

Fall 2011
Pre-Conference Edition



Austin2012

Table of Contents

3	PRESIDENT'S GREETING
4	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE
10	ABOUT AUSTIN
14	NEW MEMBERS
18	MEMBERS CORNER OCRRA
19	MEET THE STAFF
22	STA SPOTLIGHT ON HSU GREENHOUSE & LANDSCAPE SUPPLY
26	2012 USCC CONFERENCE FEATURED SPEAKERS
28	CONFERENCE PROGRAM & REGISTRATION
35	2012 USCC CONFERENCE 'SNEAK PREVIEW'
39	BEST OF LIST SERVE
42	IN THE NEWS Compostable Plastics Symposium 2012 ICAW



High Torque = High Profits



The Crambo dual shaft shredder



The Terminator single shaft shredder



The Topturn compost turner

Dual Power = Low Cost



The Cribus Hybrid drum screen



The Multistar Hybrid star screen



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USCC 20th Annual Conference & Tradeshow

17–20 January 2012
Renaissance Austin Hotel
Austin, TX

We'll all be in Austin, Texas in just a few, quick weeks from now; renewing old acquaintances, learning more new information than we even thought existed, seeing the newest and best equipment and products that our industry has to offer and having one heck of a great time! The 20th Annual Conference & Tradeshow is getting real close. Another excellent roster of topics, speakers and presentations is planned, including an equipment 'demo day' at the Texas Disposal System's Exotic Game Park

that can't be missed! Rhinos and tigers and wildebeests, oh my! You'll find a conference program summary, a 'sneak preview' of a few conference presentations and just some of the world famous speakers contained in the following pages. Conference information and registration forms are now available on the USCC website at compostingcouncil.org/conference/. **Take a few minutes to complete your application and reserve your seat at the 2012, 20th Annual USCC Conference & Tradeshow!**



President's Greeting Frank Franciosi



This is the time of the year when we all reflect on the successes of the past year and plan for the challenges of the New Year. 2011 has been a historic year for the Council and our industry. As the Council turned twenty years old, we

had the most successful Conference in our history, breaking all attendance and revenue records despite a slow economy. We expect to have the same success in Austin in 2012. I look at the Conference as a barometer of our industry. It continues to grow and evolve each year. Based on these observations, I feel that we are about to enter a strong growth period for our industry.

The Council is also growing and evolving. In 2011, we hired a new Executive Director who will lead us into the future. Michael Virga has a unique set of skills and leadership qualities that will increase the visibility and growth of our industry, both here and abroad. Michael has the full support of the Board to transition our Council from a strong volunteer driven organization to a strong staff supported organization.

Our membership has expressed that we become more engaged in affecting policy by increasing our advocacy. The Council will be moving our offices to the DC Area in the spring of 2012 as an initial response to that need. We need more efficient access to 'the hill' and the policy makers located there. Michael is currently

working with many DC based groups to form a coalition of key alliances. This new coalition will bring our mission and issues to the hill. We hope to affect change by focusing on the key areas of providing green jobs, a better and higher use of our organic residual resources and providing a cleaner, more sustainable future for both our environment and generations to come.

To help craft our message, the Council has hired the marketing firm Colehour & Cohen (C&C). They have the task of researching and branding our industry and "Compost the product". I can't tell you how excited I am in finally getting this project off the ground. C&C will be reaching out to members to gain knowledge about our industry and our markets.

We also launched the Consumer Compost Use Program in 2011 and we will be expanding the visibility of this program in the New Year. If you are interested in hearing more details about this program please attend my session at the Conference, or contact Al Rattie our Program Director for Market Development.

Another important project that the Council will undertake in 2012 will be investigating the creation of our own North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code. NACIS is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy. In order to move our industry forward into the mainstream, it will be vital that we first prepare a report on the size and economic impact of the US Composting Industry along with data from Canada and Mexico. The

objective of this report is to provide a baseline understanding of the size and scope of the industry, including such key parameters as; tons processed per year, tons produced, total value of those services and products, number of employees, total salaries and wages and total tax contribution of the industry on a state by state basis. One can understand the importance of this data and how it will be critical in developing future "Composting Infrastructure" and mainstreaming our industry. For more information regarding this subject please refer to the three part series of articles in BioCycle magazine. You should also attend "A Code to Call Our Own—A Call to Action", a presentation on this topic by Andrew Kessler of Turning Earth.

2011 was an historic year and I expect 2012 to be another challenging but important year in our evolution. I want to thank this year's Executive Committee, the USCC staff and retiring Board Members for their outstanding contributions to our industry. I look forward to working with our new Board in 2012.

