

August 2010

Volume 1, Issue 7



ASSOCIATION OF
COMPOST
PRODUCERS

"We Build Healthy Soil"

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COMPOST PRODUCER ACTIONS

Association of Compost Producers Member Meeting

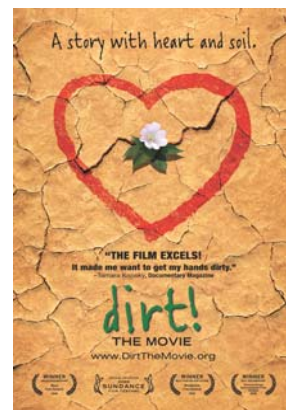
**Wednesday, August 25th
from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at
IEUA**

**Inland Empire Utilities
Agency 6075 Kimball Ave.
Chino, CA 91710
909-993-1600**

**Speaker Phone is available.
Call the main switchboard
and they will patch you in.**

Please note: Special Screening: From 8:00 to 9:00 am, prior to our 9 am regular meeting start, there will be a special screening of "Dirt! The Movie," (www.dirtthemovie.org) for all interested ACP members and guests who want to come view it with us.

Then, after a short (1/2) hour business meeting (from 9:30 to 10:00 am) we will have a "Special Presentation" from Andrew Sparta of Woods End Laboratories in regards to their Solvita test and new portable spectrophotometer as shown in "Dirt! The Movie."



Agenda and handouts will be available on Monday, August 23rd, 2010. If you want any new agenda items to be included, please contact Dan Noble.

See "Compost Overs' - Miscellaneous Tidbits & Cool News" of this newsletter for more details on this great demonstration by one of ACP's newer members.

Please note: We will return to the regularly scheduled meeting from 9-11 AM for our September meeting.

Association of Compost Producers

A non-profit organization of public and private organizations dedicated to increasing the quality, value and amount of compost being used in California. We do this by promoting activities & regulations that build healthy soil, benefiting people & the environment. ACP members invest together to increase compost markets and improve compost & manufacturing standards. The association provides education & communication on compost benefits & proper use through support of scientific research & legislation aligned with developing and expanding quality compost markets.

ACP Steps August 2010

The ACP Next Steps, are outlined each month and posted on our website, at the top of the ACP documents page: <http://www.healthysoil.org/acpinitiativesresults/acpddocuments.html>

The projects that we engage in include:

- ACP Administration and Membership— including drafting plan for state chapter
- Carbon Credits for Compost -Task Force
- Agriculture Compost Market Expansion Task Force
- Pathogen Control Task Force
- Conferences & Presentations
- Compost Research Actions/Proposals
- Green Building Task Force Sustainable Landscape Conversion Initiative
- And: Compost Legislative Tracking & Input to Working Groups

Please contact Dan Noble (619-303-3694; [dnoble@ecbonds.com](mailto:d noble@ecbonds.com)) if you would like to participate on any ACP Working Groups that are implementing one or more of these compost market expansion initiatives.

Sustainable Landscape Conversion Initiative



IMPORTANT WEBSITES TO VIEW

Sustainable Landscapes

www.healthysoil.org

www.owendell.com

www.plantsoup.com

www.Bangforyourgreenbuck.com

www.ecolayers.com

ACP Grant

<http://irwm.wrime.com/sdirwm/login.php>

ACP Executive Director, Dan Noble, submitted a \$300,000 “Sustainable Landscape Conversion Initiative” project grant application, on behalf of ACP, into the Proposition 86 “Integrated Resource Water Management” project database, by the August 2, 2010 due date. The proposal team includes best of class sustainable landscapers that he has met as a result of working in the landscape compost market on behalf of ACP. They are (including him):

Program Director & Soil Expert, Dan Noble, Executive Director, Association of Compost Producers, Managing Director - The Sustainable Organization™, Inquiry International™,

Project Advisor & Sustainable Landscape Expert: Owen Dell, ASLA, Owen Dell & Associates, Author, “Sustainable Landscaping for Dummies”,

Educational Director, Nan Sterman, President, Plant Soup, Inc., Author, California Plants, Volume II.

