December 2011 Volume 2, Issue 9



THE USCC CALIFORNIA STATE CHAPTER

"We Build Healthy Soil"

COMPOST PRODUCER ACTIONS

Inside this issue:

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Actions	

Compost Marketing

Compost Legislation, 5 Regulations, Research & Funding

Compost Meetings & 7 Related Projects



ACP Steps November 2011

each month and posted on our web-post Awareness Week; ICAW-Calif.) site, at the top of the ACP docu- CRRA-CORC and CCC sister assoments page: www.healthysoil.org/ Sustainable Landscape Conversion • acpmonthlysteps.html.

The projects that we engage in are a mix of one or more of the following general categories headed up by specific working groups with the ongoing leadership and participation by the ACP staff and Board. They are modified monthly as we progress " Compost **9**0 v e through our annual goals:

- ACP Board (& Director) Leadership, Management and Ad- Core activities for this month inministration
- Communications & Marketing: including, but not limited to -

ACP monthly e-newsletter ACP Marketing Kit & Process Membership expansion activities USCC Reporting Loop - Member Types, Info/Dues USCC-ACP ICAW Planning Com-

The ACP Next Steps, are outlined mittee Meetings (International Comhttp:// ciation relationships Agriculture/Compost Use Index Market Expansion Task Force, in- December. cluding Workshops & Presentations Legislation Liaison (with CCC, CRRA, CRRC, CAW, etc.) input and make upgrades Regulation Collaboration (with Air Districts, Water Boards, Calrecycle, CDFA, e t c .) Conferences & Presentations Please contact Dan Noble (619-992-Compost Research Actions/ Proposals

clude:

- ACP Newsletter preparation and distribution (this newsletter!)
- ICAW Poster and Program Development in California
- SCAQMD Compost Working Group Next Steps

- Water Board Statewide Order Complete next draft WQPMs and Meeting #4 with Staff
- Calrecycle Title 14 & title acpmarketactions / Initiatives 27 Revisions Working Paper 1st draft and revisions Workshops in
 - ACP Marketing Kit Get

2012 Goals and Objectives for

8389; danwyldernoble@gmail.com) if you would like to participate on any of the specific ACP Working Groups that are implementing one or more of these compost market expansion initiatives. Current assignments can be found on the "Member Priorities" worksheet of the "ACP Steps - December 2011" Workbook on the ACP website at the URL given above.

THE ECO-FRIENDLY VERSION:

 $\hat{I} = \tilde{N}a \cdot XfYUa b [\cdot cZ \cdot U \cdot [fYYb \cdot 7 \setminus f]$

Not like the ones I used to know. With presents handmade or re-gifted

To prevent the climate being shifted

And leaving Christmas trees h c [f c k " I 6 c [Y f B U b Wm <] Y f ž h \ Y From her song $\hat{l} = \tilde{N} a \cdot 8 f Y U a] b [c Z U]$

Posted on the EastMeadowPatch.com website

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Have a wonderful holiday!

Hello California compost enthusiasts! The Association of Compost Producers (ACP) is in its 11th month as your state chapter to the US Composting Council. Special thanks to Dan Noble, ACP Executive Director, for his hard work and dedication on behalf of the industry. This year has been dominated with regulatory issues from the air boards, water boards and Cal-Recycle. These issues are critical and will likely consume much of cif h]aY fl8UbÐg next several months. I do look forward, however, to returning our energy back to promoting the use of compost and expanding markets.

It is critical that each of us remember that the benefits of compost need to be articulated and promoted at every opportunity. For example, did you know



Presidents Message rigation most importantly, it is very tax-

est in California.

] b [c b 7 U] Z c f b] U D to waste water. Set an example and use compost, spread the word about compost and encourage everyone to support composters! Increasing the value and volume of compost g c X] g] b Y j Y f m c b

I hope that each of you have a safe and happy holiday!

that you can cut your irrigation water usage by 30% or more just by using compost? In fact, many of the soils found in California are sand or clay which can be poor growing media for most of the plants and turf we like to grow around our homes. Sandy soil does not retain water or nutrients requiring more water and fertilizer application and clay soils do not allow water to efficiently reach the root zone which also requires more water and nutrients to overcome the runoff.

