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COMPOST PRODUCER ACTIONS

Association of Compost Producers Member Meeting

Wednesday, July 28rd from
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at
IEUA
Inland Empire Utilities
Agency 6075 Kimball Ave.
Chino, CA 91710
909-993-1600

Agenda and handouts will be available on Monday, July 26th, 2010. If you want any new agenda items to be included, please contact Dan Noble.

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 switch board number above and ask to be put into the ACP Meeting Conference Call.



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 July 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/acpdocuments.html>

The projects that we engage in include:

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

Please contact Dan Noble at 619-303-3694 or via email at dnoble@inquiryinternational.com if you would like to participate on any ACP Task Force that are implementing one or more of these compost market expansion initiatives.

Sustainable Landscape Conversion Initiative



IMPORTANT WEBSITES TO VIEW

Sustainable Landscapes

<http://www.rmwater.com/clients/sdirwmp/home.html>

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/iwmgp/index.shtml

<http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/>

Readers of this ACP Newsletter will know that ACP Executive Director, Dan Noble, has been working to create a “sustainable landscape cooperative” with other non-profit organizations to promote and produce environmentally friendly landscapes in Southern California... specifically the San Diego region, as a starting point for a collaborative initiative. However, ACP recently received word that the Surfrider Foundation that they were not ready to collaborate with other non-profits, like ACP, regarding their developing landscape program.

So given that, Dan has decided to see if it makes sense to put together another team of sustainable landscape professionals to create a “Sustainable Landscape Conversion Initiative” for Southern California landscapes, starting with specific jurisdictions within the San Diego region. He is working on a proposal for Proposition 86, Integrated Resource Water Management grant program.

This process is being administered through, RMC Water and Environment, a contractor for the San Diego County Water Authority in San Diego. The due date for the Grant Proposal is August 2, 2010. The elements of the program being proposed are

built on a “five point program” for converting existing landscapes to sustainable landscapes (of course, using compost!), that include:

1. Management: Partnership development and management of all program participants
2. Methods & Classes: Develop education methods and implementation systems
3. Marketing & Outreach: Implement marketing / PR and outreach strategy and implementation tactics
4. Site Auditing & Conversions: Identify, secure and manage locations for conversion and demonstration sites (on the order of 100’s of sites per year).

Metrics & Accountability: Establish and implement a web based collaboration and landscape conversion accountability metrics system for program design and evaluation

Please note, also, that for new construction, ACP has already given testimony (two years ago!) into the “Model Landscape Ordinance. CalRecycle just sent the following announcement about promoting that with the Department of Water Resources:

CalRecycle is collaborating with the DWR to promote the Ordinance which details water efficient landscape requirements and mandates that local agencies must adopt the revised model ordinance or equivalent no later January 1, 2010 or it will be automatically adopted by statute. The Ordinance includes a definition of mulch that includes compost as an approved landscaping material for reducing evaporation, suppressing weeds, moderating soil temperature, and preventing soil erosion.

For more background and definitions on this emerging program, please see previous ACP Newsletters (esp. March to June 2010 for a recent history of this process).



As Dan puts together the grant proposal, he will be reporting back to ACP members the progress. If you have any questions or want further input, please contact Dan Noble at 619-303-3694 or via email at dnoble@inquiryinternational.com.

Compost Carbon Credits Working Group

To put a finer point on reporting on this committee’s work (see previous ACP newsletters from 2010. ACP had ongoing input on the Organic Waste Composting Protocol that was recently approved (June 30, 2010) by the Climate Action Reserve. A copy of the protocol can be found at on the Climate Action Reserve website (see Important Websites to View).

Recent news from our sister organization, Greg Kester, Biosolids Manager, CASA-California Association of Sewage Agencies, recently highlighted “a valuable blurb from the US Composting Council on Climate Change benefits from composting.”

While Greg acknowledges that this “is not the strongest supported argument ... it is the first actual attempt I have seen to quantify carbon sequestration from land application.” Greg “continues to seek scientifically supported data to quantify this benefit,” as do ACP

members. “Note also that biosolids and biosolids compost are much higher than green waste compost in nutrient concentrations so would have a greater benefit than calculated here.”