Sustainability Consultant, Linda Flournoy, Sustainable Landscape Construction and Maintenance Expert

Urban Forest Advisor and Trainer, Robin Rivet, ISA Certified Arborist # WE-7558A, Landscape Designer & Horticultural Consultant

Lead Trainer & Gray Water Expert, Greg Bullock, *Communication Director, Barbara Burton*, Director-Corporate Communication, Sustainability Consultant - Stakeholder Engagement & Outreach, The Sustainable Organization™, Inquiry International™

Watershed Information Expert, Website Designer & Database Manager Joe Purohit, President, CEO,

Ecology, Inc.,

The team is now (8/4/10 to 8/24/10) engaged in a very unique process of attempting to “integrate” the various “sustainable landscape” proposals into one proposal so that the Prop 84 grant money administering agency & committee (San Diego County Water Authority, RWM Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)) can have a holistic view of the various proposals, and how they *might* work together. “While I’ve been involved in a number of grant proposals of this size over my professional career, never before have I ever been asked to engage in collaborating with the other grant proposal project managers, *prior to project award*, in an attempt to share and work together on one grant!” said Dan Noble. “While I understand the grantor’s rationale, I have found the process more than a bit uncomfortable,” he added. (For a definition of what are “sustainable landscapes” please see ACP April 2010 Newsletter).

During the “sustainable landscape proposal integration meeting”, while comparing the various project proposal elements with the other proposal team managers and their key participants, Dan presented a model that outlined the difference between the traditional contracting process of Water Agencies (set up, traditionally, for doing large supply-side water supply projects) and how that contracting method is both different, and ill-equipped (in our teams opinion) for handling smaller, “demand-side”, market development projects... in this case, developing the “sustainable landscape” market. A diagram of these two

divergent contracting methods are included on page 3.

This is important because how we develop the “sustainable landscape marketplace,” built on a rich foundation of *healthy soil made with compost*, of course(!), *is core to ACP’s mission*. Especially, how water agencies, who have become experts at providing a reliable supply of potable, and now recycled, water, can *now add to their expertise*, conservation tools for conserving massive amounts of water (100,000’s of acre feet per year) by creating “sustainable landscapes” in their respective service areas, is something that ACP needs to get good at, as we work with our water agency members and partners to make landscapes more efficient and sustainable.

The ACP grant can be viewed at the following website:
<http://irwm.wrime.com/sdirwm/login.php>

To view the site (which is a public document) you can enter using the following username and password:

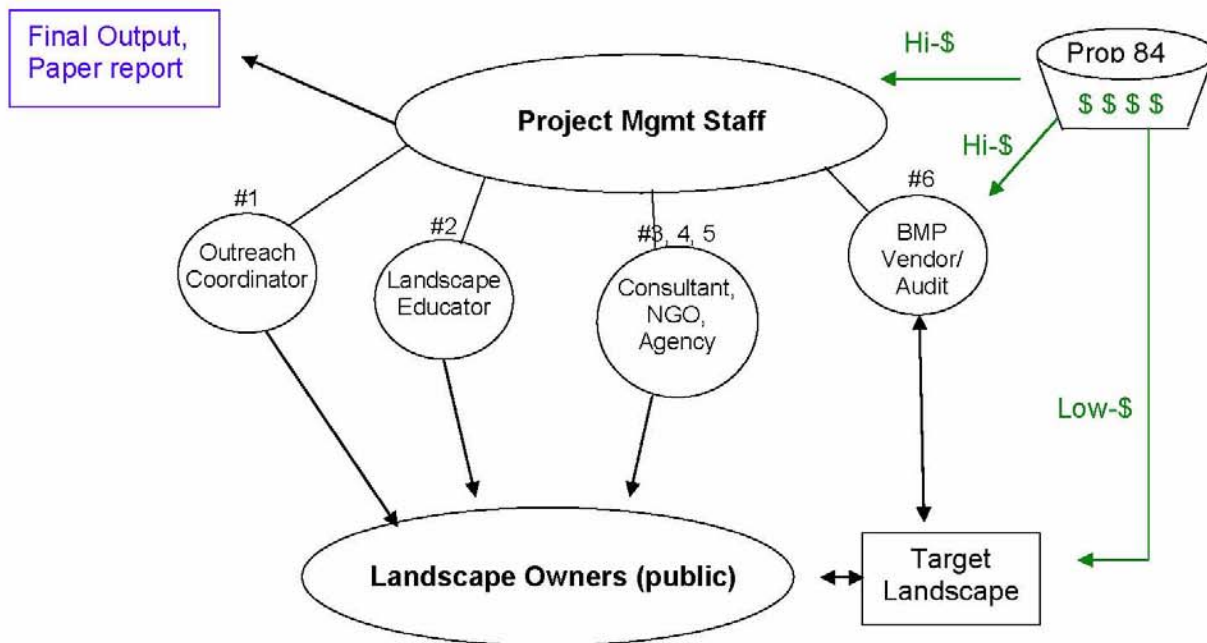
Username: **dno-ble@inquiryinternational.com**