h]aY°Ł'Zcf'h\Y

Amending soils with compost can optimize almost any soil type improving its ability to sustain a healthy root zone. Healthy soils and root zones require less fertilizer and less water! Blend compost in with your existing soil and start cutting back on water and notice that the plants

k c b D h ` $c c _$ ' k c f g Y ' V i h ' U W h i U ` m ' better and you can save quite a

bit on your water bill. Water is still cheap but costs will certainly increase and,



California Live Oak planted in compost amended soil

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Community Recycling & Food Scrap Composting

All California composters already know the troubles that Community Recycling has been having. (See ACP Newsletter November 2011 "Tragedy at California Compost Facility" and the article republished below from KBAK - Eyewitness news and BakersfieldNow.com). I know our hearts go out to all parties, since, of course, no one anted this to happen.

Since that tragic event, and the ensuing shutdown order by Kern County Board of Supervisors, ACP has received numerous inquiries as to where the food scraps that are currently being composted at the Community Recycling facility will go, if not there? These inquiries point to the severe lack of food scrap composting capacity in Southern California. This is a problem that will put increasing pressure on So. Cal. Communities as local municipalities attempt to pursue the new policy goal of 75% diversion by 2020 (as specified in AB341, full copy on ACP website at: http://www.healthysoil.org/acpregslegs/legsregsforcomposter.html). It is clear that the industry, public or private, will have to make significant new investments in food composting facilities in Southern California if we expect to even come close to the 75% policy goal.

Judge: Controversial Lamont Plan Can Stay Open Longer



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COMPOST MARKETING TIPS

Compost Market Focus ð By Bob Engle

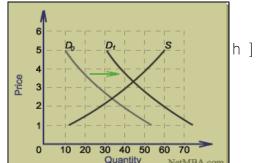
Gidd`mž'8YaUbXž'7caacX]hmž'6fUbX]b[""""k\UhÑg'l

Well if you read the last article you know we (the Compost Producers) are making Compost (the noun). Professionally produced Compost, the product! Yes, Compost that does all these wonderful things for the soil and by its

nature improves the air and water. What a great product, but man is it hard to educate the end user. Hard to sell and harder yet to sell for higher value. Well we are told you cannot sell for a higher value because it is a commodity. So k \ U h | q | U | Wc a a c X | h m 3 | K Y \ X | _ |

The more specific meaning of the term Commodity: is applied to <u>goods</u> only. It is used to describe a class of <u>goods</u> for which there is demand, but which is supplied without <u>qualitative</u> <u>differentiation</u> across a <u>market</u>.

So we have compost the product, which has some demand but there is no differentiation between the compost produced. We have pricing that is downright ridiculous and a supply that is growing each year. So what should we do?



Well first let us look at a simple supply and demand chart illustrated here. If an increase in Demand occurs, say from D_0 to D_1 , then price will increase. Sounds good. We just need to increase demand.

But compost is a commodity and that means it is hard to differentiate and increase demand. Hard yes... impossible, no! Working together as an industry, we do not need to differentiate compost from each producer, which is best left up to each individual producer and their marketing. What we can do is work together at branding compost as a product that provides a fundamental component of healthy soil; a product that not only improves the g c] ` ž ` V i h `] g ` Y g g Y b h] U ` ` h c ` a U] b h U] b ` k U h Y f ` U b X ` U] f g d Y W] Z] Y f g ` fl ` U b X g WU d Y ` U f W \] h Y Wh g ž ` 8 C H Ñ g ` X Y g] [b Y f collectively to brand compost as a product, it will help us increase demand and avoid competing on volume and price alone.

So how can the compost industry do this and has it been done before? Well yes, one of the most successful commodity programs was Got Milk? Or how about 6 Y Y Z " = h Ñ g . Dò you know the Zattleman Kaye 17b Y f websites to promote beef? The table grape commission estimated that the promotional activities for table grapes had increased per capita consumption by about 1.5 pounds per person. Now we cannot match the \$ 154 million California Commodity producer groups spent on generic advertising in 2004-05. We can begin the small steps needed to develop some industry wide messaging that works toward branding Compost as an essential in soil health. With 5 million acres of lawns in the US the National Gardening Association has estimated 82 million households, 71 percent of all U.S. households, participated in at least one type of lawn and garden activity in 2007. By working together we can develop messaging that can be repeated throughout California and across the U.S. that will help those 82 million households equate compost with healthy soils and plants.

