



THE USCC CALIFORNIA STATE CHAPTER

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COMPOST PRODUCER ACTIONS

ACP Steps March 2011

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 fall into the following general categories, and will be modified monthly as we progress through our annual goals:

- ACP Administration and Membership– including implementing the work for USCC state chapter
- International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW-Calif.)
- Agriculture/Compost Use Index Market Expansion Task Force, including Conferences & Presentations
- Sustainable Landscape Conversion Initiative
- Conferences & Presentations
- Compost Research Actions/Proposals
- And: Compost Legislative Tracking & Input to Working Groups

Please contact Dan Noble (619-992-8389; danwylthernoble@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.

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.



PRODUCTION



DELIVERY



APPLICATION

FOR

LANDSCAPES



AGRICULTURE



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



ACP 2010 Annual Report Completed

ACP staff and leadership completed the Annual Report for 2010. This report covered the time since the last Annual Report—2008-2009, covering from July 2009 to December 2010. Some of the highlights of the last year and a half include:

- **Compost Market Expansion Projects:** Statewide, co-sponsored compost market expansion project leadership:
 - Agricultural Compost Project Summary for Industry
 - Compost Utilization by Local Governments
 - CRRA Organics Meeting - 2009
 - Turfgrass & Landscape Expo - 2009
 - Compost Use to Improve Water Quality
 - Carbon Credits for Compost Production Protocol Develop
 - Sustainable Landscape Conversion Initiative Grant Submission & Award
- **ACP Membership:** Expanding our membership activities

Special promotional membership in 2010
 Face-to-face meetings with prospective members throughout California
 New ACP members signed up in 2010
 Petition and become an Official State Chapter of USCC

- **Compost Legislation & Regulations:** Extensive legislative and regulatory involvement, specifically:
 - SJVAPCD - Draft Rule 4566 – Composting Green Waste; testimony, recommendations, participating on the Technical Working Group
 - SCAQMD - Draft Rule 1133.1 & 1133.3 Pathogen Control with Compost
- **Compost Education:** Multiple conference and workshop presentations

Conferences: USCC, Biocycle, CRRA, Bay Friendly Conference, SCSWM Forum
 Workshops: Landscape Expo, Water Quality, Dirt! The Movie, Air Rules

It bears pointing out that this list doesn't include all of the ongoing announcements and discussions by and between members at each of the monthly ACP meetings. One of the main purposes and accomplishments of any ACP gathering is the opportunity to meet regularly and discuss issues with colleagues within the compost industry. Those activities support and enliven the actual accomplishments outlined in this Annual Report over the past year and a half.

Most importantly, all the ACP members, and especially its Board of Directors, deserve high praise and acknowledgment for their vision, time and financial support of the implementation of ACP's mission. Without their clear intention and support, this important compost producer industry association would not exist, and we would not be making the positive movement in the direction of expanding quality compost utilization in California.

The ACP 2010 Annual Report is posted on ACP's Website at: <http://www.healthysoil.org/acpinitiativesresults/acpdocuments.html>

ACP 2011 Goals from Strategy Meeting—February 23, 2011

At the last ACP Members Meeting, held February 23rd, 2011 in two physical locations, as well as via a GotoMeeting.com webinar, ACP held its first Strategy/Planning Workshop as a new formal State Chapter of the US Composting Council. The following goals were set during the extended, 3 hour meeting:

ACP 2011 Goals:

Streamline committee structure

- Promote and Participate in USCC Operator's Training Course (15-30 people) UC Riverside (and possibly Northern California in the Fall?)
- Promote "Compost Best Management Practices Report" from CALRecycle & Dr. David Crohn
- ICAW (International Compost Awareness Week) State Implementation (see "Next Steps")
- Package and Market Compost Use Index
- Make Tool – "Ziegenbein Friendly"
- Relationship to STA & CUP (Consumer Use Program)
- Relationship to CDFA new compost registration and labeling rules
- Market Tool
- Ag Market Development (connection with ICAW)
- ID hurdles
- Evaluate cost/benefit messages
- ID messages for different audiences
 - Farm Advisors
 - Farmers
- Regulatory Monitoring and Response on:
 - AB 856 – CDFA stay abreast and provide input (testing methods)
 - PR 1133.1 & PR 1133.3, PR 4566
 - LA Water Board – WDR for landfills
 - State Water Board – Revised Industrial Discharge Permit (compost/chip & grind?)
 - Santa Ana Water Board – "regulated recycling" (metals?)
 - Continue Developing "Sustainable Landscape Cluster/Programs/Tools"
 - Inventory of Resources – Working together... getting info out there
 - Program Development
 - Message to regulators
 - Fund and Market the Program (Team with Caltrans, Water Agencies and CALRecycle)