Password: **compost2010**

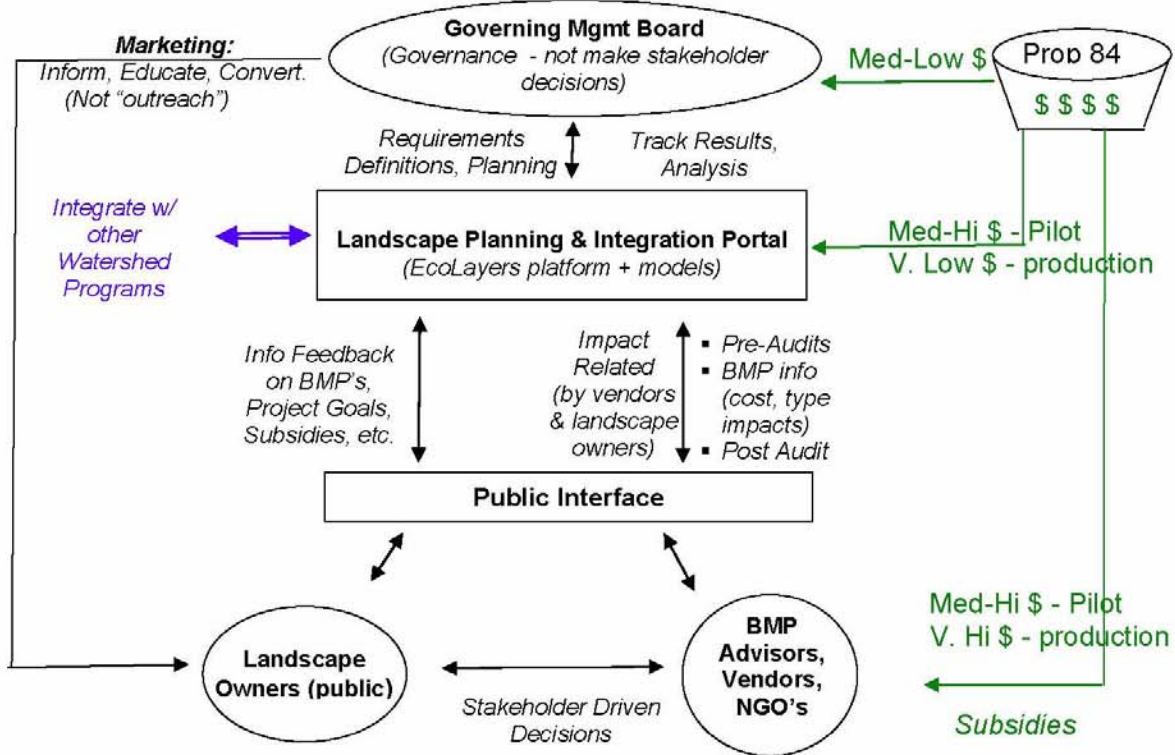
Once you enter the site, you can view the project (***please don’t delete it!***) as well as you can view all the other projects by clicking on the “All Submitted Projects” button at the top of that project tracking landing page.

Please feel free to share any ideas or comments you may have about this process with Dan. Also, if you would like to pdf copy of the proposal, or the proposal presentation, please contact Dan Noble, ACP ED, dnoable@ecobonds.com.

Traditional Grant Based Model (Open Loop, Centralized)



Sustainable Landscape Conversion Initiative (Stakeholder Driven, Closed Loop Model)



IRWM [Landscapes] ---> IRWM [Watershed]

Agricultural Compost Working Group

At long last, Dan Noble (ACP ED) delivered the "Ag Compost Project Report Brief" that he had promised to ACP Agricultural Compost Market Development Working Group at a joint meeting between the working group and CalRecycle organics program management staff. If you would like to join this working group and participate in the implementation of the recommendations of this important ACP market development project, please contact Dan Noble, and he will sign you up and send you a copy of the "AgCompost Project Report Brief".

If you get the report brief, you will see that it is a brief summary of the original report (originally 27 pages and 40 companion documents) that has been reduced down into one "Results, Conclusion, Recommendation and Discussion" table, that is only 3 pages long! Also, it has an expanded "Next Steps" section to include the elements from both ACP's last Working Group meeting and our meeting with CalRecycle staff, that we had in April (before and during Biocycle conference in San Diego, respectively). This "Report Brief" is actually the satisfaction of "Step One" of that "Next Steps" list, which is:

1. **Ag Compost Project Report Brief:** ACP ED, and Ag Project Market Advisor, Dan Noble, to create a "Ag Compost 'Project Report Brief'" for the ACP Ag Working Group and CalRecycle to review, comment and further develop (the Report Brief, is the satisfaction of this first

Step).

