# How To Grow The Composting Industry

Nora Goldstein
BioCycle
www.biocycle.net



An Invitation

to Men

Concerned with the Treatment

of Municipal or Industrial

Organic Wastes

With this first issue, Compost Science launches an information service that we believe will become increasingly valuable to all sanitary engineers, mayors, city managers, directors of public works, superintendents of sewage treatment plants, and executives of companies producing organic waste materials.

Composting can offer practical solutions to many waste treatment problems right now. As more engineering advances are made and equipment developed, composting will deserve increasing consideration as a practical treatment.

That is why we feel Compost Science will be valuable to you. In this and future issues, you will read practical studies, research reports, special surveys, and specific experiences that will bring you valuable information heretofore presented only on a hit-or-miss basis.

The field is an important one to you, even if it is an admittedly specialized one. Composting is a specialty which many men in the waste treatment field should get to know better—for what it is and what it can be.

Compost Science—to be issued quarterly—will bring you that knowledge in an unbiased, qualified manner. You can make sure that you and your associates will receive future issues by accepting this invitation to subscribe to Compost Science. Subscription price is \$4.00 per year.



EMMAUS, PENNSYLVANIA



# A Call to Executives of the Composting (???) Industry,

### Whoever and Wherever You May Be

A meeting will be held in the near future to organize an industry-wide association made up of companies who have a commercial interest in the development of composting and waste recycling. We have used question marks in the above headline, because at the present time, it might be considered presumptuous to refer to a compost industry.

Yet the need for such an association is very much present, and it is time to do something about creating one. Without such an organization, it is very difficult to counteract old attitudes and ancient economic thinking that relegates composting to an untried method only touted by zealots.

If your company has any financial, idealistic or any other interest in encouraging the recycling of solid wastes, then

### NOW IS THE TIME TO DECLARE YOURSELF.

If cities and industries are to recycle wastes, the men responsible for treating those wastes must get some help from you.

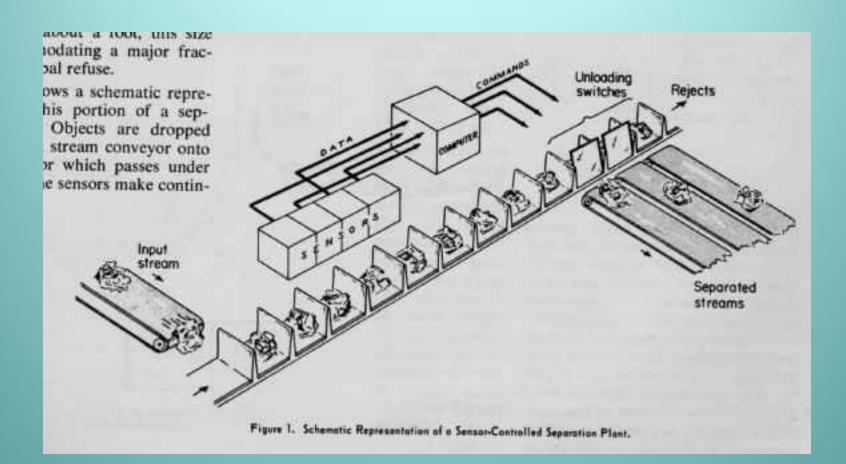
In the absence of any other agency or group, COMPOST SCIENCE has decided to serve as a liaison to encourage formation of an industry-wide organization. A directory will be compiled based on the replies received.

There is no obligation to do anything except fill out and mail the enclosed card. Our goal is to coordinate the efforts of different companies and individuals for more effective waste management.

Eventually, such an organization could hold seminars and symposia for consultants, city officials, researchers, etc. which would advance the knowledge of waste recycling. Many constructive programs will develop after interested individuals cooperate.

A preliminary survey of companies and consultants who have been active in the composting field has shown a willingness to form such an organization. If you would like to receive information about the progress of such a group, please fill out the attached card or write to the Editor, Compost Science, Emmaus, Pa. 18049.