Bob Engel
ACP Secretary/Treasurer &
USCC Marketing Committee Chairman

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COMPOST LEGISLATION



State Water Board Statewide Order For Compost Facilities

On November 16th (in Southern California) and 17th (in Northern California), the California State Water Resources Control Board sent their project and area leaders to fourth set of Stakeholder Workgroup meetings, reviewing the "DRAFT CONCEPTS FOR A PROPOSED STATEWIDE ORDER FOR COMPOSTING FACILITIES".

As reported in the September & November 2011 ACP Newsletters, ACP has developed an evergreen collaborative working paper. This document continues to grow, with input from many workgroup members (currently 34 pages). Dan Noble, ACP ED, was requested by the Water Board staff toown, personally identified, "save as" verspecifically create new WQPMs that are compost specific, based on the concepts articulated in the Working Paper to date. These will be included in a new special 5th and shared and extensively discussed at the December 7th ACP meeting.

As you have more ideas, questions, and input, please respond accordingly. If you would like to work directly on the Stakeholder Workgroup, please let us know (via Dan Noble, 619-992-8389, danwyldernoble@gmail.com). If you want to be involved separately (rather than through) ACP, you certainly can; however, you will need to be directly in touch with the Water Board Lead Person, Roger Mitchell, 858-467-2724, composting@waterboards.ca.gov.

If you are interested in engaging in this important issue, please add your comments, questions, and recommendations into your sion of this document and send it to Dan Noble. Alternatively, you can call him and he can take notes over the phone on your behalf, and we'll see that they get incorporated section of the Working Paper by December into our responses to the Water Board staff via the Working Paper process.

Compost Marketing Kit

As our mission clearly states, ACP is about expanding compost markets in California. As such, over the past 10 years of building compost markets in our State, we have amassed a good bit of both strategic and tactical knowledge, and relevant support materials, for expanding compost use in the three main soil health markets of:

- Landscape
- Agriculture and

Soil & Water Protection and Restoration

In recent months we have been assembling an "ACP Marketing Kit," exclusively for supporting members of ACP. Recall that we have "Basic" and "Supporting" members of ACP (explained on ACP's website at http://www.healthysoil.org/joiningacp.html). We are soliciting input on the form and substance of this document and will have the first Beta versions in the first quarter of 2012. Please contact Dan Noble, ACP ED at 619-992-8389 or danwyldernoble@gmail.com, to receive the latest version of this "kit". Currently the "kit" is in the form of a WOrking paplout we intend to build this into a separate, ACP Supporting Members Only what side be used as a compost marketing resource, exclusively for ACP Supporting Members.

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CalRecycle Revisited Compost Regulations

The CalRecycle Informal Workshop on "Draft Regulatory Revisions to Title 14 and 27" held an additional meeting in Southern California on November 16th, at IEUA (in addition to the Sacramento meeting on October 18). This workshop was organized to repeat the review of regulatory issues and potential approaches for future revisions to Title 14 and Title 27. Regulatory areas include Compostable Materials, Transfer Processing, Permit Application Form, and Permit Exemptions.

The Workshop focused on twelve specific issues and was broadcast on the Internet, and participants submitted comments and questions during the Workshop. A copy of the issues paper can be found on the ACP website at: http://www.healthysoil.org/acpregslegs/calrecycledocuments.html

ACP is preparing a Title 14 & 27 Issues Working Paper to use as a "collaboration document" through this

"informal" process, which is expected to continue at least through the first half of 2012, if not longer, prior to the more formal process which has a 1 year statutory time limit for completion.

CalRecycle is continuing this process of informal meetings and will hold informal workshops on December 13, 2011 and December 21, 2011 to review regulatory issues and potential approaches for future revisions to Title 14 and Title 27. Regulatory areas include Compostable Materials, Transfer Processing, Permit Application Form, and Permit Exemptions.

The December 13, 2011 workshop will be held during the CalRecycle Monthly Public Meeting and will address Issue 5 (Regulatory coordination of POTWs accepting food waste & FOG), Issue 8 (Regulatory coordination of meat, fish, and poultry waste), Issue 10 (Clarify "processing" in agricultural material definition), Issue 12 (Clarify

"permitted maximum tonnage"), and Issue 14 (EA Notification Inspection frequency language).

