

September 2010

Volume 1, Issue 8



# ASSOCIATION OF COMPOST PRODUCERS

**"We Build Healthy Soil"**

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### 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.

## COMPOST PRODUCER ACTIONS

### Association of Compost Producers Member Meeting

**Wednesday, September  
22nd 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 avail-  
able. Call the main  
switchboard and they  
will patch you in.**

Agenda and handouts will be available on Monday, September 20th, 2010. If you want any new agenda items to be included, please contact Dan Noble, 619-303-3694 [dnoble@ecobonds.com](mailto:dnoble@ecobonds.com).

Please note: We will have the regularly scheduled meeting from 9-11AM as usual, and we will have additional time for "Any ACP Working Group" meetings from 11AM to 12 Noon for any members who need to continue to work face to face.

We will have a speaker phone available if you want to call in. Simply call into the main switchboard number above and ask to be put into the ACP Meeting Conference Call.

## 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  
Agriculture Compost Market Expansion Task Force      Conferences & Presentations  
Compost Research Actions/Proposals      Sustainable Landscape Conversion Initiative  
Local Economic Clusters (w/Green Building Taskforce)  
And: Compost Legislative Tracking & Input to Working Groups

Please contact Dan Noble (619-303-3694; [dnoble@ecobonds.com](mailto:dnoble@ecobonds.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—Tier One



As Reported last month, ACP ED (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. Our team engaged in a novel, and fairly intensive and very unique process (from 8/4/10 to 8/24/10) of “integrating” the various sustainable landscape related proposals into one omnibus proposal, so that the Prop 84 grant money administering agency & committee (San Diego County Water Authority, RWM Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)) could have a holistic view of the various proposals, and how they *could possibly* work together.

***“We are happy to report that our grant proposal as of the first week in September, has made the first cut to “tier one” consideration by the RAC team.”***

We are happy to report that our grant proposal, as of the first week in September, has made the first cut to “tier one” consideration by the RAC team. Please *send positive intentions* in the direction of the team that we can receive this grant award to make compost a permanent feature of “Sustainable Landscape Conversions” in not only

San Diego, but use this as a spring board to establish similar programs around the state!

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, [dnoble@ecobonds.com](mailto:dnoble@ecobonds.com).

## Agricultural Compost Working Group

As reported last month, ACP Science Advisor & Coordinator, Dr. David Crohn, UC Riverside, is in the process of reviewing the Ag Project Report Brief. This is “Step One” of that “Next Steps” of this important ACP Working Group, which is:

1. Ag Compost Project Report Brief
2. STA and “3 Part System” Overview
3. Ag Marketing Materials
4. Compost Use Index (CUI) Wiki
5. Ag Market System
6. Ag Market Program

The “Next Step” on the list (step #2, above) being worked on now, is Dr. David Crohn and Dan Noble to putting 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 LEGISLATION

## SCAQMD—Proposed Rule 1133.3

Thanks to long time ACP member, Paul Ryan, we submitted comments on SCAQMD Proposed Rule (PR) 1133.3 – Green Waste Composting (air pollution control measures in the South Coast Air Quality Management District, SCAQMD) along with the following industry organizations:

- ✦ California Refuse Recycling Council - Southern District
- ✦ Inland Empire Disposal Association
- ✦ Los Angeles County Waste Management Association
- Solid Waste Association of Orange County.

The joint letter that we sent can be found on ACP’s website at: <http://www.healthysoil.org/acpinitiativesresults/acpdocuments.html>, in the “ACP Comment Letter Library”, Listed as, [SCAQMD Proposed Rule 1133.3 Comment Letter](#) Proposed Rule for Green-waste/Foodwaste air pollution control from composting operations

The items that were specifically addressed included the following aspects of the proposed rule:

1. Compatibility and Cost Effectiveness of PR 1133.3 with other rules in the 1133

suite of rules.