The Glasers compost about 500 cubic yards of material annually; the weight of the finished compost runs 1200 to 1500 pounds per cubic yard depending upon moisture content. The stirring machine above is powered by a Ford V-8 engine and is constructed from old automobile parts and scrap materials.



# **Current U.S. Composting Industry**

- Food Waste 225
- Yard Trimmings 3,500 (2004 data)
- Biosolids 265
- Farm Composting 600 (guess)
- Universities, institutions 500 (estimate)
- Schools 500 (guess)
- Vermicomposting 100 (guess)
- People who love compost millions!!!



## **Factors That Foster Growth**

- Research
- Compost Performance
- Standards
- Tools of the Trade
- Facility Performance
- Markets
- Cog in Sustainability Wheel







# Effect Of Compost Application On Tulip Poplar Growth





# **Effect Of Compost On Turf Grass Growth**





# White House – Beltsville Biosolids Compost Application





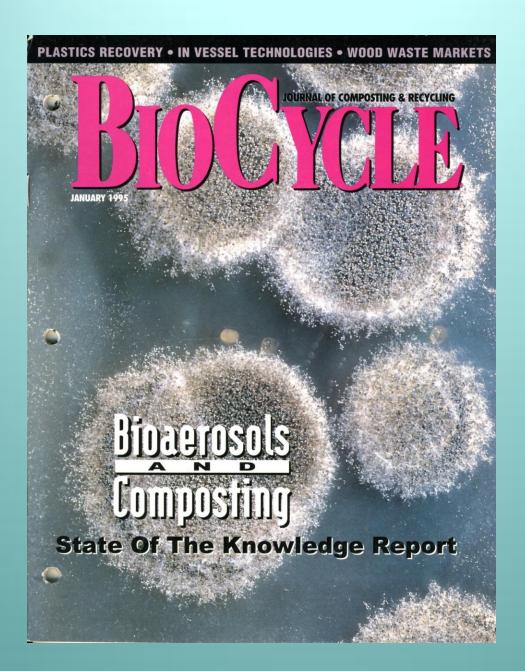
**BEFORE** 

AFTER



















Building the Soil for Cleaner Water, Healthier Streams, Successful Landscapes, and Healthy Communities

Soils for Salmon Home

Why build healthy soil?

### :: How To: Soil Best Practices

> WA State's Soil BMPs --

### How-To Guide

> Low Impact

#### Development

- > Local soil regs in WA
- > Erosion control with

#### compost

> Improving the soil in

#### existing landscapes

> For homeowners

Case Studies

Other Resources

a project of the



# How To: Soil Best Management Practices, Tools, & Specifications

Soil best management practices (BMPs) include preserving native soil, and restoring soils disturbed during development with organic amendments like compost. This reduces stormwater runoff and pollution, reduces landscape maintenance needs for water, fertilizer, and pesticides, and makes healthier, more attractive landscapes.

### On this page:

- . Washington State's Soil BMPs for New Construction: How-to Guide and Specifications
- Low Impact Development
- Local Soil Regulations Around Washington
- Erosion Control with Compost Berms, Blankets, and Socks
- Improving the Soil in Existing Landscapes
- · Information for Homeowners

### Washington State's Soil BMPs for New Construction: How-to Guide, Specs, and "Low Impact Development"

Soil BMPs are simple - see the Summary at right.

Or view a slideshow: Building Soil: Foundation for Success (PDF 37 slides, 4.8 MB)

Washington State now requires Soil BMPs in new construction. Washington State
Department of Ecology's Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (WDOE website), used by local jurisdictions for stormwater design, requires soil protection or

### Soil Best Practices:

New Construction

- Retain and protect native topsoil & vegetation where practical
- Restore disturbed soils by tilling 2-3" of compost into upper 8" of soil
- Loosen compacted subsoil, if needed, by ripping to 12" depth
- Mulch landscape
   beds after planting

www.soilsforsalmon.org www.buildingsoil.org



### THE SUSTAINABLE SITES INITIATIVE

HOME ABOUT US AREA OF FOCUS CASE STUDIES CURRENT WORK CONTACT

The Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™) is an interdisciplinary effort by the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin and the United States Botanic Garden to create voluntary national guidelines and performance benchmarks for sustainable land design, construction and maintenance practices.