I hope that you all have a safe and Happy Holiday Season and I look forward to seeing you all at the 20th Annual Conference in Austin!



Executive Director's Message

Michael Virga

UPDATE—USCC 20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

JANUARY 17–20, 2012

AUSTIN, TX



Well here we go! The conference program is complete and this will be the best event ever. I know that you hear this every year, but the numbers will speak for themselves—more delegates, more exhibits, more technology and more networking. We have

the information that you need to stay current, improve your business and advance your career. Take a look at the enclosed conference summary and check out the scope and depth of content that we offer to those who attend this conference. Critical issues that affect the compost manufacturing industry will be addressed in detail by experts in the field. The conference program once again includes four concurrent tracks on the most important issues facing the industry today.

Many of the featured speakers and abstracts are highlighted in the pages that follow. Eight workshops and training courses are planned for the pre-conference program on Tuesday, January 17. Two of the workshops are new for 2012. Another option on Tuesday is to join us for a tour of three area composting facilities. We currently have 47 sponsors already signed on to support the USCC and make this event a success!

The 2012 conference features an outstanding lineup of:

- Workshops and training opportunities
- Technical and educational sessions
- Interactive hands-on seminars that include question and answer sessions with leaders in the industry
- Equipment demonstrations and more networking opportunities than ever before!

This conference provides a tremendous opportunity for professional growth and will give you the tools to optimize your operations, and composting and organics recycling initiatives. Our job is to help you increase your operating efficiency, improve your product quality and add to your bottom line. Be sure to join us in Austin!

Remember to plan to attend the **Pre-Conference Workshops and Training Courses**, as well as other events, scheduled for Tuesday, Jan 17th!

8 WORKSHOPS & TRAINING COURSES FOR 2012

All full-day workshops (or two half-day workshops) include lunch.

- **USCC Foundations of Composting.** The course will provide a solid understanding of the foundations of composting for operators, managers and regulators. The course will train new composters on the basic principles and techniques of composting and will acquaint veteran composters with the underlying fundamentals of their profession. *Instructors: Dr. Robert Rynk, State University of New York at Cobleskill and Matthew Cotton, Integrated Waste Management Consulting, LLC.*
- **Compost Use in Agriculture, Horticulture and Landscaping.** Workshop participants will learn proper compost use for specific crops and other applications. Training will be based on composting principles and promote the improvement of soil physical, chemical and biological properties by the correct use of composts. *Instructors: Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton, University of Florida/SWFREC and Dr. Ronald French-Monar, Texas A&M University-TCE.*
- **Aerated Static Pile Composting—Applications & Advancements.** This course is for experienced composters who would like to expand beyond the basics of leaf and yard waste composting into food residuals, manures and other challenging materials. Participants will learn the differences among various systems, how to determine fan size and piping, and what kind of environmental protection and permitting is needed. (Prerequisite: 'Foundations of Composting' or similar introductory course) *Instructor: Peter Moon, PE, O2 Compost.*
- **NEW: Health and Safety Issues of Composting.** This half-day program covers the specific health and safety concerns of the composting operation, including mechanical hazards of equipment, heat/cold stress, overexertion injuries, engulfment, and the biological and chemical hazards of raw materials and the composting process steps. *Instructor: Nellie J. Brown, Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations.*
- **When Bad Things Happen at Your Composting Facility—Imagining What Can Go Wrong & How You Can Recover.** Crises, such as natural disasters, injuries, process failures, odor problems, lawsuits, perceptions by neighbors, financial problems, to name a few examples, may affect the viability of a composting operation—demonstrating the need to think strategically about a composting facility's vulnerability to crises. Facility managers have responsibility for assessing risks so that they can prevent crises or lessen their impact. This workshop

will explore these potential problems and solutions.

Instructor: Nellie J. Brown, Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

- **NEW: Zero Waste Program Development and Implementation—ICI (Industrial, Commercial, & Institutional) & Special Event Planning.** This workshop will provide the fundamentals of "Zero Waste Program" development and Implementation. It will give program managers and special event planners the tools necessary for successful zero waste program development, planning and implementation. *Instructor: Peter Klaich, CEO, GreenTech; Speakers/ Round Table Discussion: John Connolly, Pres., JF Connolly Associates, Steve Chiv, Zero Waste Special Projects and Andy Taylor, Organix Recycling.*
- **Compost Outreach: Best Practices in Compost Education Programs.** This half-day workshop takes you through the components of successful compost education programs and outreach efforts. It will cover a broad range of educational ideas and settings including personal experiences, along with results and stories from clients. *Instructor: Stan Slaughter is an Eco-trobador with 5 CDs, creator of Compost Gin and other compost educational products.*
- **Management of Odor Issues at Compost Facilities.** This workshop will provide information and discuss odor management for various handling systems and control technologies for composting. Methods of odor assessment will be presented. Odor modeling and its value will be discussed. *Instructor: Jeff Gage, Compost Design Services.*

Also scheduled for **Tuesday January 17**—Tour three local composting facilities. Read more below!