2. **STA and "3 Part System" Overview:** Dan Noble and Dr. David Crohn (ACP Science Advisor and Coordinator, and Ag Compost Project Chief Scientist, to work together and put together a brief overview of the Compost Use Index (and the "3 Part System" for compost: 1) Testing, 2) Specification and 3) Use. (as of this report update, this still needs to be accomplished)

3. **Ag Marketing Materials:** Create a set of marketing outreach documents for agricultural compost users that will be helpful in marketing compost (ideas that were suggested include):

STA overview and explanation for growers and crop advisors:

What it is

Why is it important

How does it relate to other certification programs (especially organic)

a. General, small farmer, compost specification (may already exist within CalRecycle?)

b. Crop Specific Specifications Sheets and Manual for agricultural applications.

4. **Compost Use Index (CUI) Wiki:** Initiate the Compost Use Index (CUI) wiki, and assign an operations manager to it. In addition, create a perpetual funding mechanism by system users (i.e. a program business plan).

5. **Ag Market System:** Develop a Marketing System and Plan for integrating STA test results, specific ag specs and the CUI wiki. This would in-

clude:

a. Documents and information content for *both* Composters and Farmers

b. Method of perpetual management and funding

c. Integration with landscape and environmental compost specifications and use.

6. **Ag Market Program:** Implement an ACP specific Ag Market Development Program:

a. Website that can be home to the above system (CalRecycle volunteered their website; possibly developed in conjunction with the ACP website).

b. Ag Compost User Database (coop marketing model).

c. Outreach seminars through RCD's and professional landscape and ag programs

Our "Next Step" on the list (step #2, above) is for Dr. David Crohn and Dan Noble to put together a "Brief Overview" document that explains the "3 part system" that is the substance of our study and report that includes:

1. **STA:** STA Testing Systems of STA, TMECC and CAP

2. **Compost Specifications:** Standards, Elements and Process for writing them

3. **Compost Use Index:** What is it? Why is it important? How is it to be used (who, where and when)?

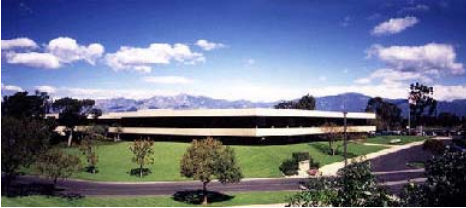
Also, please let Dan Noble know if you'd like a copy of the original report, of which this is but "a brief." Also, the original report has 40 companion documents (listed, but not included in full, in the Appendix of that report). Any of those can all be made available, of course, and used as support background and foundation for our Ag Work Group process moving forward ... especially so we don't need to re-invent any wheels where we don't have to!

Tom Kelley (Harvest Power, and ACP Ag Working Group Chairman) and Dan Noble are discussing immediate next steps for this Working Group and will report back at the next ACP meeting.



COMPOST PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT

“Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County”



The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) protect public health and the environment through innovative and cost-effective wastewater and solid waste management, and in doing so convert waste into resources such as reclaimed water, energy, and recycled materials.

ORGANIZATION & HISTORY

The Sanitation Districts function on a regional scale and consist of 23 independent special districts serving about 5.7 million people in Los Angeles County. They share a single administrative and engineering staff, headquartered in Whittier, California. The service area covers approximately 820 square miles and encompasses 78 cities and unincorporated territory within the county. The Sanitation Districts were formed in 1923 when a significant number of cities were forming and it was clear that managing wastewater on a regional scale made sense. The Sanitation Districts were created to construct, operate, and “maintain facilities that collect, treat, recycle, and dispose of domestic and industrial wastewater.” Today, the Sanitation Districts operate and maintain approximately 1,400 miles of main trunk sewers and 11 wastewater treatment plants that convey and treat about half the wastewater in Los Angeles County.

In the 1950s, it became apparent that solid waste management also needed a regional approach. At that time, the Sanitation Districts were given the responsibility to provide for the management of collected solid waste, including disposal and transfer operations, and materials and energy recovery. The Sanitation Districts’ solid waste management facilities provide about half of the countywide solid waste management needs. In addition

to its wastewater management facilities, the Sanitation Districts operate three sanitary landfills, four landfill energy recovery facilities, two recycle centers, three materials recovery/transfer facilities, and participate in the operation of two refuse-to-energy facilities, and two compost facilities.