Learn more about the first projects to use the national rating system for sustainable landscapes.



### Sustainable Facts

Play in places with trees and vegetation can support children's development of skills and cognitive abilities and lessen the symptoms of Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). ~ Taylor et al., 1998; Taylor et al., 2001



### SUSTAINABLE SITES CASE STUDY:

Sidwell Friends School (Middle School renovation and addition)

The renovation and addition project at Sidwell Friends School (SFS) campus transforms the Middle School's fifty-year-old facility into an exterior and interior teaching landscape. Designed to foster an ethic of social and environm...

Learn more

See more case studies





>>>

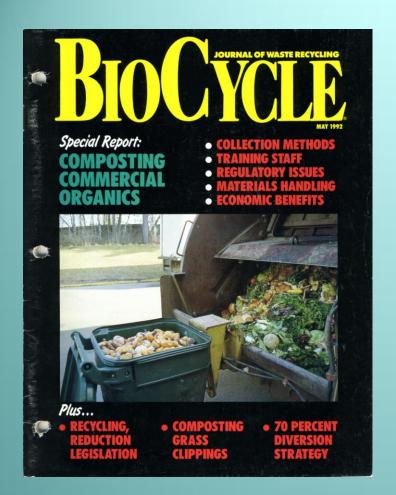


Copyright 2010, Sustainable Sites Initiative. All Rights Reserved.



>>>





# Solid Waste and Recycling Programs

Integrated Organic Diversion Program



### **Integrated Organic Diversion Program**

### **Program Objective:**

- ✓ Divert all food scraps from landfill disposal
- ✓ Start on west coast, implement a large-scale rollout of food scrap recovery to all 50 States and Puerto Rico; by utilizing various methods of source reduction, beneficial reuse and recycling;
- ✓ Move larger percentages of organic materials to follow the EPA /Wal-Mart Organic Hierarchy – ensure ability to redirect as new technologies become available; and
- ✓ Have all 50 States completed by August 1, 2010.









## We've Switched To Compostable Service Ware



It's Not Garbage Anymore!







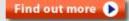
Home | About Us | Legislative Affairs | Media | Become a Member | About Biogas | News/Events | Members Only

### **Feature**

### ABC Develops Goals for 2011

The American Biogas Council has developed a number of specific goals for 2011. In the process of reaching these targets, ABC will maximize the amount of waste digested to make biogas, grow demand for anaerobic digestion (AD), achieve incentive/policy parity with other renewables, promote AD as an environmental and economic strategy, and increase the amount of AD-based energy.

The 2011 goals encompass Legislative, Education & Outreach, Financial, and Membership efforts of the Council.