2. Baseline Emission Factors
3. Static Pile
4. Metrics: Pounds and Tons versus Cubic Yards
5. Curing
6. Test Methods and Protocol
7. C:N Method Prescribed by Executive Officer

If you have any questions, comments, or want to participate more directly in this precedent setting process, please contact either Paul Ryan ([enviropablo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:enviropablo@sbcglobal.net)) or Dan Noble ([dnoble@ecobonds.com](mailto:dnoble@ecobonds.com)).



## Cal-Recycle Commercial Mandatory Recycling

Subject: Informal Stakeholder Feedback Workshop on Commercial Recycling Cost Study and Emission Reductions

The draft Commercial Recycling Cost Study and the proposed methodology for quantifying emission reductions from composting and recycling have been posted to the CalRecycle website. These documents will be discussed at the Informal Stakeholder Feedback Workshop on the proposed Mandatory Commercial Recycling Regulation on September 21, 2010. The formal rulemaking process for the Mandatory Commercial Recycling Regula-

tion begins in early 2011, a revised version of the regulation will be available at that time.

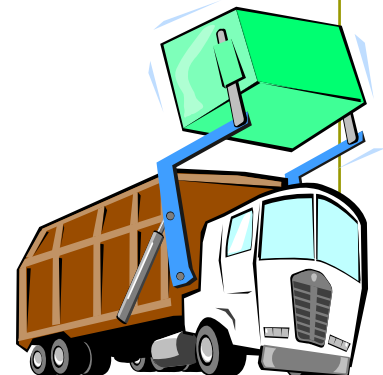
The draft proposed regulatory language is available through the Mandatory Commercial Recycling website: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/Recycling/default.htm> Â

The Informal Feedback Workshop agenda and supporting documents are available at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Actions/PublicNoticeDetail.aspx?id=248&aiid=248> .

Cal Recycle Contact:  
*Tracey M. Harper, CalRecycle Materials Management & Local Assistance Program*  
*Climate Change and Technology Section*  
*(916) 341-6531*

*To link to Mandatory Commercial Recycling Info:*  
[Commercial Recycling](#)

*Promoting a More Sustainable California*



## AB 737 Letters of Support

Just this week, ACP received a request from both of our "affiliate" associations CRRA ([www.crra.com](http://www.crra.com), Peter Sloate, Policy Chairman), and California Compost Council (Sean Edgar, ED), to submit a letter of support of AB 737 (Chesbro, [http://www.aroundthecapitol.com/Bills/AB\\_737/](http://www.aroundthecapitol.com/Bills/AB_737/)), to make sure that Governor Schwarzenegger signs it into law.

The points that we made in the letter include:

ACP supports this bill for several reasons:

1. It furthers the objectives of AB 32, which established the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. This bill would require commercial recycling, and it is well established that recycling contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
2. If Proposition 23 were to be approved by the voters, all efforts to require commercial recycling under the AB 32 Scoping Plan would be suspended; this bill ensures that even if that were to occur or, putting aside Prop 23, if your successor as Governor were to suspend the implementation of those regulations by executive order, the commercial recycling requirement would still move forward in statute.
3. This bill places CalRecycle (rather than the ARB) in charge of implementing and enforcing the commercial recycling requirement. Recycling has traditionally been regulated by CalRecycle and its predecessor, the CIWMB. CalRecycle staff has decades of experience with the issue, and continues to exhibit a depth of understanding regarding the issues our industry is addressing moving forward. We believe they are uniquely qualified to manage recycling, and should re-

tain primary jurisdiction in the interest of governmental efficiency.

4. AB 737 also contains a permit streamlining feature that will enable a recycling facility to expand, up to its design capacity, by simply modifying (rather than revising) its permit.
5. This bill also calls upon the Legislature to study the effects of the commercial recycling requirement in terms of increasing waste diversion levels, and to identify potential opportunities for achieving additional diversion.
6. Finally, this bill includes a series of Legislative findings that for the first time recognize the link between increased recycling and the need for recycling and composting capacity, that acknowledge the "net environmental benefit" offered by these facilities, and that express the need to sustain and expand waste recycling and composting efforts.