“Also note that I [Greg] am not sure how they calculate the benefit from avoidance of fossil fuel to produce nitrogen, but it is estimated else-



where that 0.22 gallons of fossil fuel is required to produce each pound of inorganic nitrogen fertilizer. That means that if you provide 200 pounds of nitrogen from biosolids per acre, you avoid the use of 44 gallons of fossil fuel per acre or 4400 gallons for a 100 acre field.”

Compost Use Mitigates Climate Change! A new USCC Fact Sheet documents

that not only does the on-going use of compost improve physical, chemical and biological soil properties, but it also supports climate change mitigation. [Fact sheet](#) We have also posted this fact sheet on the ACP web site.

“By some calculations, for every ton of compost, there is over ½ ton of

GHG carbon benefit”

IMPORTANT WEBSITES TO VIEW

Carbon Credits

<http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/adopted/organic-waste-composting/current/>

ACP Website

<http://www.healthysoil.org/acpinitiativesresults/newsletter.html>

<http://www.healthysoil.org/acpinitiativesresults/compostclimatechange.html>

CASA Website

www.casaweb.org

COMPOST LEGISLATION

Compost Regulatory Tiers Under Consideration by Cal Recycle



This past month, at the request of ACP Board members and one past member, ACP Exec. Dir., Dan Noble, was asked to make an inquiry into the “Study on Other States’ Regulatory Oversight of Waste and Material Handling Activities Relative to Recycling Centers, Transfer Stations, and Green Material Contamination” of February 2010, including a CalRecycle staff May 3, 2010 5 page cover letter explaining the study recommendations.

sideration with Answers from key CalRecycle Staff in the Know about this recent Study:

Who is responsible, within Calrecycle, to move the recommendations of this study forward?

Watson Gin is the project manager. His Division Chief is Mark DeBie, Division Chief Waste Compliance and Mitigation Program, Permitting and LEA Support Division

CalRecycle. (see also letter to Mark DeBie that ACP sent March 3, 2010, “[CalRecycle SD8.3 ACP 030310.pdf](#)” on the ACP web page, , in the ACP Comment Letter Library)

What is the pace of moving the recommendations forward, if at all?

The recommendations that staff made (as seen in the “Staff Cover Letter” posted on the ACP website are not that different than what ACP members might recommend. Nevertheless, this initiative, like most other CalRecycle initiatives (Organics LCA, ACP’s Agricultural project, etc.) are

not moving forward, owing to the lack of a budget. So there is not movement on this for the foreseeable future.

What is ACP’s best role in assisting in this process?

However, ACP members who are interested in this, should read the Staff Recommendations, compared to the project report recommendations (pages 3-5 of the cover letter posted on the ACP Web site) and make a decision as to whether ACP members want to comment at such time that it becomes relevant, again, within CalRecycle.



IMPORTANT WEBSITES TO VIEW

Regulatory Tiers

<http://www.healthysoil.org/acpinitiativesresources/calrecycledocuments.html>

<http://www.healthysoil.org/acpinitiativesresources/acpdocuments.html>

Especially the documents “Final May 3 Cover Letter w Attachs.pdf” and “Three Part Test - Composting-pg100-110.pdf”.

We refer to, more simply, as the “Three Part Test” for compostable material regulations. A copy of this letter, and relevant portions of the report document for composters (Pages 100-110) is posted on ACP website.

Based on interviews with CalRecycle staff we address the following questions (and current answers) relative to this potentially important study and its potentially compost regulatory game changing recommendations:

Questions for ACP Con-

If you have any questions or want further input, please contact Dan Noble at 619-303-3694 or via email at dnoble@inquiryinternational.com.

Composting and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Ever since meeting Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director (ED), of the California Product Stewardship Council, Dan Noble (ACP's ED) has been looking at, and participating where appropriate in, the issues for composters regarding this important development of the "zerowaste economy" (see Zero Waste International Association, "Standards" pages for detailed definitions of Zero Waste, Business Principles and Global Principles). While "product stewardship" and "extended producer responsibility" (EPR) are effectively synonymous, there is a gradation of the products and processes that CalPSC and the national associations (e.g. the Product Policy Institute) actually work on. They are starting on the landfill banned materials (95% of which still end up in landfills!), which are generally highly toxic (e.g. batteries, mercury containing light bulbs, etc.)