The December 21, 2011 workshop will be held at the CalEPA building in Conference Room 550 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and will address Issue 1 (food waste definition), Issue 2 (Land application: disposal or beneficial use), Issue 3 (On-site storage and 12,500 cubic yard limit), Issue 4 (Odor complaints: beyond zero tolerance), Issue 6 (Green waste contamination), Issue 7 (Anaerobic Digestion facility permitting), Issue 9 (Maximum metal concentrations consistency with federal regulations), Issue 11 (Small-scale composting exclusions), and Issue 13 Vermiculture).

For further information, contact Ken Decio at (916) 341-6313 or Ken.Decio@CalRecycle.ca.gov



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COMPOST MEETINGS, RELATED PROJECTS & NEWS

USCC -Compost Operations Training Course Back to California Feb 27thMar 2, 2012

SAVE THE DATE! (It's Never Too Early)

Date: Feb 27 to Mar 2, 2012 ACP and the US Composting Coun-Location: Heidrick Western Center cil is bringing the Compost Opera- for Agricultural Equipment, Davis,

professionals and educators.

tions Training Course back to Cali-CA fornia

40-hr, 5-day course includes lectures, hands-on activities and field Cost: EARLY BIRD SPECIAL! USCC/ trips.

Focus on the knowledge and skills members: \$799 to run a successful composting fa Āfter January 16,members: \$774, cility.

Taught by leading composting

For location and directions*CLICK*

- Norterested?

ACP members: \$699,

us know. ‡ tion materials when they are

mation: USCC Training

classes! PHOTOS

say *READ*

able deposit.

Non-members: \$874

USCC Annual Conference & Trade Show

The largest composting conference and exhibition for the composting, wood waste and organics recycling industry in

North America.

The only national composting conference and exhibition run by and for composting and organics recycling professionals, it is the premier event of the Composting and Organics Recycling industries, providing industry professionals with educational, networking, and career advancement opportunities.

WHEN

January 17-20, 2012

WHERE

Renaissance Hotel, Austin, Texas

From January 17 to 20, 2012, the US Composting Council will be hosting

ing this time the Renaissance able. Hotel in Austin will attract the largest group of composting and organics professionals in the country to solve your composting lenges.

Looking for the latest information on 6 A D Ñ g Zcf

control, marketing, research and evaluation? In need of the latest composting equipment and technologies? The USCC Annual Conference and Trade Show has all the answers you are looking for and much, ai W\ acfY° H\fci pre-conference workshops & training seminars and educational sessions http://compostingcouncil.org/ presented under six conference

tracks you will have the opportunity

the 20th Annual National Compost- to attend the most comprehensive ing Conference and Exposition. Dur- composting seminar program avail-

available

For REGISTRATION and more infor-

See photos from the first three

Read what former students have to

CLICK HERE place a \$50 refund-

CLICK HEREto let

WHO

participate in a comprehensive pro- Join hundreds of fellow compost gram of workshops, training courses managers, operators, regulators, reand educational and technical ses- searchers, government officials, engisions designed specifically to provide neers and consultants from throughyou with the information you need to out the country at the USCC Annual chal- Conference, to engage in a focused, three-day series of workshops, training courses, educational and technical sessions and seminars covering composting and compost marketing practices, new technologies and compost applications, poli-x c f cies, public outreach, program financing, and regulations. An outstanding program is planned with a diversity of sessions offered. Critical issues to be addressed at the conference affect all composters and [those affiliated with the jinglustry 0]

conference-info/

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Stormcon & Sheraton Downtown, Denver, CO August 20

-22, 2012



http://www.stormcon.com/downloads/SC12 ExhibitorBro.pdf

Exhibitor information and Call for Papers is now open for next year's Stormcon conference, typically held in Denver. Next year it's at the Sheraton Denver Downtown, Denver, CO, August 20-22, 2012. The reason we keep bringing up erosion control market development opportunities, is because we learned (based on the work that we did with Caltrans, 2005 to 2007) that this is still one of the largest untapped markets for compost in California. It behooves compost producers, if they want to build their markets, to specifically focus on expanding this greatly underserved compost market in California. However, from my own experience, (Dan Noble's involvement with a national company called "Certified Erosion Control" from 2006 to 2008, and which stopped doing business in 2009), this has NOT been an "easy" market to get into. It requires much work an intention.