The Sanitation District’s Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP), located in Carson, California, is one of the largest wastewater treatment plants in the world. The facility provides treatment for approximately 300 millions gallons of wastewater per day. A byproduct of the wastewater treatment process is the organic solids that are collected from the wastewater treatment trains. These solids are further treated through anaerobic digestion, which produces a biogas that is converted to electricity for use on-site. As a result, the JWPCP is energy self-sufficient and excess electricity is supplied to the power grid which helps meet the needs of Southern California. After treatment through digestion, the organic solids are dewatered to approximately 27% solids content resulting in approximately 500,000 wet tons of dewatered solids per year. The organic material is then removed from the JWPCP and managed in a variety of ways.

Innovation has long marked the organics management practices of the Sanitation Districts. Reuse of organics began in 1928 via a contract with a fertilizer company to distribute dried JWPCP solids. In the early 1970s, the Sanitation Districts began a full-scale windrow composting research project at the JWPCP. After years of on-site composting experience and research, the Sanitation Districts developed a two-stage windrow process to optimize both processing and pathogen reduction, which won a USEPA beneficial use award in 1983.

Today, the Sanitation Districts continue with a diverse innovative organics management program, which utilizes a number of management options including: land application, co-disposal, conversion

to renewable fuel, and composting. Currently, over 30% of the organic solids (over 150,000 tons per year) produced at the JWPCP are composted. Looking toward a sustainable future, the Sanitation Districts’ long-range plan includes continued utilization of the Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility in Rancho Cucamonga and the planned utilization of the Westlake Farms Composting Facility currently under development in Kings County, California. Both of these projects are described in more detail below.

JOINT VENTURE IN THE INLAND EMPIRE REGIONAL COMPOSTING AUTHORITY

The Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority (IERCA) was created through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) and the Sanitation Districts. Under the terms of the agreement, the Sanitation Districts and IEUA designed, and constructed a state of the art composting facility in Southern California, known as the Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility (IERCF). In April 2007, the IERCF began operations and reached full capacity in December 2008. The IERCA focuses on producing top quality compost under the guidelines outlined in the US Composting Council’s Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program. Today, the IERCF process approximately 75,000 wet tons of Sanitation Districts’ organic solids into its top quality compost. The IERCF includes many state of the art environmental controls, which have allowed the facility to operate in an urban area without complaints from the public. These environmental controls include conducting all composting operations in a fully enclosed building. All the air from the building is collected and routed to emissions control equipment for odor and air emissions control. For more details on this facility, see ACP March & April 2010 Newsletters.

Continue on Next Page



Continued from Page 5
**Westlake Farms Com-
 posting Facility**

The Westlake Farms Composting Facility, located on approximately 200 acres of a 14,562-acre site in Kings County, will be a state of the art aerated static pile composting facility when construction is complete. At full build out, the facility will have the capacity to convert up to 500,000 tons of anaerobically digested and dewatered organic solids and 400,000 tons of agricultural waste materials each year into a valuable compost product.

The organic solids will be mixed with agricultural wastes to create a mixture that is optimized for the composting process. This will reduce open burning of these wastes, which has historically contributed to air pollution problems in the San Joaquin Valley. The composting facility will employ the static pile process in which air is forced through piles of the

compost mixture to provide oxygen for the composting process. Engineered fabric covers will capture odors and organic emissions, which may otherwise be released from the composting materials. At full capacity, the composting facility will be able to process over 80% of the organic solids produced at the JWPCP and at the Sanitation Districts’ Santa Clarita Valley wastewater treatment plants. The finished product will comply with the composting standards for “Exceptional Quality” compost. The compost product will be incorporated into depleted topsoil on the remainder of the San Joaquin Valley site to increase the productivity of the agricultural land by improving moisture retention, porosity, and nutrient conditions in the soil.

The first phase of this project, which will allow the facility to process up to 100,000 tons per year of organic matter, has been designed and is currently out to public bid for construction.

Construction of the first phase is expected to be complete in 2013. Subsequent phases will be built as the need arises.

The Sanitation Districts have been an ongoing committed and working member of ACP since 2002. Mike Sullivan, Division Engineer, Technical Services Department, has served on the Board of ACP, and along with his organics management staff, Ajay Malik, Supervising Engineer, and Bob Conway, Project Engineer, continue to be very active and important member of our association.

“Composting has been and will continue to be a key component in the Sanitation Districts’ organics management program”, says Mike Sullivan.