But what, you might ask, does this have to do with compost and composters!? Our view is that there are product materials either used and/or wasted (dumped) that are important to composters, especially *contaminated organic material* and *compostable plastics*.

The contaminated organics typically derive from municipal green collection programs... so called "curb site green programs". The contamination of this material is

typically the responsibility of the homeowner, not the "producer"... but what responsibility to producers have to support the appropriate source separation of their "waste material"? Also, programs by local municipalities to clean these streams up, is a "producer responsibility" of either the municipality or their contractors, prior to getting to the compost facility... unless the compost facility has either equipment to separate there (typically the current situation) or maybe they have the flexibility to not accept contaminated organics, or it can be written into the waste hauler contracts. In any event, this will need to occur more and more as we "pre-purify" (refine!) our organic resource streams.

The compostable plastics are clearly more of the *responsibility of the producer* of those products. CORC (our sister association that is part of CRRRA, see Pg 12 of the ACP May Newsletter for more info,) is working with the US Composting Council to put together a special track on just this subject at the California conference in January 2011... (see our "Compost Meetings" section of this newsletter). What role do ACP members want/care to play in this!?.

We track and team with the EPR/Product Stewardship folks wherever we can. Also, CalRecycle is paying a lot of attention to this in the

crafting of new legislation as well as the policy and administration of existing programs. This is born out in a recent announcement from CalRecycle that stated:

"CalRecycle Extended Producer Responsibility

New content and resources on economic impacts of EPR programs is now available on CalRecycle's EPR website.

This web page contains case studies on product stewardship programs for selected products; comparisons of product stewardship vs. government-run programs; reports; and information on jobs. There are also tools such as a sample table of suggested metrics for program measurement, tracking, and evaluation, and an Excel-based jobs analysis tool.

We are aware that some of the links are currently not working and are taking action to resolve this issue, but wanted to share the majority of the information as soon as possible.

Additional program comparison case studies and other information will be added as they become available.

Thank you,
The CalRecycle EPR Team"



IMPORTANT WEBSITES TO VIEW

EPR

www.CalPSC.org

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

www.zwia.org

www.productpolicy.org

www.crra.com

http://www.healthysoil.org/images/ACP_Newsletter_May_2010.pdf

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/EPR/Impacts/default.htm>

Communicating with CalRecycle (vs. former “Waste Board”)



To: CalRecycle Local Jurisdiction Interested Parties

Since January of this year, E-mails sent to former “@ciwmb.ca.gov” E-mail addresses have been auto-forwarded to

the proper new CalRecycle E-mail addresses. While our ‘new’ E-mail addresses “@CalRecycle.ca.gov” have been in our signature blocks and most of our stakeholders already have made the switch, our analysis indicates that there are still a substantial number of incom-

ing E-mails being sent to our ‘old’ E-mail addresses. To make sure you are using the correct E-mail addresses for your Local Assistance and Market Development Division staff contacts, please visit our online staff directory.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES TO VIEW

CalRecycle

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/StaffDirectory/Employee/Listing/LastName/A/Name/ASC>

SJVUAPCD

www.valleyair.org

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

SCAPCD

www.aqmd.gov

The air pollution rule for Green Waste Composting operations in the South Coast Air Pollution Control District

SJVUAPCD–Rule 4566 Status & Next Steps

Well, the San Joaquin Valley United Air Pollution Control District is resuming its work on the compost project. ACP ED, Dan Noble, recently received the following short email from them:

*Please save the following date and time for our next **Organic Waste Composting technical workgroup meeting.***

Date: July 20, 2010

(Tuesday)

Time: 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m

Where: In-person (District's Fresno Office) or by Teleconference call (Call-In # and Code will be provided with an agenda at a later date)

Regards,

*Ms. Koshoua C.X. Thao
Senior Air Quality Specialist*

*San Joaquin Valley APCD
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726-0244
559-230-5822*

On a side note, we have yet to receive a revised project report back from the project scientist, Dr. Fatih Buyuksonmez, of SDSU, so we’re not sure what we’ll be talking about at this meeting.... But stay tuned!