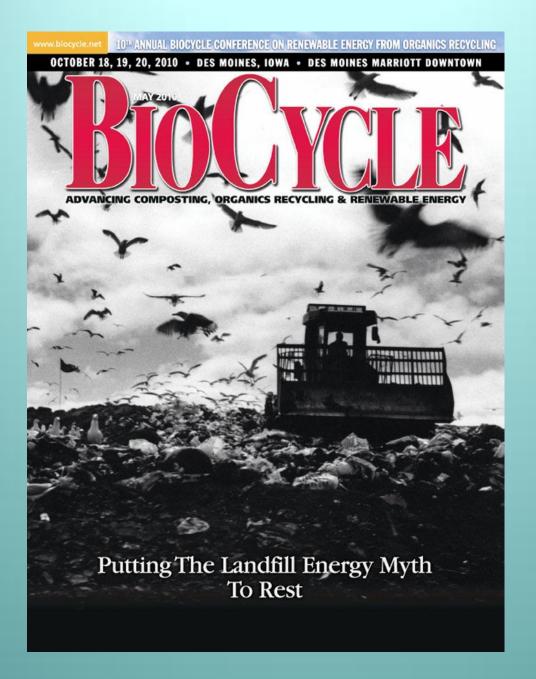
















LORIDA Governor Charlie Crist
was lauded as a hero by that
state's organics recycling industry
this past June when he vetoed legislation that would have allowed
for disposal of yard trimmings in
Class 1 landfills equipped to recover methane. Five months later — and immediately following an unsuccessful U.S.
Senate bid for which Crist had switched
from Republican to independent status —
that veto was overturned by a newly-led
state legislature, along with seven other
bills the lame-duck governor had vetoed.

The move took place swiftly in a threehour special session after the state House and Senate swore in 54 new members and named Sen. Mike Haridopolos, R-Merritt Island, and Rep. Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park, Senate and House majority leaders, respectively. The yard trimmings ban had been on the books in its current form for more than 20 years.

"We never thought there would be this massive turnover of vetoes," says Janet Dougherty of Sage Eco Solutions, a public relations firm that works closely with organics recyclers in Florida. "This bill [HB 569] got caught up in our governor's Senate race. Basically, the Republican legislature was throwing it in Charlie Crist's face after they won and he lost the U.S. Senate bid after switching to independent. They passed all the legislation he vetoed except two [of 10 bills]."

Many in the organics recycling industry say HB 569 had legs in the first place due to the concerted lobbying efforts of trash hauler and landfill operator Waste Management, a company that has recently been investing significantly in green technologies including organics recycling. "A waste company cannot claim to be 'green' when it is working aggressively to repeal one of the country's most important recycling laws, the requirement to compost instead of landfill yard trimmings that is responsible for about a third of our diversion," Center for a Competitive Waste Industry Executive Director

Lame-duck governor's veto of longstanding legislation overwhelmingly overturned by state House and Senate.

Dan Sullivan

Peter Anderson stated in a press release.

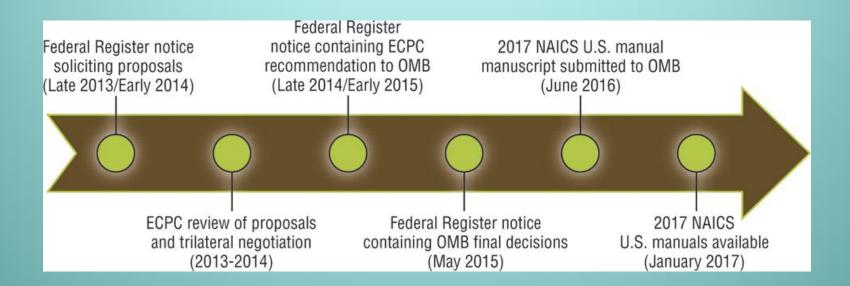
The statement also called attention to Waste Management's support of similar repeal legislation in Georgia, Michigan and other states and challenged what were couched as 'wholly false claims the company is making to defend its hostile recovery efforts.' Anderson stated that the argument that the repeal of the yard trimming bans helps the environment by recovering energy to generate electricity is flawed because these materials break down much too quickly for the methane to be adequately cantured.

A spokesman for Waste Management took issue with Anderson's claims. "The National Solid Waste Management Association [NSWMA] Florida Chapter and several solid waste and recycling companies, including Waste Management, sup-ported that legislation," says Waste Management Director of Communications Wes Muir. "The effort was to enable community choice for yard waste options." The characterization of "repeal" and "overturn" of the Florida ban is factually incor-rect, he says. "Communities in Florida are now enabled to choose the best methods for their citizens and infrastructure. Implementation is totally voluntary and at the discretion of the local facility operator. The exception allowed in this legislation applies only to landfill locations with an active gas-collection system that beneficially use the methane captured ... and is not a repeal of the ban. Also the legislation involves only 12 out of 45 Class I landfills in Florida." Given that non-MSW facilities—such as C&D landfills in Florida can accept yard waste and most of these facilities have no gas collection systems, Muir says, "enabling yard waste to be utilized to generate green energy where gas collection does occur is an appropriate option."