**IMPORTANT WEBSITES
 TO VIEW**

SJVUAPCD

www.valleyair.org

http://www.valleyair.org/Workshops/public_workshops_idx.htm

ACP Docs

<http://www.healthsoil.org/acpinitiativesresults/acpdocuments.html>

COMPOST LEGISLATION

SJVUAPCD–Rule 4566 Status & Next Steps

Dan Noble, ACP ED, participated in the conference call with the San Joaquin Valley United Air Pollution Control District (“Valley Air District”), who is resuming its work on the compost project (“Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) from Green Waste Composting”), held *July 20, 2010 (Tuesday), 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m (via the District’s Fresno Office).*

Neither before, nor since, have we have received a revised project report back from the project scientist, Dr. Fatih Buyuksonmez, of SDSU. So, oddly,

none of us on the call (or in the room) were sure about what, exactly, we were talking about at this meeting! We delivered our comments on the report to the Valley Air in first week of January 2010 (posted on our web site at: , as “ACP-D.Noble Comments on GHG Paper 010610.pdf”). The Valley Air District, has accepted and is reviewing the re-write of the paper from Dr. Buyuksonmez, and will be moving ahead with the “rule making” of Rule 4566. However, we have yet to see the final paper, and what the steps for the rule making will be, and how our “technical industry

advisory group” will be involved in the remainder of the process. Dan Noble will get back with ACP members as he finds anything new about this particular rule. Dan has been told, by Ms. Koshoua C.X. Thao, Senior Air Quality Specialist, San Joaquin Valley APCD, that we will “getting word” about these issues by August 20th.

COMPOST MEETINGS, RELATED PROJECTS AND EVENTS

USGBC Council Meetings

For the upcoming meetings of your local **US Green Building Council Chapter meetings, classes and events**, please click through the council nearest you!

USGBC-Inland Empire
(www.usgbc-ie.org)

USGBC-Los Angeles
(www.usgbcla.org)

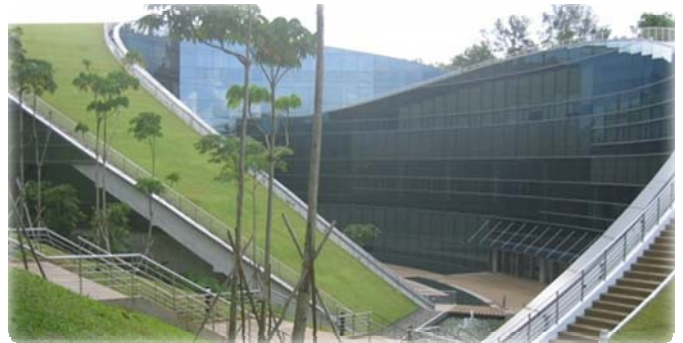
USGBC – Northern California Chapter (www.usgbc-ncc.org)

USGBC-Orange County
(www.usgbc-oc.org)

USGBC-San Diego
(www.usgbc-sd.org)

It will be up to local composters to make sure that they are getting local credits for using compost on green building landscapes. Sometimes the points gained on “sustainable, water efficient landscapes” can make the difference in whether a particular project qualifies for the next highest LEED Certification, from Silver to Gold, or

Gold to Platinum. *Note that the IEUA building where ACP meets is a LEED Platinum Certified Green Building!*



2010 Pacific Southwest Organics Residuals Symposium

Energy and New Uses of Organic Residuals - Overcoming Cross-Media Challenges

September 14-15, 2010 – Sacramento Convention Center

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/organics/symposium/index.html>

This is our fifth annual Pacific

Southwest Organic Residuals Symposium, where organic residuals industry professionals, municipalities, regulators, researchers and other stakeholders come together to work out the optimal management options for manures, biosolids, food wastes, green wastes, and other organic residuals. Our special focus this year is improving regulatory coordina-

tion among air, water, and resource recovery agencies, to promote those projects with the greatest overall environmental and social benefits. We are holding the symposium in downtown Sacramento this year to encourage dialog with legislators, agency leaders, and others involved in environmental decision-making.

Bay Friendly Landscape Conference

Transforming Urban Landscapes to Protect Our Water Resources

Friday, September 17th, 2010

St. Mary's Event Center, San Francisco, CA

The 2010 Bay-Friendly Landscape Conference and Marketplace will feature

interactive sessions, professional networking, and a marketplace of cutting-edge technologies and products. Experts will offer practical tools and solutions to creating landscapes that conserve natural resources, prevent pollution, and cut greenhouse gas emissions while working with the uniqueness of the San Francisco

Bay watershed.

NEW! Pre-Conference Tour of Bay-Friendly Landscapes

September 16th, 2010, space is limited. [Register now!](#)

<http://www.bayfriendlycoalition.org/2010Conference.shtml>



Soil Health and Life

Soil Health, Soil Life: Using Microbial CO₂-Burst to Evaluate Active Carbon and to Predict Soil Nutrient (N,P) Potential - Sept. 29

The UC Davis Soils and Biogeochemistry departments proudly present

Will F. Brinton, Jr., Ph.D.