SCAPCD Rule 1133.3

So far we have no recent news on this, but we wanted to keep this in the ACP newsletter since it’s such an important issues affecting all future green waste composting facilities in this most strictly regulated air district in

the United States!

This rule is up for review in October by SCAQMD.

ACP Member, Paul Ryan, of P. Ryan & Associates, is a member of that working group, and will be following the pro-

gress of their work and recommendations moving forward. Stay tuned for reports and intended recommendations on how best ACP members should weigh in on this development moving forward.

If you have any questions or want to participate more directly with this work, please contact Dan Noble, ACP – ED, 619-992-8389, dnoble@inquiryinternational.com.

COMPOST PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT

“Serrano Creek Soil Amendments”

One of the most unique ACP members in our “stable of composters” is Serrano Creek Soil Amendments, www.serranocreeksoils.com. They are unique not only because their organic compost comes from their Southern California horse boarding stable, but also because they are pursuing a “distributed compost production” model rather than a “centralized compost production” model. “I think of it as the ‘grocery store banking rather than downtown branch model’ of compost production and marketing,” says Dan Noble, ACP’s Executive Director. “Serrano Creek Soils is providing a high quality and value service for its customers on both ends of the organics management cycle—disposal and reuse—all at the local level.

Serrano Creek Soil Amendments (SCSA) founder, Matt Rayl, developed a keen interest in composting stemming from his extensive experience and investment in a horse boarding business, Serrano Creek Ranch Equestrian Center, www.serranocreekranch.com.

“Paying to have all of the good horse manure to be hauled off to the landfill just didn’t seem to make a lot of environmental or economic sense to me,” says Matt. “So we decided to set up a business of composting our manure and then selling the finished compost into the local landscape markets.” It was getting harder and harder to find a disposal company. Often times a hauler would call up and say that they couldn’t pick up anymore. Traditionally manure disposal was the Achilles heel of the horse boarding business. Regulation only allows one week of storage, otherwise you can be shut down. SCSA only is allowed to compost its manure. It is not permitted as a public composting facility. Composting and using it on their site, and selling the compost to local markets is the business model. This is the “distributed” aspect of their business model, touched on above.

At this time, Serrano Creek Soil Amendments has--- 1 compost site in Orange County. They are currently composting and selling 3000 yards per year from their facilities.

Matt has been surprised at the challenges with continuing to introduce compost to an industry (landscapers and water agencies) who still don’t fully appreciate the benefits of using compost to enhance landscape beauty and efficiency. As you will see on their website, Serrano Creek Soil Amendments has put most of their marketing focus on describing the benefits of compost. On their “Why Compost?” page they outline the important benefits of:

- Healthier plants
- Water savings
- Improved appearance
- Less labor
- Improved pest resistance.

In addition, on another section, they explain in greater detail “What’s Green About Compost?” This, in our view, is an excellent expression of the important sustainability benefits of compost, including:

- Saving energy compared to synthetic fertilizers (both in production savings as well as energy savings from water)
- Carbon Sequestration (compost is the only soil amendment that provides carbon sequestration benefits)
- Less Transporting (by going direct from producer to consumer, Serrano Creek Soils cuts out *a lot* of trucking costs)
- Water savings (again stressing the multiple benefits of this value that compost provides, especially in California!)
- Recycled Bags (a unique service



offering of Serrano Creek Soil Amendments, which also works to help build continued customer relationships)

Protection of Lakes, Rivers and Oceans (i.e. improvement to water quality that compost provides).

“Serrano Creek Soil Amendments has been a very interesting complement to our horse boarding business, as well as not only offsetting our horse manure disposal fees. In addition, it also provides an additional source of income, while ‘doing good’ for our local environment,” observes Matt. “We look to forward to taking the next step at branching out to another small, local composting facility that is a short distance from our current location.”

Congratulations to Serrano Creek Soil Amendments for being a proactive composter in an environment where composting is becoming increasingly challenging, and yet all the more important for building a better environment and economy in our region! Hats off to you, Matt for your commitment and investment in a *quality* renewable carbon and nutrients business!



COMPOST MEETINGS, RELATED PROJECTS AND EVENTS

CRRRA-IE Chapter Presents: Commercial Food Composting Programs

FREE WORKSHOP, includes hosted lunch.