Some in the business community have characterized this bill as both untimely and inappropriate because, they contend, it unfairly exposes business to a costly state mandate. The true facts are these:

- Local governments already possess the authority to impose "mandatory" recycling, and many have done so, with no ill effect upon business. In fact, businesses subject to a recycling requirement will typically experience a reduction in their monthly waste bills, because recycling carries no disposal fee, and the hauler can charge less when materials have some resale value.
- Further, this bill exempts small businesses (those generating less than 4 cubic yards per week), and requires nothing of businesses

already receiving recycling services, or those located in areas where recycling service is unavailable.

- AB 939 has always included a requirement that local governments recycle; AB 75 imposes a recycling obligation upon state facilities. It's time that businesses did their part. This bill merely asks the same thing of some businesses (those not now participating in recycling) that other businesses, residents, and the state have been asked to do for more than 20 years.
- Recycling more of the organic fraction of the waste stream, via composting and quality compost product production, actually increases jobs *and* enhances the environment *at the same time* providing at least the following benefits to each community that initiates these programs and beneficially uses compost:
  - Improve soil *water and nutrient holding* capacity of soils
  - Save 1,000's of acre feet of water on ag and landscaped lands each year
  - Decrease the need for chemical fertilizers & pesticide use
  - Remediate chemically damaged soils, Replenishing trace and macro-nutrient stores
  - Save energy and reduce greenhouse gases by less tilling, water and increased carbon sequestration

## COMPOST PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT

### “Harvest Power, Inc.”

Harvest Power, Inc., [www.harvestpower.com](http://www.harvestpower.com), is one of ACP’s newest members and is represented by Tom Kelley, Business Development Manager for Harvest (Tom was a former Board Member of ACP, 2002-2004, when he was Sales Manager with Synagro, Southwest Region). Harvest is a newly formed company composed of seasoned compost and organics management professionals. Through innovative, integrated energy recovery and composting technologies, combined with the unparalleled industry experience of their key leadership and management team, Harvest is providing the next generation of organic waste management: *renewable energy and high-quality compost*. They assist communities with source separation programs, build renewable energy facilities and utilize best-in-class composting technologies to produce high-quality compost-based products.

Harvest Power’s envisions ***“A Future in Which Waste Never Goes to Waste.”***

*“Our vision of organic waste is that it is not waste at all, but rather an undiscovered urban asset. We mine these urban assets and redistribute the resources back into society in useable forms of renewable energy and high-quality compost-based soil products. Nothing is wasted and the end result is sustainable living.”*

Harvest’s value proposition is delivering a supply chain with a wide range of integrated benefits for business, government and consumers.

#### *Facilities*

#### **Fraser Richmond**

Harvest owns and operates the largest permitted food waste and yard waste composting facility in North America,

Fraser Richmond Soil & Fibre, located in Richmond, BC near Vancouver, Canada. It is one of the most productive compost facilities in North America, boasting dramatic efficiency gains over traditional windrow or enclosed systems. They use proprietary Covered Aerated Static Pile composting and odor control technologies with specially designed biofilters, producing hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of high-value compost-based products annually.

#### **Dry Fermentation (High Solids Anaerobic Digestion)**

Harvest is demonstrating a new and better way for communities to manage organic waste by “empowering” it through the production of renewable energy at the Vancouver site. High solids anaerobic digestion has never been done in North America on a commercial scale – this facility is the first. Harvest plans to install the first phase, enough to process 30,000 tons of organic waste per year, by the second quarter of 2011. Along with their continued composting operations, anaerobic digestion will add value to organics as a resource. Website: [www.FraserRichmond.ca](http://www.FraserRichmond.ca)

#### **Wood Gasification**

In addition to high solids anaerobic digestion, Harvest is pursuing a wood gasification technology. This unique technology cost-effectively extracts energy from wood waste and other cellulosic materials. Wood waste cannot be effectively fermented to extract energy; as such this gasification process offers a unique solution to the wood fraction of the organic waste stream.