Founder and President, Woods End Laboratories, Inc.

In a seminar entitled:

“Soil Health, Soil Life: Using Microbial CO₂-Burst to Evaluate Active Carbon and to Predict Soil Nutrient (N,P) Potential”

Wednesday – September 29, 2010, 1:00pm

UC Davis Soil Testing Laboratory and the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology will host Dr. Will Brinton of Woods End Laboratories for a presentation of research related to applications of microbial respiration in assessing soil and compost quality. In conjunction with the efforts of John Doran and Rick Haney (USDA-ARS), an innovative rapid test has been developed to reveal microbial activity relative to carbon turnover. The test also provides a quantitative index of Soil N (and P) mineralization potential, offering advantages over PSNT and ISNT procedures used in some labs to estimate N-availability. The



new “Haney-Brinton” method of Solvita 24-hr CO₂-burst will allow soil testing laboratories to economically test soils for active carbon and offer growers a reliable test for expected soil N release from compost or soil organic matter, an agronomic factor historically left to guesswork. The reward to the grower is to more accurately assess a compost application’s nutrient value and to spare unneeded N (and P) fertilization.

Background: Will Brinton grew up in Pennsylvania and attended agricultural boarding school in Ohio. He studied agronomy and soil & plant sciences in Pennsylvania, Maine, Europe (England, Germany, and Sweden) under the direction of Nobel Laureate Albert Schatz, whom he met through Washington University at the time of the first scientific comparative studies of organic farming were underway. He was awarded a doctorate in environmental science for his research on organic acid cycles in composting which trigger phytotoxicity syndromes in plant. Brinton founded Woods End Laboratories, Inc. (Mount Vernon, Maine) while an undergraduate in agronomy, and today Woods End is America’s longest running independent organic soil and compost laboratory,

widely recognized for scientific compost assessment. Brinton invented the Solvita® technology – a gas emission sensitive gel that detect headspace CO₂ and NH₃. Brinton is active in numerous agricultural and environmental associations and has published more than 50 scientific papers on soil, compost, and horticultural themes. Recent examples:

- ✦ Brinton, W. 2010. Characterizing compost completion. *BioCycle* 51(4): 31-34
- ✦ Brinton, W.F., P. Storms, and T.C. Blewett. 2009. Occurrence and levels of fecal indicators and pathogenic bacteria in market ready recycled organic matter composts. *Journal of Food Protection* 72 (2): 332-339.
- ✦ Haney, R.L., W.F. Brinton, and E. Evans. 2008 Estimating soil carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus mineralization from short-term carbon dioxide respiration. *Communications in Soil Science and Plant Analysis* 39(17):2706 – 2720
- ✦ Haney, RL, W.F. Brinton and E. Evans. 2008. Soil CO₂ respiration: Comparison of chemical titration, CO₂ IRGA analysis and the Solvita gel system. *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* 23 (02): 171-176

Floodplain Management Association Nov 2-5, 2010

November 2-5, 2010
Loews Resort on Lake Las Vegas
Henderson, Nevada

When the Shoe Doesn't Fit....
Adapting to New Regulations

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS HERE
Deadline: June 4, 2010

Registration starts at \$195!

[View Registrant and Sponsorship Options Here](#)

[Register to Attend the Conference Here](#)

[Register as A Sponsor or Exhibitor Here](#)

Southern CA Waste Management Forum– Nov 10th, 2010

ACP Executive Director, Dan Noble will be speaking this year on the Organics Section of the Southern California Waste Management Forum, <http://www.scwmf.org/web/forum-events/conference/>. The Annual Waste Management Conference and Exhibit is the highlight of The Forum's regularly scheduled events. A Planning Committee is hard at work developing a timely and informative program and an impressive roster of speakers. A program announcement and registration flyer will be e-mailed to those on the Forum's mailing list.

If you wish to be on the Conference mailing list, please go to the [Contact Us](#) page and fill out an E-mail comment. Include your name and e-mail address. Be

sure to indicate that you want to receive the flyer.

Anyone interested in exhibiting their products or services at the conference, or contributing, should complete and send an exhibit order form to the Forum. If you have questions about exhibiting at the conference, or contributing, send an E-mail to: exhibit@scwmf.org [Forum Exhibit](#).

This year's Annual Conference and Exhibit will be held at the:

Crowne Plaza Hotel
1500 S. Raymond Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92831
Tel. 714 635-9000



Keynote Speaker
Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge
City of Riverside, California

US Composting Council Annual Conference – Jan. 23-26, 2011

A Call for abstracts was issued this month for next year's conference, to be held back in California again.

