskins will assume a new role as Director of Resource Depot, Inc. beginning April 1, 2000.

In this capacity, Jana will be responsible for coordinating the development of a reusable resource center for Palm Beach County that will benefit children, local businesses and the environment. The Resource Depot will accept donations from local businesses of byproducts, overruns and clean scrap materials that might otherwise have been disposed. The center then will make these materials available to public and private school teachers, childcare providers, after school programs, parents and others for use in lessons with children as well as senior care and rehabilitative providers. You may reach Jana at 561/434-2227 x1.

Division Update

By Chris Snow

The FORA Division of RFT has been very busy this spring. Our goal continues to be the voice for organic recycling in the State of Florida, as we bring together the range of organic materials, and the public and private sector parties involved in recycling them. Following is a brief recap of our activities and ways for you to become involved.

Food Waste Diversion/ Alternatives Workshop

A very successful Food Waste Diversion/ Alternatives Workshop was held on January 26, 2000, in conjunction with the Issues Forum. We had 32 attendees that braved the cold of Tallahassee for an additional day. We would like to thank our speakers that provided very interesting and informative presentations that were very well received based upon our comment sheets.

Dr. Bob Myer, Professor of Animal Sciences provided an excellent review on the value of using food waste as animal feeds. The bottom line is that animals love our high fat diets that we feed to ourselves. Dr. Myer can be reached at 850/482-9955 if you would like additional information on this topic.

Dr. Aziz Shiralipour, Center for Natural Resources, UF/IFAS – Gainesville and Holly Johnson, UF Doctoral Student, presented an overview of the Center for Biomass Programs and FOR A's publication; Final Report: Food Waste Diversion in Florida. This overview was very insightful on the magnitude of the food waste generated and disposed of in the State of Florida. The range of alternatives currently used to manage this waste stream that exceeds 1 million tons annually were discussed. For more information please contact Dr. Aziz Shiralipour at (352) 392-1511, or Sally Palmi, chair of FOR A's Food Waste Subcommittee at (352) 374-5213.

Ms Marie Coffey, Executive Director of Tallahassee's Second Harvest Food Bank of the Big Bend provided an informative and heart touching presentation that related not just the importance of food banks in the management and reuse of food waste; but also its very real purpose of responding to the needs of hungry and undernourished children and adults in the State of Florida. We strongly encourage all recycling coordinators and solid waste professionals to see how you can assist the food banks serving your counties and cities. See Marie's article herein for the foodbank in your area.

Utilizing Organic Materials in Horticultural Production Systems Workshop

By the time this newsletter is received, the FORA Division of RFT with the assistance of Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton of the University of Florida/ Institute for Food and Agricultural will have presented a workshop that showcases the research of nine UF/IFAS professors utilizing organic material in horticultural production systems. Dr. Frank Gouin, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland was the keynote speaker. The next newsletter will contain summaries of some of the presentations. Hope we saw you there.



Dr. Frank Gouin at March 23rd Seminar in Immoklaee

FDEP Contract – Organic Recycling Facility Directory

FORA is continuing its efforts to develop an Organic Recycling Facility Directory for the State of Florida under its contract with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The biggest problem with any undertaking of this type, is the poor response rate when sending out surveys. Just remember a Directory of Organic Recycling Facilities will be a benefit for all. So if you receive a survey asking for information on your facility or asking for information on the facilities in your County – FILL IT OUT AND RETURN IT. Thank you.

FDEP Contract – Organic Recycling Facility Operator Training Needs Assessment

Due to a FDEP funding issue, this portion of the scope has been put into next fiscal year. So we will continue to work on it after July, 2000.