Fraser Richmond facility, Canada

***“Our Vision of organic waste is that it is not waste at all, but rather an undiscovered urban asset. We mine these urban assets and redistribute the resources back into society in useable forms of renewable energy and high quality compost based soil products. Nothing is wasted and the end result is sustainable living.”***

**Continued from Page 5**

*Investors*

Along with its management team, the largest investors in Harvest’s capitalization structure include Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, Munich Venture Partners & Waste Management.

**Kleiner Perkins Caufield &**

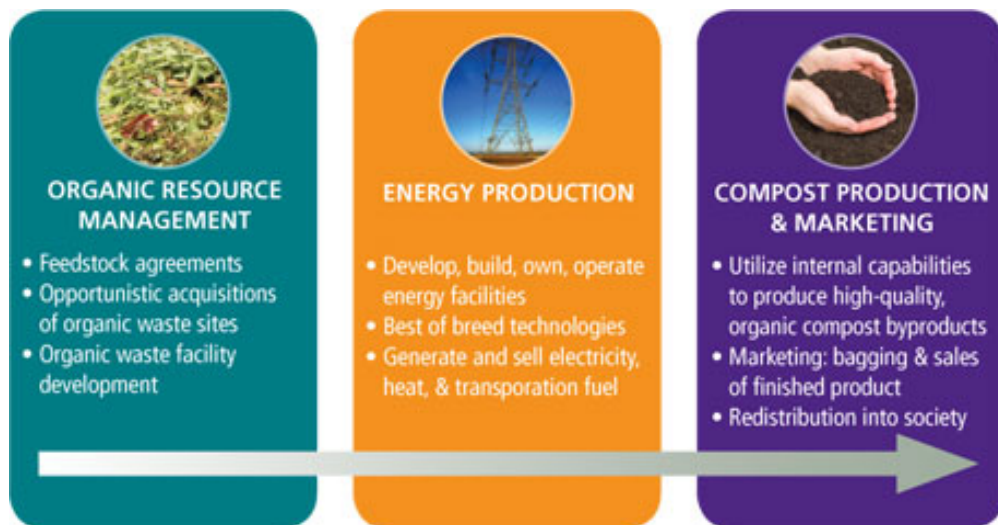
**Byers** is committed to helping entrepreneurs build enduring market-changing institutions and defining new business sectors or expanding existing ones. Their partners have supported hundreds of entrepreneurs in building over 475 companies, including such household names as Amazon, Sun, VeriSign and Google. Harvest is a proud portfolio company within Kleiner Perkin’s Greentech initiative.

**Munich Venture Partners** is an independent Venture Capital firm located in Munich, Germany. Founded in 2005 by a group of Senior Executives of large international corporations and seasoned Venture Capital professionals, they focus on Venture Capital investments into high-tech startups

in all stages of development.

**Waste Management** (NYSE: WM) - Waste Management, Inc. is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management and environmental services in North America. As of December 31, 2008, the company served nearly 20 million municipal, commercial, industrial, and residential customers through a network of 367 collection operations, 355 transfer stations, 273 active landfill disposal sites, 16 waste-to-energy plants, 134 recycling plants, and 111 beneficial-use landfill gas projects.

Upon becoming a member of ACP, Harvest’s Tom Kelley quickly volunteered for the Agricultural Compost Working Group. As Tom put it, “The agricultural market represents the largest, sustainable and long term potential for compost in California.” As Harvest works to provide leading edge products and services for municipalities and other large organics residuals generators in California and North America, Tom and his marketing team will look to leverage ACP’s mission to expand sustainable high quality compost markets.