Repeating what we published in last month's newsletter, we learned recently that **Summit Erosion Control** (http://www.summiterosion.com/) added Compost-BMPs to their Portfolio, through the acquisition of Total Erosion Control Inc. Summit is now the exclusive Filtrexx certified manufacture as of BMPposticks in Southern Calif **Orang Kolodge**, (Craig.Kolodge@summiterosion.com) (formerly with Total Erosion Control, which was founded and owned by Mary Matava, of Agriservice, LLC of Oceanside), is Summit Erosion's new Director of Business Development. Craig is available to assist with the new compost-based BMPs, as well as Summit's complete line of erosion control products and services.

Composters will do well to get to, howange hies finally doing in California what many of us have not been successful at to date, i.e. building a robust compost-based erosion control business in California! I've also been informed by Craig that Stormcon is a better conference to market compost BMP's than is the CASQA conference. So that's why we're including it here and will keep it here as a placeholder and monthly reminder to composters to continue working on developing this important market into the future!

In addition, we will work to get the compost stormwater and erosion control BMPs as part of the WQPMs (Water Quality Control Measures) within the new Water Board Statewide Order for Green Materials & Food Scrap composting facilities. (see article titled " State Water Board Statewide Order for Compost Facilities" in this ACP Newsletter).

Bio -Cycle Global 2012

International Conference On Composting, Renewable Energy & Organics Recycling

26th Annual BioCycle West Coast Conference 2012 Save These Dates!



April 16, 17, 18, 19, 2012 Portland, Oregon Red Lion Hotel On The River

Call For Papers i Biocycle 2012 West Coast Conference

The 26th Annual BioCycle West Coast Conference, April 16-19, 2012 in Portland, Oregon is accepting abstracts for presentations. The 2012 West Coast Conference theme, Community Sustainability In The 21st Century, encompasses the full g d Y W h f i a c Z 6] c 7 h Wron's composting and bompost utilization to divert and manage organic waste streams. Cutting edge research and analysis i especially as it relates to transforming communities and their infrastructure to sustainable systems will be highlighted.

http://www.jgpress.com/conferences1/ archives/26th annual biocycle west coast conference 2012 Page 9 Volume 2, Issue 9



COMPOST OVERS Misc Tidbits and Cool News

Great Posters Submitted

The US Composting Council Board International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) committee, Chaired by ACP President, Jeff Ziegenbein, announced that as of November 30, 2011 they have received over a dozen entries for ICAW posters. The winning poster will serve as the 2012 International Compost Awareness Week promotional media piece.

entries to choose from this year. We're looking to announce the winner prior to this years USCC conference and make = 75 K ' & \$ % & ' h \ Y ' V Y g h ' c b Y ' Y j Y f " Î ' g U] X ' > Y Z Z ' N] Y [Y b V Y] b

SCWMF Meeting Highlights ð By Erika Ellis

On November 9, 2011, the Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) held its annual conference. See http:// www.scwmf.org/web/home/. ACP Supporting Member, and graphics composer of this newsletter, Erika Ellis, with County of San Bernardino attended the event. Here are some of her highlights:

Food Waste Collection Project -

Orange County Waste & Recycling has a food waste collection project funded from an AB 939 surcharge of \$19 at their landfill for all self haulers. This fee is driving more waste to the transfer stations and generated \$19 million since program inception in 2006. County issues grants to jurisdictions to put in place a food waste collection program (includes unincorporated areas). With the grant they buy and install a food waste dehydration unit which reduces 90% of the waste. Rea U] b] b [-Ul gW cha\dYcng h\HDA to have then establish a fracility 10% is used on site or donated to local gardens. Program has diverted 557 tons so far. They worked closely with EHS for proper installation.

A Styrofoam recycler in Chino made contact with him to get more information. They process Styrofoam from Dart Containers as well as other businesses and uses the materials to make high quality picture frames. They work with business and

schools who generate a lot of Styrofoam waste and will even install a machine in their location for that collection. This company is working with Burrtec at West Valley MRF and also has an EPR program to take back frames that are broken or damaged and will reuse the materials into new frames. They are working on developing additional products.