Wednesday, 07/14/2010
Inland Empire, Utilities Agency (IEUA) at, 6075 Kimball Avenue, Chino CA 91708, 11am—1:30 pm

CRRRA Mission
Provide CRRRA members with resources to advance local, regional and statewide waste reduction efforts which result in critical environmental and climate protection outcomes.

Food waste is the third largest component of generated waste by

weight. Join us as we explore this topic and how a local business is achieving successful results with their food composting programs.

Guest Speakers:

Thomas Azwell of G-Rock Certified. Food Waste Composting Program for Costco

Jack Houts of Stater Bros Director of Support Services— Composting Program

Light lunch and refreshments will be provided.
RSVP is mandatory as there

is limited seating for this workshop.

RSVP to :

Olivia.sanchez@dpw.sbcounty.gov

(or)

Linda.Ceballos@cityofrc.org

Visit us on the web, www.inland.crra.com, or join our Facebook group "CRRRA Inland Empire Chapter".
Every attendee will be entered into an opportunity drawing for a 2011 CRRRA membership!
Co-sponsored by the County of San Bernardino DPW & the City of Rancho Cucamonga

USGBC Meetings– Northern CA July & August

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

East Bay

July 14, 2010 Workshop: LEED Green Associate Exam Prep

July 14, 2010 Film Screening: The Greening of Southie

July 15, 2010 Climate Legislation AB32/SB375: Threats & Implications

August 19, 2010 Workshop: LEED AP Building Design & Construction Exam Prep

San Francisco

July 8, 2010 - Passive House Green Building Showcase and Mixer

July 21, 2010 - Kevin Hydes (Former Chair, USGBC & World GBC): Spotlight on Green Construction Growth in Emerging Markets

July 26, 2010 - Retrofitting Existing Buildings for Energy Efficiency and Demand Response

July 29, 2010 - 2nd Annual Make The Connection Mixer

July 30, 2010 - Workshop: Improving Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings

August 18, 2010 - Tour of LEED Platinum Energy Foundation Office

September 16, 2010 - Living Building Challenge Road Show

Sacramento

July 8, 2010 Construction and Demolition Waste - Strategies for Improvement

July 29, 2010 Workshop: LEED Green Associate Exam Prep

September 24, 2010 APA Speaker Series: People, Policy & Planning

Silicon Valley

July 13, 2010 - New Cool Lighting Technology

July 30, 2010 - Workshop: Improving Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings

August 4, 2010 - Green Lease Revolution Workshop

August 10, 2010 - LEED Risk Management

August 12, 2010 - Workshop: LEED Green Associate Exam Prep

August 19, 2010 - Networking Picnic with AIA & CSI Santa Clara Valley Chapters

USGBC Meetings– Southern CA July & August

In recent newsletters we have discussed the potential market potential of teaming with green builders to use compost on the landscape portion of green building projects. Green builders are holding meetings throughout all of California and composters can benefit from developing strong ties to this market. To locate Green Building Council sponsored meetings, check out the following websites and upcoming meetings in your area. Also, as you attend meetings, make contacts and develop business in your region, please let us know of your market development successes and we will be sure to report on them here (dnoble@inquiryinternational.com).

USGBC– Southern California Capters

Inland Empire (www.usgbc-ie.org)

July 15, 2010 USGBC-IE, Coachella Valley Branch Summer Membership Meeting, Thursday, July 15, 2010 from 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

July 28, 2010 Indio, CA | Indio Senior Center LEED Gold Certified Building Tour: Highland Sam J Racadio Library and Environmental Learning Center Wednesday, July 28, 2010 from 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM (PT)

August 25, 2010 Living Building Challenge, presented by International Living Building Institute, Wednesday, August 25, 2010

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

July 15, 2010 - How Green is your Residential Construction Knowledge? La Jolla Pacific presents a foundation seminar on critical green building

July 15, 2010 - Webcast: How Green is your Residential Construction Knowledge La Jolla Pacific; 9571 Irvine Center Drive; Irvine, 7/15/2010 12:00pm - 7/15/2010 01:00pm