Waste Management recently acquired majority equity interest in Ohio-based compost and mulch producer Garick, LLC, and has invested in other "green energy" compa-

20 BioCycle
December 2010







**BIOCYCLE's** 

Search by Location

About | Resources | Contact Us | Composter Login Find Composter by Name

City, ST or Postal Code

GO

# Find A Composter, com

GROWING THE COMPOSTING INDUSTRY.

**Find A Site** 

Register A Facility

### A Free Directory Of Composting Facilities Throughout North America

Welcome to FindAComposter.com; a free directory of composting facilities throughout North America, created and managed by BioCycle magazine and sponsored by the Biodegradable Products Institute.

Use this searchable database to:

Locate a Composting Facility - Search by Zip/Postal Code or Compost Site Name and you'll instantly see a list of all the facilities in your area that accept organic wastes for composting.

Add Your Facility - Not listed on FindAComposter.com? Take a few minutes to enter your information, and become part of the only searchable database of composting facilities in North America. Each listing is verified by BioCycle magazine editors for accuracy.

#### COMPOSTERS

BioCycle has been a champion of your industry for more than 50 years. Help us grow your business and increase public awareness of why composting make sense, now more than ever. List your facility today!

Create Your Free Listing Today

### ORGANIC WASTE **GENERATORS**

Find local composters to recycle your food waste. wet/soiled paper, compostable products, yard trimmings, manures, biosolids and more. Search by location or feedstock. You may save money on disposal costs.

**Find Local Composting Facilities** 

### CONSUMERS

Use the directory to buy compost, as well as teach community leaders about local composting facilities in your area. Help boost community recycling rates, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and build healthy soils.

Locate Composters in Your Area









Description

Source separated organics site accepting range of feedstocks

Subject 
\* Additional message

Complete the form below to contact Grow Compost of Vermont LLC



Agr	specific feedstocks and estim	ate annual tonnage proces	sed			
	Feedstock	Tons or Cubic Yards/yr				
	Dairy Manure	0	tons OR	10000	cubic yds	
	Horse Manure	0	tons OR	0250	cubic yds	
	Poultry Litter		tons OR		cubic yds	
	Other Animal Manure		tons OR		cubic yds	
	Crop residuals		tons OR		cubic yds	
	Mortalities		tons OR		cubic yds	
	od Waste, Compostable Production specific feedstocks and estimate Feedstock  Fruits, Vegetables.					
	specific feedstocks and estim	ate annual tonnage proces	sed			
	specific feedstocks and estim Feedstock Fruits, Vegetables,	ate annual tonnage proces	sed tons OR		cubic yds	
	specific feedstocks and estim Feedstock Fruits, Vegetables, Trimmings	ate annual tonnage proces	tons OR			
	Feedstock Fruits, Vegetables, Trimmings Meats, Bones, Fish	ate annual tonnage proces	tons OR		cubic yds	
	Feedstock Fruits, Vegetables, Trimmings Meats, Bones, Fish Corrugated (Waxed)	ate annual tonnage proces	tons OR tons OR		cubic yds	
	Feedstock Fruits, Vegetables, Trimmings Meats, Bones, Fish Corrugated (Waxed) Corrugated (Unwaxed)	ate annual tonnage proces	tons OR		cubic yds	
	Feedstock Fruits, Vegetables, Trimmings Meats, Bones, Fish Corrugated (Waxed)	ate annual tonnage proces	tons OR tons OR		cubic yds	
	Feedstock Fruits, Vegetables, Trimmings Meats, Bones, Fish Corrugated (Waxed) Corrugated (Unwaxed) Compostable Foodservice Ware (plates, cups, cutlery,	ate annual tonnage proces Tons or Cubic Yards/yr	tons OR tons OR tons OR tons OR		cubic yds cubic yds cubic yds	
	Feedstock Fruits, Vegetables, Trimmings Meats, Bones, Fish Corrugated (Waxed) Corrugated (Unwaxed) Compostable Foodservice Ware (plates, cups, cutlery, takeout containers) Soiled napkins, towels, carry	ate annual tonnage proces Tons or Cubic Yards/yr	tons OR tons OR tons OR tons OR tons OR		cubic yds cubic yds cubic yds	
	Feedstock Fruits, Vegetables, Trimmings Meats, Bones, Fish Corrugated (Waxed) Corrugated (Unwaxed) Compostable Foodservice Ware (plates, cups, cutlery, takeout containers) Soiled napkins, towels, carry out boxes	ate annual tonnage proces Tons or Cubic Yards/yr	tons OR tons OR tons OR tons OR tons OR tons OR		cubic yds cubic yds cubic yds cubic yds	
	Feedstock Fruits, Vegetables, Trimmings Meats, Bones, Fish Corrugated (Waxed) Corrugated (Unwaxed) Compostable Foodservice Ware (plates, cups, cutlery, takeout containers) Soiled napkins, towels, carry out boxes Packaging (not corrugated)	ate annual tonnage proces Tons or Cubic Yards/yr	tons OR		cubic yds cubic yds cubic yds cubic yds cubic yds cubic yds	