Abstracts are encouraged on the following conference topics:

Feedstocks, Collection, Processing & Energy Production

Increasing Food Residuals Composting in the U.S.

Renewable Energy from Organics

Composting Systems & Technologies

Odor Control, Process Management, & Facility BMP's

Compostable Plastics

Mortality Composting

Managing Disaster Debris

Economics, Business, Marketing and Markets

The Business of Organics Recycling

Marketing & Compost Quality

Applications & Benefits of Compost Use

Product and Market Developments

Environmental Protection, Regulations, Legislation, Education & Home Composting

Climate Change, Organics & Composting Regulations & Legislation

Air Quality

Education

Home Composting Programs

[Abstract guidelines and forms available here](#)

[Download Call for Papers in PDF format available here](#)

[Online call for papers available here](#)

[Download Abstract Submission Guidelines here](#)

[Online abstract guidelines available here](#)

[Download Abstract Submission form available here](#)

[Online submission form available here](#)

Most of our members are also members of the USCC. Join us at the US Composting Council's 19th Annual Conference & Trade Show, January 23-26, 2011 | Santa Clara/San Jose, CA

“COMPOST OVERS”

Special Presentation by Woods End/Solvita & Kellogg Garden Products at August ACP Meeting

At this month’s ACP meeting we are looking forward to having **Andrew Sparda, Director, Solvita Sales and Customer Relations, for Woods End Laboratories, Inc.**, Mount Vernon, Maine, www.woodsendlab.com. Andrew and ACP founding member, **Kathy Kellogg Johnson, Chief Sustainability Officer, Kellogg Garden Products**, (and co-founder and Vice President of the Board, of ACP), www.kelloggsgarden.com will present recent work on compost activity and testing from two different perspectives:



The Living Breathing Dirt Test: A unique soil and compost activity test related to the continued promotion of “Dirt! The Movie”, (www.dirtthemovie.org) and Soil

Health, Soil Life: A more detailed discussion of the science and methods behind the soil test

The Living Breathing Dirt Test

Dirt! The Movie, emphasizes that *soils are living breathing systems*. And the producers contend “that one of the best actions we can take to help those eco-systems is to test our soils and share that information.” So they are inviting everyone to participate in “The Living Breathing Dirt Test.” As they say, “It’s fun, easy to use, scientifically valid and demonstrates that your soil is alive and breathing.” The Living Breathing Dirt Test was developed by Will Brinton, one of the stars of DIRT! The Movie; and is based on firm scientific ground. Soil respiration is a critical aspect of soil-quality and an indicator of soil fertility. There are 4 tests per box with clear instructions for using the tests and interpreting the data. You will see the results in 24 hours! Andrew Sparda and Kathy Johnson are

teaming to show us how the test works at this month’s meeting (see beginning of this Newsletter).

Soil Health, Soil Life

In addition, Will Brinton is giving a number of presentations around the country titled “Soil Health, Soil Life’: Using Microbial CO₂-Burst to Evaluate Active Carbon and Predict Soil Nutrient (N, P) Potential”. The next one in California will be Wednesday – September 29, 2010, 1:00pm at UC Davis. (Please refer to the more complete announcement in the compost meetings section of this newsletter). Andrew Sparda will explain this and be available to answer questions about both the “popular” and “scientific” versions of the presentation of this test.

Solvita® Compost
Very Unstable compost... high CO₂ rate and high ammonia

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International Compost Awareness Week

The US Composting Council's ICAW committee is being chaired this year by ACP President, Jeff Ziegenbein, Deputy Director of Operations, and IERCA Supervisor. As agreed at a recent USCC ICAW committee meeting on August 13, 2010, this year's poster contest schedule will be:

- **September 15, 2010** **Contest Begins**
- **November 30, 2010** **Contest End**
- **December 13-17, 2010** **Finalists announced and voting takes place**

The committee is in the process of choosing a theme for this year's contest to meet this schedule. They are reviewing a commercial survey of compost attitudes and knowledge by the general public in the US, and be preparing to make your recommendation during the next call (August 18, 2010).



**If we do not change our direction, we
are likely to end up where we are
heading.**

Chinese Proverb

ASSOCIATION OF COMPOST PRODUCERS

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"We Build Healthy Soil"



OUR MISSION

The Association of Compost Producers (ACP) is a non-profit association of public and private organizations dedicated to increasing the quality, value and amount of compost being used in California. We do this by promoting activities and regulations that build healthy soil, benefiting people and the environment.

ACP members work and invest together to increase compost markets and improve compost product and manufacturing standards. The association provides education and communication on compost benefits and proper use through support of scientific research and legislation aligned with developing and expanding quality compost markets.



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