July 16, 2010 GA Exam Test Prep Workshop Waxie Sanitary Supply; 3220 Fairview Street; Santa Ana 7/16/2010 08:30am - 7/16/2010 04:30pm

July 22, 2010 SGBC OC + Green Drinks Present:

Emerging Professionals The Camp; Costa Mesa; www.thecampsite.com 7/22/2010 06:30pm - 7/22/2010 09:30pm

July 29, 2010 How To Do A Green Home Remodel - Across California, "Green" home remodels are becoming the new norm. Room and Board, South Coast Village, Costa Mesa 7/29/2010 05:30pm - 7/29/2010 08:00pm

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

7.21.10 - 5:30pm» GREENMEET - Summer Social!

USGBC-Los Angeles (www.usgbcla.org)

Thursday, July 8 7:30am LABC Sustainability Series Solar Forum

Saturday, July 10 9:00am Healthy Home Transformation Workshop

Tuesday, July 13 7:15am The Changing Landscape of Sustainable Development

Thursday, July 15 6:30pm Membership Committee (in Person)

Monday, July 19 Proposals/Agenda Items due to USGBC-LA Office

Thursday, July 29, 6:00pm, Annenberg Community Beach House Tour

USCC/ACP Compost Operations Training Course

Compost Operations training Course State at the State University of New York Cobleskill. The USCC's new Compost Operations Training Course is a 40-hr, 5-day course which includes hands-on activities on the knowledge and skills to run a successful composting facility.

Cost: EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!

Up until June 1, 2010: USCC members: \$699, Non-members: \$799

After June 1, 2010: USCC members: \$774, Non-members \$874

November 15-19, 2010

Compost Operations Training Course

University of California, Riverside
Details coming soon!

[Click HERE for flyer and registration form](#)

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 Pa-

cific 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 coordination

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, profes-

sional 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>



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**



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](#)



“COMPOST OVERS”

Controversial Compost Maturity Test

Who'd a thought that we would still be finding (and learning) that compost maturity testing is still an issue?! This “old” finding (from 5 years ago) came to us from a prospective ACP member (Woods End Laboratories) highlights the problem. Andrew Sparda, from Woods End Labs will be attending future meetings of ACP (either by phone or in person) and will be learning more about our particular analytical issues in California and how we can work together to resolve them for the industry and our customers moving forward. Some of you may have seen this article a while back, but I thought it bears repeating to inform our future discussions and actions on this topic.

TMECC Cucumber in the Spotlight

A double blind compost test by a Woods End client shed light on the reported discrepancies between the USCC-STA program use of cucumber to evaluate ma-

turity vs Woods End's OECD-based *Lepidium sativum* (cress) test. See [\[link added 07/14/2005\] CN-Cucumber Report](#) A customer split a compost and sent it to both labs. Lab A (a regular STA lab) found high CO₂ respiration but reported 'excellent maturity' - based on the cucumber test. Woods End Lab (also STA, but offering a broader range of tests)- did the cress test and Solvita tests and concluded the sample was extremely immature. The client's response was one of concern, since the various indicator tests at Lab A -- including CO₂, CN and Cuke growth -- yielded a contradictory picture of the status of the compost. The customer believed the compost was immature, since it was still very hot and smelled like silage.

The contradiction can be understood by appreciating the nature of the *Cucurbitaceae* -squash-family. Seeds of this family are able to last and develop in the rotting flesh of the surrounding fruit

and are tolerant of very noxious conditions. Woods End tests on the flesh surrounding squash seeds show as much as 30,000ppm (wet basis) VFA's including 9 organic acids. "This obviously means the seedlings are resilient to immaturity and therefore such a test would be an incorrect indicator of compost completion" said Dr. Brinton of Woods End. Dr. Brinton cites a recent OSU study (see earlier story) in which the cucumber test indicated positive growth under conditions associated with nearly raw manure, high in ammonia. "The TMECC cuke test might make a viable soluble-nitrogen indicator, with some qualifications. In its present form, it represents using a plant test improperly in a way that obscures - and potentially misinterprets - compost maturity." A report from testing standardized composts is available as [OECD CRESS vs Cuke REPORT](#).

ASSOCIATION OF COMPOST PRODUCERS

Dan Noble, Executive Director
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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

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