### Facility Size & Type Site size (in acres): 5 Regulatory status(es) Solid waste facility permit (check all that apply) Source separated preconsumer food waste only Source separated preconsumer & postconsumer food waste, i.e., all food waste streams Biosolids composting permit Permit by rule Agriculture exemption On-Site composting exemption Other Sources from which you Residential - yard trimmings receive materials Residential - food waste (check all that apply) Commercial Institutional (e.g., schools/colleges, hospitals, prisons) Industrial (e.g., food processors) Agriculture Other Ownership type: Commercial (private) Number of employees: Does your composting facility Yes No have paved or gravel, year-round access?

### **How To Grow The Composting Industry?**

## What would Jerry say?





## **Theorems On Industry Growth**

- As long as have easy disposal option for organics, will be hard to make it on tip fee.
- As grow demand for product where can really add value — can grow the industry. Want to be touching material to make money, not touching material to lose money.
- Touch more if contaminated. Need to structure tip fee for clean organics
- Have a federal policy natural resource framework



# Theorems, continued

- What if compost actually worked better and was cheaper than the alternative?
- What business are you in? Composting is a fundamentally different business than disposal.
   With organics, it is hard to be in both.
- Resource conservation business. Goal is to minimize disposal, maximize resource use.
- Fundamentally, .....





#### ABOUT THE COVER

The City of Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec wastewater treatment plant installed mesophilic anaerobic digesters to manage the biosolids on-site. Construction began in September 2009, and the digesters went into service in January 2010. Cover photo courtesy of Bo-Methatech, inc.

Editor and Publisher Emeritus Jerome Goldstein

Nora Goldstein
Publisher
Rill Ann Goldstein
ssociate Publisher

Associate Publisher Ina Pincus Managing Editor

Dan Sullivan

Contributing Editors

Craig Coker, Rich Flammer,
Diane Greer, Robert Spencer.

Molly Farrell Tucker, Rhodes Yepsen Advertising Director Teri Sorg-McManamon

Art Director Doug Pinkerton

Production Assistant Celeste Madtes

Editorial Board Sally Brown, Ph.D. University of Washington Carla Castagnero AgRecycle Inc.

Luis F. Diaz, Ph.D. CalRecovery Inc. Larry Krom Focus On Energy Fred Michel, Jr., Ph.D. The Ohio State University Wisson Rickerson

Wilson Rickerson Meister Consultants Group, Inc. Carol Wenner Environment and Energy Study Institute

BCO (40 is padded mortiful by The J.B. Obec. McColor is padded in mortiful by The J.B. Obec. Inc. (1975) (1



The JG Press, Inc. Published since 1960

### Editorial

### **SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES**

N 1979, one year after we founded The JG Press, Inc., we published *Energy-Efficient Community Planning*, a book authored by James Ridgeway. In the 1970s, we experienced the Arab Oil Boycott that led to fuel shortages and the catastrophe at Three Mile Island caused by a partial core meltdown at a nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania. Like today, the country struggled to establish a national energy policy that would transition us from the age of fossil fuels to the era of renewable energy.