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Draft Proposed Changes to Address Yard Trash Recycling Facilities

By Francine Joyal, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The Department plans to bring the proposed changes before our Environmental Regulation Commission for adoption in the next few months. The majority of these changes concern yard trash recycling facilities. While exempting yard trash processing facilities (recycling and transfer stations) from having to obtain a solid waste management facility permit, the draft changes would require some record keeping, and annual registration and reporting to the Department. The proposed requirements to qualify for the permit exemption are:

1. Yard trash and processed yard trash at the facility shall:
 - a. Not be stored in a manner or location that violate air quality or water quality standards.
 - b. Be 100 feet beyond any existing or approved off-site potable water well or 200 feet beyond any existing or approved potable water well serving a community water system as defined in Rule 62-550.200(9), F.A.C., that existed before the facility was registered.
 - c. Be 50 feet beyond any natural or artificial water body, including wetlands within DEP jurisdiction (excludes ponds, permitted stormwater management system structures, or water bodies contained totally within the facility that do not discharge from the site to surface waters.
 - d. Not be placed in a dewatered pit unless the pit is lined and permanent leachate containment and special design techniques are used to ensure the integrity of the liner; in an area subject to frequent and periodic flooding unless flood protection measures are in place; in or surface or ground water; or on the right of way of any public highway, road, or alley.
2. There shall be no open burning in the recycling area of the facility. Any controlled burning at the facility will comply with Department rules, including for air curtain incinerators.
3. Facility has
 - a. An effective barrier to prevent unauthorized entry and dumping into the site.
 - b. Dust control methods.
 - c. Fire protection and control provisions to deal with accidental burning of solid waste, including: a 20-foot perimeter, all weather access road: 15-foot interior lanes; and all unprocessed or processed yard trash is within 50 feet of access by motorized fire fighting equipment.
4. Facility will be operated in a manner to control disease vectors and objectionable odors.
5. Yard trash will be processed so that it will pass a 6-inch sieve. Any unprocessed yard trash will be removed from the facility within six months, or within the period required to accumulate 3,000 tons or 12,000 cubic yards which ever is greatest, except unprocessed and segregated logs with a diameter greater than six inches that will be processed within 12 months.
6. Processed yard trash will be removed or marketed within 18 months. Storage of processed material for a longer period may be allowed where the yard trash processing facility is authorized under another Department solid waste permit.
7. Only yard trash, bags used to collect yard trash, and clean wood are allowed. Any other materials will be containerized.
8. Putrescible material will be removed in 48 hours.
9. Any treated or untreated biomedical waste, hazardous waste, or materials containing a polychlorinated biphenyl concentration of ≥ 50 parts per million will be immediately containerized and removed from the facility.

Recycling Organics And Reclaiming Land

By James V. Ragsdale, Jr., Mulch Program Coordinator, St. Petersburg Sanitation Department

Question: What looks like a moonscape in Florida but is not?

Answer: Land that has been mined for phosphates before it is reclaimed.

A 1999-2000 Innovative Grant project is underway at a phosphate mine in Polk County to reclaim land by adding recycled yard waste rather than in the traditional manner. The current methods of reclamation and restoration used by the phosphate companies are cumbersome because of how topsoil has to be obtained and moved. In addition, there is a shortage of available topsoil. So, adding organic matter can enhance the revegetation efforts by improving the soil's water-holding capacity, providing slow release of nutrients, improving drainage and reducing erosion.

This year-long project is a partnership between the Pinellas County and City of St. Petersburg using \$139,000 in Innovative Grant funds from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The majority of the funding is being used to transport and spread the mulch in the study areas. Each of the 35 to 40 acre plots is being treated in a different manner before tree seedlings are planted:

- A. Traditional manner — only topsoil is being added.
- B. Topsoil mixed with recycled yard waste mulch is being added.
- C. Only mulch is being added.
- D. Nothing is being added.

Mike Chanen, Cargill Mine Project Manager, is already so positive about this project that he presented a paper at a national mining industry conference in Salt Lake City in early March. We are hoping that other phosphate mines in Florida will be interested in using recycled yard waste once the analytical results from the project are available.

The ultimate goal of the project is to develop partnerships and long-term markets for mulch made from recycled municipal yard waste. Market development was also the goal of the 1998-99 Innovative Grant project where recycled yard waste was used in an upland restoration project. Look for an article about the Cockroach Bay project in the April issue of Biocycle.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Jim Ragsdale at 727/893-7942 or JV.Ragsdale@stpete.org.