*“There is no such thing as waste, until it is wasted.”*

*-Jaime Lee Curtis  
Dirt: The Movie*

## 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](http://www.usgbc-ie.org))

USGBC-Los Angeles  
([www.usgbcla.org](http://www.usgbcla.org))

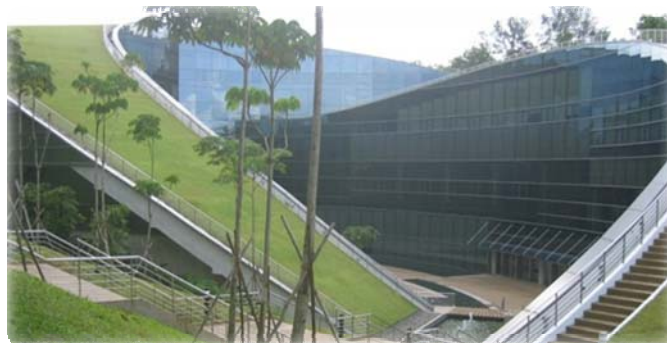
USGBC – Northern California Chapter ([www.usgbc-ncc.org](http://www.usgbc-ncc.org))

USGBC-Orange County  
([www.usgbc-oc.org](http://www.usgbc-oc.org))

USGBC-San Diego  
([www.usgbc-sd.org](http://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 CO<sub>2</sub>-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 CO<sub>2</sub>-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 CO<sub>2</sub>-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 CO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub>. 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 CO<sub>2</sub> respiration: Comparison of chemical titration, CO<sub>2</sub> 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](mailto:exhibit@scwmf.org).

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”

## Dirt: The Movie & the Living Breathing Dirt Test

At last month’s ACP meeting we viewed “Dirt! The Movie” ([www.dirtthemovie.com](http://www.dirtthemovie.com)) compliments of 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](http://www.kelloggsgarden.com). There were about 18 members and guests in attendance and we discussed how ACP members might use this movie, and/or a special “compost directors cut” to promote compost use in California and nationwide. Please stay tuned for how we will propose to use this excellent vehicle for getting the word out about building healthy living soil using this award winning movie.

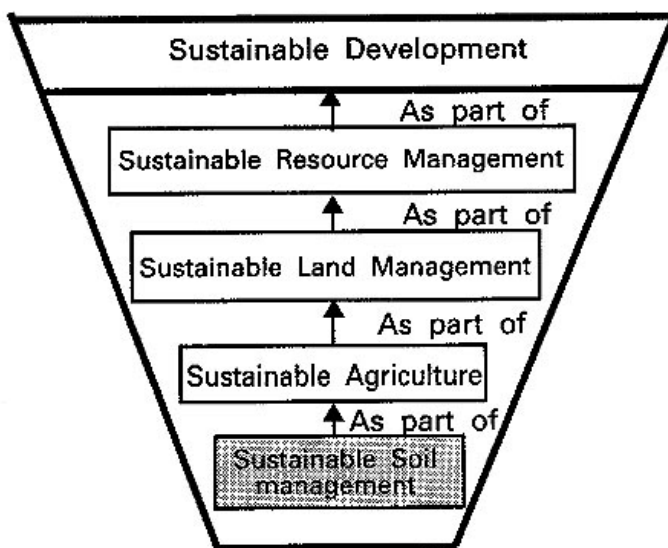
Also, as a companion to this movie, Andrew Sparda, Director, Solvita Sales and Customer Relations, for Woods End Laboratories, Inc., Mount Vernon, Maine, [www.woodsendlab.com](http://www.woodsendlab.com). Andrew presented recent work on compost activity that was a companion to this movie, called “[The Living Breathing Dirt Test](#).”

Dirt! The Movie, emphasizes that *soils are living breathing systems*, and the producers contend “that one of the best ac-

tions 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 teamed to show us how the test works at this month’s meeting.