COMPOST LEGISLATION

ACP Coordination & Participation in SCAQMD Proposed Rules 1133.1 & 1133.3- Green Material Handling (chip & grind) & Composting

On March 11, 2011, ACP engaged in a special meeting with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) staff on the next steps of Proposed Rules 1133.1 (revision of the chip & grind rule of 2003) and 1133.3 (new rule) for Green Waste Composting to control ozone causing VOC emissions from compost piles of greater than 10,000 ton per year facilities.

This special meeting between staff and ACP members was designed to specifically address concerns and deficiencies in both the scope and details of the proposed Green Waste Air Rules.

SCAQMD Staff in Attendance were:

Jill Whynot
Tracy Goss
Jong Hong Lee
Jeff Inabinet
Greg Hunter

ACP Representatives Were:

Paul Ryan, PF Ryan & Associates
Chuck Tobin, Burrtec Waste Industries
Dan Noble, ACP, Exec. Dir.
Paul Relis, CR&R, (on speaker phone)

We were really hoping to have Matt Cotton in attendance with us, however, he was giving a presentation at the COTC (Compost Operations Training Course), at the same time as this meeting in UC Riverside Extension.

The main points of discussion included:

1. **Survey** - Problems with the capacity inventory based on the survey that they sent out. (Since hearing on Feb. 9th, SCAQMD staff (Jong Lee) resurveyed the composters again, and found that about half the material is actually being composted that they surveyed, consistent with Matt Cotton's testimony at that hearing. However, they still are not surveying the green material "chip & grind" facilities with any kind of consistency, and asked for help with this from ACP members and other composters-).

2. **Irrigation** - Discussed the costs and benefits of watering the piles, and especially not just the compost piles, but the green chip & grind piles. (This is particularly where the SCAQMD wanted assistance from the industry.)

3. **Economic Analysis** - Discuss the type of economic analysis that is typically performed on these types of rule development projects, vs. the type the D. Noble of ACP was requesting in his testimony last month (i.e. costs at individual facilities, vs. not able to look at the whole life cycle of multiple industrial uses and multiple positive and negative environmental impacts.).

Paul Ryan Reiterated:

1. a) Need to get county level survey data for all uses.

b) Get States "Chip & Grind State List (from LEA's) of these facilities and survey them

2. Need better information about the control measures, especially irrigation. Esp. how much water (type, amount and cost) of water is being used now and into the future at various facilities).

3. Continue a series of meetings to address these issues moving forward.

Chuck Tobin Provided Overview Perspective:

1. There are four types of facilities that do some degree of chip and grind, and SCAQMD should be gathering data from each of them (since material is coming and/or going to/from all of them):

- Landfills
- MRFs (material recovery facilities)
- Chip & grind yards (CALRecycle green waste "Notifiers")
- Composters (CALRecycle "Permitted" composters)

2. Chipped and ground green waste material of all types goes to the following uses with, roughly, the following percentages:

- 25% ADC (alternative daily cover at landfills)
- 25% Boiler fuel (most to Colmac Energy)
- 40% "Mulch" or "land application" on landscape, playground chips, Caltrans, ag lands, etc.
- 10% Compost

Since all of these uses have chip & grind piles, regulating only composters, is missing 90% of the potential emissions (reiterating Matt Cotton's points at the hearing)

Email from Tracy Goss, 3/15/11:

First, we would like industry to help put together a flow diagram of green waste in our region that reflects the above remarks. In addition, Tracy Goss sent us the following email requesting specific information and feedback.

Dear Paul & Dan,

Thank you for meeting with us last Friday regarding our green-waste composting rule development efforts. The input provided by the industry is appreciated very much. Regarding the need to improve upon the current characterization of the green-waste material processing industry as it pertains to composting, it would very helpful if you could contact your members regarding the questions below.