Yard Trimming-Biosolids Co-Compost as a Substitute for Sphagnum Peat Moss in Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.) Transplant Media

By Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton, University of Florida, IFAS

Large volumes of a compost made by mixing and co-composting yard trimmings (YT) and biosolids (BS) feedstocks have recently become available for use in the Florida vegetable industry. Compost used as vegetable transplant medium may be less expensive than traditional *Sphagnum* peat moss, which is a non-renewable resource. The objective of a study carried out by University of Florida professors, Ozores-Hampton, Vavrina, and Obreza, was to design yard trimmings and biosolids feedstocks compost-based media to replace peat.

Tomato seeds 'Agriset 761' were planted in five combinations of compost, peat, and vermiculite media in the following combinations: 0:70:30 (control), 18:52:30, 35:35:30, 52:18:30, and 70:0:30 by weight, respectively. The presence of compost in the media increased leaf area, shoot dry weight, and number of leaves 21 days after treatment and increased leaf area, shoot dry weight, root dry weight 28 days following treatment compared with the control. There were no differences in root dry weight 21 days after treatment and number of leaves 28 days following

treatment between treatments containing compost and the control.

Plants in the compost treatments had greater final leaf area, shoot dry weight, root dry weight, and stem diameter but less chlorophyll than the control. Neither final leaf number nor stem length were affected by media composition. The results suggest that yard trimmings and biosolids feedstocks co-compost can be used as an alternative to peat media for tomato transplant production.

Second Harvest works to feed the Hungry through Food Recovery

By Marie Coffey, Executive Director of Second Harvest Food Bank of the Big Bend, Inc.

The United States is experiencing the greatest economic expansion in our nation's history; unemployment and inflation are at record low levels. Homeownership, the stock market and consumer confidence are at record highs. Despite the strong economy and dramatic declines in welfare and food stamp participation, fully one in nine Americans (31 million people) still are hungry or at risk of hunger according to Federal government statistics. This number

has remained unchanged since 1995.

Last year alone, the America's Second Harvest food banks in Florida provided over 43,000,000 pounds of food to the needy in our state, which equates to 28,600,000 meals and a dollar amount of \$64,000,000. And still, the demand at food banks, church pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in the state of Florida continues to rise especially among working poor families with children.

According to USDA up to 96 billion pounds of food is wasted each year. If even a small percentage of that could be directed or recycled to local food banks thousands of low income hungry people would be fed.

With your help it would be easier to collect and direct more donations of food and grocery products to the food banks in the state of Florida and feed these people who have to do without on a daily basis. To find out how you can help, contact your nearest food bank listed below:

Food Bank Locations:

Bradenton: Meals On Wheels Plus .....	.941/747-4655
Cocoa: Brevard Community Food Bank .....	.407/636-6144
Fort Myers: Harry Chapin Food Bank- of Southwest FL .....	.941/334-7007
Fort Pierce: Treasure Coast Food Bank .....	.561/489-5676
Gainesville: Bread of the Mighty Food Bank .....	.352/336-0839
Jacksonville: Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast FL .....	.904/353-3663
Lakeland: Agape Food Bank .....	.941/686-7153
Land O' Lakes: Pasco Food Bank .....	.813/929-0200
Miami: Daily Food Bank .....	.305/633-9861
Ocala: First Step Food Bank .....	.352/732-5500
Orlando: Second Harvest Food Bank .....	.407/295-1066
Sarasota: All Faith's Food Bank .....	.941/379-6333
Tallahassee: Second Harvest Food Bank of the Big Bend .....	.850/562-3033
Tampa: Divine Providence Food Bank .....	.813/254-1190

You may reach Marie at 850/562-3033 or by e-mail at: shfoodbank@nettally.com. For further information, visit www.secondharvest.org or www.foodchain.org

Sheet Composting in Upland Restoration at Cockroach Bay

By Margie Lynn Stratton¹, Allen V. Barker², and James V. Ragsdale³

Cockroach Bay, the "Jewel of Tampa Bay" is part of a habitat restoration project to reintroduce native plant species in this environmentally sensitive, biologically active bay. The objectives of this project included: 1)controlling and monitoring of invasive, exotic and common weed growth; 2)determining the survival, growth, and establishment of newly planted and mulched trees and shrubs, and 3)determining if soil fertility, soil moisture levels, soil temperatures, and organic matter content are increased by sheet composting of yard waste mulch.