In the book's introduction, "Building A New Energy Base," Ridgeway wrote a paragraph that could easily have been written today versus 32 years ago: "All too often, changing the nation's energy policy is perceived as merely increasing domestic oil production, mandating the compact car, halting nuclear power and so on. Yet an effective policy need not be only a national one. Rather, various parts of the nation can adopt the innovations that suit their needs. .... In Hartford, Connecticut, officials have worked to reorganize agriculture by revitalizing nearby farms, reintroducing growing practices that went out with the western migrations of the last century ... In all of this, they seek to provide jobs for the city's unemployed people ...

"While energy policy begins with a reassessment of agriculture in Hartford, it is centered on water policy along the eastern slope of the Rockies ... Water feeds the suburbs, which are dependent on the automobile. As these energy-inefficient communities grow, they require more and more fuel, both in gas for cars and energy for housing ..."

Energy-Efficient Community Planning may likely be one of the first books ever published focusing on sustainable community development. The JG Press published Jim Ridgeway's book because the concepts and communities profiled embodied the core principles of our company and our publishing mission — management of natural resources to sustain a community's well-being, from clean air and clean water to healthy soil and healthy people, from renewable energy and recycling to composting and conservation.

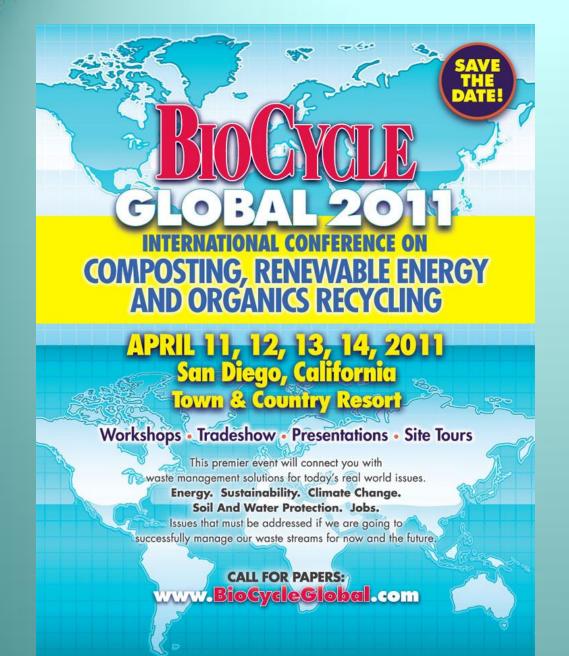
In March 1979, The JG Press also began publishing In Business, the magazine for "Creating Sustainable Enterprises and Communities." In Business ceased publication at the end of 2007, yet its mission continues to guide and energize us. So it is in the spirit of the core principles that have guided us for 33 years that BioCycle is launching a new article series on Sustainable Communities. Managing Editor Dan Sullivan is working on the first community profile of the city of Philadelphia, where sustainability initiatives include "surface-level greening" to manage storm water to establishing 1,000 Corner Stores to provide access to fresh produce and other healthy foods to all residents in all neighborhoods.

The communities we profile may take the form of a municipality (rural, suburban, urban), a neighborhood within a community, a college campus or school district, a healthcare network or an innovative business subscribing to the triple bottom line of "people, planet and profit." Our definition of sustainability includes terms like "durable," "permanent" and "business as usual " (when best practices become commonplace). A concrete goal of this article series — working with the communities and people we are profiling and learning from — is to develop benchmarks or metrics to quantify sustainable natural resource management. Establishing a measurable baseline, and setting achievable goals using that baseline, will be a huge step forward to truly sustaining communities.

Man Goldete

4 BIOCYCLE JANUARY 2011





www.biocycleglobal.com