- How much water is currently used on site to manage the greenwaste materials?
- For those sites conducting greenwaste composting:

SCAQMD Proposed Rules 1133.1 & 1133.3 (cont.)

- What fraction per facility uses reclaimed (treated waste-water), well-drawn (untreated), potable (treated), or other sources of water?
- How much water is used, say on a gallon per ton of greenwaste basis?
- How often is water applied?
- What is the cost for each type of water on a dollar per gallon basis such that a dollar per ton may be derived?
- What are the current tipping fees charged by composting facilities?

Our goal is to analyze the incremental increase in water us if this was a requirement in Proposed Rule 1133.3, including the environmental impacts and costs compared to other alternatives being con-

sidered (e.g., compost cap.)

Thank you for your assistance. We as that you let us know by March 22nd, how long it will take to compile the information.

Thanks again,

Tracy

Tracy A. Goss, P.E.

Program Supervisor, PM Strategies

South Coast Air Quality Management District

[909/396-3106](tel:9093963106)

If you are interested in participating further in this, please contact Dan Noble, ACP ED (619-992-8389; danwyldernoble@gmail.com).

LA Water Board – Tentative Order WDR Specifies Compost

Tentative Amendments to a new Order (tentative order") to Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for "Disposal and On-site Use of Non-Designated/Non-Hazardous Contaminated Soils and Related Wastes at Municipal Solid Waste Landfills" was published recently (February 18, 2011) by the **California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Los Angeles Region**.

For a copy of the "Response to Comments" please see ACP website at: <http://www.healthysoil.org/acpinitiativesresults/acpdocuments.html>

The materials list in question includes "compost materials" and "processes green materials". Entire list is:

- *Non-designated, non-hazardous* contaminated sediment (or soils), dredge spoils, foundry sands, energy resource exploration and production wastes;
- Geosynthetic fabric or panel products (blankets);
- Foam products;
- Processed green material;
- Sludge and sludge-derived materials;
- Ash and cement kiln dust materials;

- Treated auto shredder waste;
- Compost materials;
- Processed construction and demolition wastes and materials;
- Shredded tires; and
- Spray applied cementitious products.

However, compost is *not specifically mentioned* in the BMP's (Best Management Practices) for protecting water quality at landfills. The BMP's listed at this time are:

- Fiber Rolls
- Gravel Bag Berm
- Properly Engineered Sediment Basin
- Check Dam
- Site Entrance Stabilization
- Scheduling
- Preserving Existing Vegetation
- Silt Fences
- Sand Bag Barrier
- Hydraulic Mulch

- Hydro seeding
- Soil Binders
- Straw Mulch
- Geotextile Mats
- Wood Mulching

ACP Member, Paul Ryan, representing both the Los Angeles County Waste Management Association and ACP provided detailed comments on this Tentative Order. "The main issue," says Mr. Ryan, "Is that compost is again being treated as a 'waste derived material' and being regulated as a waste, vs. being noted and used as a beneficial water quality BMP by the Water Boards."

ACP members should have a keen interest in this. The more that compost is designated as a "waste product," rather than a beneficial BMP to enhance water quality, *this will continue to devalue compost in the marketplace*. If you are interested in working with ACP specifically on this issue, (note that it was specifically mentioned in ACP's 2011 Goals), please contact Dan Noble, ACP ED, 619-992-8389, danwyldernoble@gmail.com.

COMPOST MEETINGS, RELATED PROJECTS & NEWS

USGBC Council Meetings

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

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

USGBC-Los Angeles
(www.usgbcla.org)

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

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

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

It will be up to local composters to make sure that they are getting local credits for using compost on green building landscapes. Some-

times 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!*

BioCycle Global 2011

International Conference On Composting, Renewable Energy & Organics Recycling

April 11, 12, 13, 14, 2011
San Diego, California · Town & Country Resort

This four-day global event on April 11-14, 2011 will take place in San Diego, California at the Town & Country Resort. Two pre-conference workshops will be held on Monday, April 11. Three tracks of concurrent Conference sessions along with a trade show featuring more than 50 exhibitors are scheduled on April 12 and 13, followed by an all day site tour on April 14.