*The test is so simple that elementary school kids can use it. Yet it is robust enough to be a part of both quality control on commercial compost operations, as well as so support compost research projects.*

**ACP strongly supports the use of these and other test methods to support the production of quality compost for our industry!**



## Building Local Living Economies—On Healthy Soil Of Course!

Building off the work in putting together the Sustainable Landscape Conversion Initiative Prop 86 grant proposal (see “**Sustainable Landscape Conversion Initiative – Tier One Consideration**” in this newsletter), ACP ED, Dan Noble, has been working with local green business entrepreneurs in the San Diego region to create a set of integrated green industry clusters via an new organization called GreenSource Network ([www.GreenSourceNetwork.net](http://www.GreenSourceNetwork.net)). The GS Network will be part of a North American network of “Business Alliance for Local Living Economies”, [www.livingeconomies.org](http://www.livingeconomies.org).

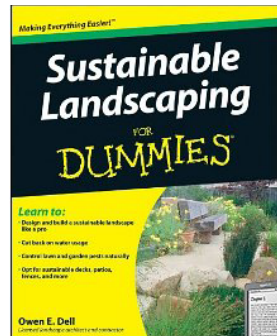
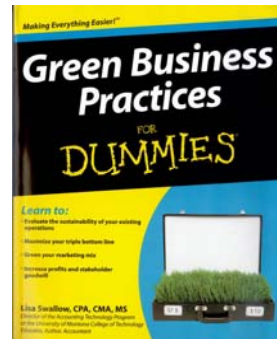
The GreenSource Network (GSN) will be composed of a set of collaborating “green business clusters” that will work together to help *both consumers and producers* build local sustainable (living!) economies through ongoing education and marketing. The main (one dozen), comprehensive, Green/Sustainable Business Clusters that the GSN is working on are:

1. Food/Agriculture
2. Water
3. Energy
4. Building & Landscaping
5. Transportation
6. Manufacturing

7. Retail
8. Capital
9. Material Recovery
10. Education
11. Security Governance

In San Diego, it will market to consumers through the existing, and soon to be expanding, “San Diego Loves Green”, [www.sandiegolovesgreen.com](http://www.sandiegolovesgreen.com), green consumer portal.

If you would like to learn more about this initiative, *and how you can start participating in your own regional local economy*, please contact Dan Noble at [dnoble@ecobonds.com](mailto:dnoble@ecobonds.com). ***for our industry!***



## International Compost Awareness Week

The US Composting Council’s ICAW committee is chaired by ACP President, Jeff Ziegenbein, Deputy Manager of Operations and Organics for the Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority, announced this year’s poster contest schedule as follows:

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

The theme for this year’s contest is “**COMPOST!...RECONNECTING WITH NATURE**”

Call for Entries! The International Compost Awareness Week Committee of the USCC invites YOU to get involved in our 4th Annual ICAW Poster Contest. [Click here for details \(http://www.compostingcouncil.org/programs/icaw/sponsors.php\)](http://www.compostingcouncil.org/programs/icaw/sponsors.php)

*"The ICAW program is "grass roots" in nature and allows a perfect opportunity to teach young and old about compost's ability to conserve water, protect groundwater and build beautiful landscapes. We look forward to seeing new posters each year as they always deliver new and interesting perspectives on the benefits of composting and recycling. Great job!"*

Jeff Ziegenbein, ACP Board President  
Deputy Manager of Operations and Organics  
Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority

## ASSOCIATION OF COMPOST PRODUCERS

Dan Noble, Executive Director  
Association of Compost Producers  
7860 Alida St \* La Mesa, CA 91942  
Office: 619-303-3694 \* Fax: 619-589-9905

[dnoble@ecobonds.com](mailto:dnoble@ecobonds.com)

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<http://www.healthysoil.org/>

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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.*



Newsletter Contribution by Dan Noble, Executive Director ACP

Newsletter Design by Erika Ellis, ACP Member