- Reuse People of America. To promote deconstruction instead of demolition. They offer tax incentives to businesses that send materials to them. This may be a good program if good C&D waste came into our landfills that was still usable, it could be donated and we could get a tax break (we would not sort it but it would be dropped off by the customer). It might be good to work with them and in SB County because the majority of the items they get come from residential homeowners. They will also provide reports of diversion in specific jurisdictions.
- Monterey Peninsula Landfill Reuse Store. Their landfill is 475 acres and has 150 years of site life left, but they are developing reuse programs to sustain it. The population is a little over 177k and they divert 40%

of their waste through this store and other programs. They pull out materials from the site and place them in h \ Y] f ' Î @ U q h ' 7 \ U b W Y where they are sold for low cost (revenue generating). 70% of the items are donated and 30% pulled from the tipping floor. They also have their HHW on site. This facility was partially paid for from a grant from Cal Recycle and has a small staff. It costs \$886k a year to run the facility, it generates \$815k in revenue from the store and then they get e-waste fees from the state which generates an additional \$279k in revenue so the facility is just over the breakeven point but still making money.

Round table on EPR vs Advance Disposal Fees- the majority of the panel represented the opinion that EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) is the way to go over fees paid at the time the product is purchased. EPR actually drives source reduction and haulers/retailers are now looking at their products as materials management instead of landfilling. Talked about the paint, fluorescent light and carpet programs in development as EPR programs.

Let Erika know if you want more information on the above items.

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CR&R Moves AD Facility Forward

On November 16th, the City of Perris Planning Commission approved major modifications to the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to develop a Green Energy Facility on the existing CR&R site. The proposed 150 ton per day plant will be among the first California facilities using anaerobic digestion to convert municipal solid waste to produce renewable transportation fuels and power.

The CR&R plant is supported by the LA County Conversion Technology project, the California Energy Commission and various additional stakeholders. CR&R (www.crrwasteservices.com) is an ACP Supporting Member for the past two years.

For additional information go to:

www.cityofperris.org/city-gov/agenda/2011/11-16-11 pc.pdf

http://www.socalconversion.org/



Renewable Energy Composting

On November 29, 2011, the Inland Empire Utility Agency (IEUA*) turned on a 1 megawatt source of renewable wind energy, to help power their wastewater treatment plant as well as the indoor compost facility both located on 6th Avenue in Rancho Cucamonga, CA. The massive wind turbine base structure is 185 feet tall with the three rotating blades that are 100 feet long. This is part of the utilities agency's plan to go off the electricity grid by 2020. When that happens, not only will the award winning compost facility* be unique in its size and environmental compliance, it will be unique in that it the compost blowers will be powered entirely by renewable energy.



IEUA formed a joint venture with partner, LA County Sanitation Districts in the largest indoor compos (Inland Empire Regional Composting Facilityjerca) cirgthe U.S. that is managed by ACP President Jeff Zieg bein. See ACP Newsletter August 2010 "Compost Producer Spotlight", ACP Newsletter August 2011 "CRR Two ACP Board Members Receive Special Awards" and ACP Newsletter November 2011 "IERCA Awarde SWANA 2011 Gold Composting Systems Excellence Award", for articles on this unique system.



ASSOCIATION OF COMPOST PRODUCERS

OUR MISSION

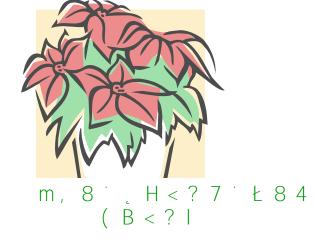
The Association of Compost Producers (ACP) is a non-profit association of public and private organizations dedicated to increasing the quality, value and amount of compost being used in California. We do this by promoting activities and regulations that build healthy soil, benefiting people and the environment.

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.

Dan Noble, Executive Director Association of Compost Producers Cell: (619) 9928389

<u>DanWylderNoble@gmail.com</u>

http://www.healthysoil.org/



As always, we look forward to seeing and hearing many of you at this month's ACP Member Meeting, December 7, 2011! Please strongly consider being directly involved in one of the above Task Forces and/or Working Groups that were discussed and very active this month and through the rest of the year.

We look forward to seeing and working with you all at future meetings, workgroups and workshops to further expand the quantity and quality of compost use in California!

Jeff Ziegenbein, ACP President Dan Noble, Executive Director