BioCycle Global 2011 will bring together facility managers, developers, public officials, investors, regulators, researchers, industry executives, equipment providers, haulers, advocates and other profes-

sionals from around the world dedicated to a common goal of successful and sustainable organic resource management. Global Conference sessions focus on that goal, discussing best management practices, infrastructure and programs to maximize diversion, conversion and utilization of organic wastes to yield compost, digester biogas, biofuels and other high-value by-products. BioCycle magazine has a well-earned reputation for attracting participants who are ready to move projects forward and need to learn about the latest industry trends, projects and equipment in waste diversion, composting, organics recycling, renewable energy and sustainable community infrastructure.

For more information and to Register, see: <http://www.jgpress.com/global2011/index.html>



“COMPOST OVERS”

International Compost Awareness Week! May 1–7, 2011

“Reconnect with Nature”

As part of ACP's State Chapter function for USCC, ACP is taking the lead in promoting international compost awareness week in California. Based on a meeting with the USCC ICAW Committee, Chaired by ACP President, Jeff Ziegenbein, we will engage in the following steps:

Draft & Circulate Communiqué for feedback (see ACP Feb 2011 Newsletter)

Incorporate Amy Hammes, Grad Student with Prasidio University, to assist.

Send Communiqué

Follow up on next steps:

Communiqué responses

Tie into membership campaign

Press Releases/Publicity

Participate in Events

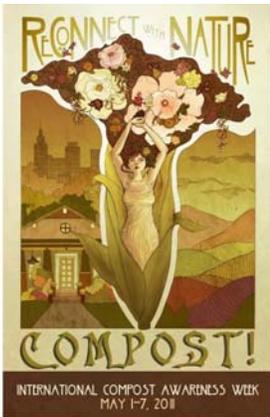
"The ICAW program is "grass roots" in nature and allows a perfect opportunity to teach young and old about compost's ability to conserve water, protect groundwater and build beautiful landscapes. We look forward to seeing new posters each year as they always deliver new and interesting perspectives on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

Jeff Ziegenbein

Deputy Manager of Operations and Organics

Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority

ACP President of the Board



Get Involved! Time to start planning your ICAW events for 2011. The International Compost Awareness Week Committee of the USCC congratulates Heather Lawrence on winning this year's poster contest.

US Composting Council Operator Training Workshop— March 7–11, 2011 Riverside, CA

The first USCC's **Compost Operations Training Course** was held at UC Riverside Cooperative Extension on from March 7 to March 11, 2010. It was led by Cary Oshins and co-taught by Dr. David Crohn (ACP Science Advisor) and Matt Cotton, Integrated Waste Management Consulting, and past USCC President. The 40-hr, 5-day course included lectures, hands-on activities and field trips. The focus was on the knowledge and skills to run a successful facility. It was especially good for composters of any feedstock, equipment vendors, enforcement officials, consultants, or anyone who wants an in-depth instruction on the art and science of commercial scale compost production and marketing. It was attended by 15 composters from around California, including:

- City of Los Angeles
- Inland Empire Utility Agency
- Republic Services

to name a few.

Some of the feedback that we heard on the final day of the class

included:

- *"I found the course very useful. I thought I knew everything about how to compost properly, but learned that some of the things I was doing I was doing incorrectly, and others that I should have been doing but wasn't."*
- *"I will recommend that all our compost operators take this course!"*

"This course should include a 'Compost Operators Certification' process and certificate." (Cary Oshins stated that this is being worked on via USCC at this time).

If you would like to have one or two annual classes in California, north and south, please provide feedback to Cary Oshins, USCC Staff, 484-547-1521, cary.oshins@compostingcouncil.org and/or Dan Noble, ACP ED, 619-992-8389, danwylde@compostingcouncil.org.

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ASSOCIATION OF COMPOST PRODUCERS

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“We Build Healthy Soil”



OUR MISSION

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

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

We look forward to seeing many of you at the next ACP Member Meeting! Especially the new members from USCC who are now "Basic Members" of ACP as their Official California State Chapter! I look forward to seeing and working with you all at future meetings and workshops to further expand the quantity and quality of compost use in California!

Dan Noble



Newsletter Contribution by Dan Noble, Executive Director ACP

Newsletter Design by Erika Ellis, ACP Member