A component of the restoration project included an innovative process of deep mulching with yard waste was implemented by the St. Petersburg, Florida, Sanitation Department, in cooperation with Pinellas County Utilities, Solid Waste Operations, Hillsborough County Parks Department, and Surface Water Improvement Management Department of Southwest Florida Water Management District, and the Cockroach Bay Restoration Alliance program. Grant funding for this project was provided by the Florida State Department of Environmental Protection innovative recycling program.

Deep mulching is a process of spreading in a layer approximately one-foot thick. Mulch was used to suppress vigorous weed growth and to give the reclamation plantings a two-year growth advantage against weed competition. As mulch decomposes it adds nutrients and organic matter to the soil (Stratton and Rechcigl, 1996). The deep mulching process also stabilizes soil temperature and soil moisture. These improvements in soil fertility and condition allow for establishment of native upland trees, shrubs, and grasses.

Prior to mulching, test plots had a diverse weed population. The weed population was counted in areas that were undisturbed by disking. The weeds were covered with the mulch. After 140 days, the mulched plots contained a lesser diversity and lower population of weeds than initially, but some species, such as white sweet clover and nutsedge, had grown, and some vines including the initially present Virginia creeper had spread.

In stark contrast, a control plot that was unmulched was fully covered with tall weeds of various species within 140 days. Also, in areas in which the spreading of mulch was uneven and only about 6-in. deep, weed growth was stimulated by the thin mulch layer.

Weeds and exotic invasive species were suppressed significantly by a 12-in. layer of mulch. Where mulch was spread to six inches or less due to uneven distribution, weed growth was stimulated, likely by the nutrients supplied by the mulch and by the insufficient weed-suppressing properties of the shallower depth of mulch. Where disking of site soil to level irrigation ditches occurred before mulching, weed germination also was stimulated, perhaps by creation of a seed bed favorable for weed germination. Where plants were installed in areas where Brazilian pepper trees had been felled while in seed, seedlings emerged in the soil surrounding the root ball of the installed plant. Adult trees should be removed prior to going to seed. Hand weeding around each affected installed plant should facilitate control of Brazilian pepper. Disking should be avoided, and mulch should be spread uniformly at 12-in. of depth.

Establishment of low-growing weeds such as nutsedge and bermudagrass were uncompetitive with the installed plantings and may exclude more competitive weeds. Ipomea, peppervine and Virginia creeper are noxious weeds and may pose a problem if not controlled.

Soil fertility was increased under the mulch. Soil temperature and moisture content were stabilized at about 80o F and 17.5% (field capacity). The warm moist soil and higher fertility contributed to the good establishment of the plantings. Continued decomposition of the mulch is expected to further increase soil fertility. During the experiment, the mulch decomposed and increased in extractable nutrients while decreasing in C/N ratio. By the end of the experiment, the mulch was stable compost at a C/N ratio of about 20 at which mineralization of nutrients should proceed readily (Stratton et al., 1995).

An effect of the deep mulching

process was the creation of optimal condition for accelerated decomposition. As a result of this accelerated decomposition, composting in a layer or sheet was made possible. "Sheet composting" of mulch is highly beneficial in reclaiming marginal soils. The benefits of common and exotic weed suppression, moisture and temperature stabilization, enhanced soil organic matter, and increased nutrient availability are valuable in this project and complement the financial savings in waste management. The removal of yard wastes can now be seen as a recycling of nutrients and organic matter to improve and condition soils, rather than a disposal problem, and this method can be applied to various and widespread projects including control of exotic plants to restore native vegetation, construction projects, roadside plantings, reclamation projects, landfill closure plantings and other planting projects on marginal soils with benefits to the disposal process, the soil condition, and the establishment of installed plantings.

References: Stratton, M.L., A.V. Barker, and J.E. Rechcigl, 1995. Compost, p. 249-309 In: Rechcigl, J.E. , Soil Amendments and Environmental Quality, CRC Publishers, Boca Raton, FL. Stratton, M.L. and J.E. Rechcigl, 1996. Organic mulches, wood products, and compost as soil amendments and conditioners, In: Wallace, A. and R.E. Terry (Eds.) Handbook of Soil Conditioners, Marcel Dekker, New York. Stratton, M.L. and A. Shiralipour, 1996. Reclamation and Revegetation of Mined Land by Compost Application: A Literature Review. Prepared for the Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation through the Composting Council's Research and Education Foundation. Center for Biomass Programs, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Footnotes

¹ Manatee Community College, Bradenton, Florida

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Fertilizer and Compost Regulations Update

By Patrick D. Byers, Palm Beach County Solid Waste Authority

The American Association of Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) is a national organization. The purpose of the Association is to provide a forum through which officials of any state, territory, dominion, province, federal or other governmental entity on the North American Continent, Hawaii and Puerto Rico, and employees thereof, charged with a responsibility in the enforcement of laws regulating the production, storage, labeling, distribution, sale or use of fertilizers may unite to (1) promote uniform and effective legislation, definitions, rulings and enforcement practices; (2) encourage and sponsor the adoption of the most effective and adequate analytical methods for fertilizer by all member agencies; (3) develop high standards of fertilizer inspection techniques and procedures; (4) promote adequate labeling and safe use of fertilizers; (5) provide facilities and opportunities for the free exchange of information, discussion and cooperative study of problems confronting members of the Association; and (6) cooperate with members of industry in order to promote the usefulness and effectiveness of fertilizer products and the protection of soil and water resources.

Currently, the AAPFCO's Uniform Bills Committee is working on a "Uniform Compost Law" that will effect the composting industry. The current draft provides requirements for labeling, testing, product guarantees, registration and licensing of producers and distributors, inspection fees, sampling and analysis, misbranding, adulteration, penalties and fines. The AAPFCO recognizes the unique characteristics of compost and the problems that develop when applying these to existing state fertilizer and soil amendment bills. The United States Composting Council with AAPFCO is working to develop the new "Compost Law". The law, when completed, will put compost on a level playing field with other materials the AAPFCO state officials regulate. Other officially adopted AAPFCO documents include:

- Uniform State Fertilizer Bill
- Fertilizer Rules and Regulations
- Uniform Registration Application
- Uniform Commercial Fertilizer License Application
- Primary and Secondary Containment of Fertilizer - Rules
- Model Agricultural Liming Materials Bill
- Uniform Soil Amendment Bill
- Uniform State Ammonia Bill
- Model Chemigation Bill
- Uniform Horticultural Growing Media Labeling Bill

If you wish to download a copy of the proposed "Compost Law", please visit the U.S. Composting Council's web site at www.compostingcouncil.org. To order a copy of the AAPFCO Official Publication 2000, please write to Joel M. Padmore, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, 4000 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh, NC 27607-6468

New Free Web Directory for Composters

Announcing the online "COMPOST HAPPENINGS" directory at www.compostinfo.com. The Happenings page is the latest addition to Florida's On-line Composting Center.

The Happenings Page lists compost related events, workshops, and bin sales. Use this resource to inform hundreds of visitors about your event. ALL RECYCLING COORDINATORS may post to the Happenings page to reach the online audience.

Why is Florida's On-line Composting Center such a dynamic tool? Compostinfo.com is Florida's virtual composting headquarters. With over half the US population surfing the net, www.compostinfo.com is a great way to reach residents.

The website is informative, beautiful and easy to navigate. Pages feature interactive games to teach composting. Does your county link to Florida's Online Composting Center? If not, contact your website manager today and ask for a connection. This free resource can pay dividends in waste reduction for your county.

Florida's On-line Composting Center was developed with funding from FDEP's Innovative Grant Program and is maintained by Sarasota County. The University of Florida hosts the site.



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