For workshop agendas & additional information on training courses, visit:
compostingcouncil.org/conference/program.php

Special Events Make the USCC Conference a Complete Experience: While most people come to the USCC Annual Conference & Tradeshow for the first-class educational experience and the chance to network and share ideas, it's the special events that help make the USCC Conference a complete experience.

Composting Facilities Tour (Lunch is included!)— January 17

We begin our tour at:

- Lanier High School, part of the Austin Independent School District, that has started composting food waste in an XAct in-vessel composting unit followed by an Oragrow vermicomposting system. We will see this unique facility operating, and learn our lessons from its implementation and operation.
- Next on the agenda is the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant and its Dillo Dirt operation.



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Executive Director's Message (continued)

Here, the City of Austin composts all of its yard waste with anaerobically digested wastewater treatment sludge to produce a compost product that is approved for unrestricted use and marketed under the name "Dillo Dirt".

- Our last stop of the day is Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) where we will focus on their 30-acre windrow composting operation, where they process; yard trimmings, clean wood waste, produce, paper, dead animals, animal/vegetable oils and greases, and some liquid feedstocks. We will begin our visit to TDS in their beautiful party pavilion where we will eat our boxed lunches while enjoying the breathtaking view of the famous Texas hill country. The facility is surrounded by an exotic game ranch, home to over 2000 animals and 80 different exotic species. After lunch, we will tour the entire TDS facility including the exotic game ranch, composting facility and Gardenville retail outlet, landfill and materials recovery facility. *Instructor/Tour Guide: Risa Weinberger, Weinberger & Associates.*

Exhibitor's Reception—January 18, 6:15 pm with entertainment from Vocal Trash. This gathering will give you the chance to unwind after a full day of learning and networking. Meet with the conference Exhibitors and network with your colleagues in an informal setting.

Breakfasts, mid-morning and afternoon refreshment breaks—January 18 & 19, 7:30 am. The breakfasts & breaks provide good food and plenty of time to explore the Trade Show and meet with Exhibitors.

Awards Luncheon—January 19, 12:00 pm. The Awards Luncheon this year will feature a keynote presentation on the City of Austin's Zero Waste Plan by Bob Gedert, Director of the Austin Resource Recovery Agency.

USCC/SWANA Compost Certification Exam—January 19. "Raising the Bar" for the Composting industry—Become certified as a Manager of Compost Programs.

Zero Waste Reception—January 19, 6:15 pm. Sponsored by the **Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)**, the event will showcase a number of compostable items such as plates, cups and serving ware. All residuals will be composted at a local composting facility.

EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE TEXAS DISPOSAL SYSTEMS COMPOSTING FACILITY AND TOURS OF THEIR EXOTIC GAME RANCH —JANUARY 20

Join us at one of the premier composting facilities in the U.S. for "Live" Equipment Demonstrations by many of the leading equipment manufacturers and suppliers in the industry. Equipment demonstrations in Austin will feature products from several manufacturers. The demonstrations as of the publication of this newsletter include:

- Grinding and shredding equipment from **Bandit, Diamond Z, DoppstadtUS, Dura Tech, Komptech, Morbark, Peterson Pacific, Rotochopper & Vermeer**
- Screening equipment from **CEC, DoppstadtUS, Komptech, McCloskey International, Power Screen, Terra Select & Vermeer**
- Compost turning equipment from **Backhus, Komptech, Scarab & Vermeer**
- Mixing equipment by **Supreme & ROTO-MIX**
- Compost Application equipment by **EcoLawn**
- Compost bagging equipment by **Rotochopper**

Luncheon Sponsor: **Vermeer Corporation**

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This is a unique opportunity to observe some of the best and newest equipment in operation for those conference attendees who have immediate or future equipment needs. For vendors and equipment manufacturers, this is the ultimate opportunity to demonstrate your equipment to a national audience in one of the largest compost markets in the U.S., it is the sales call of a lifetime! **Only a few spaces for equipment demonstrations are left. Vendors interested in participating should reserve equipment demonstration space now!**

Go to www.compostingcouncil.org and click on the conference menu to reserve both exhibit and demonstration space or call the USCC at **631.737.4931**.

- **2011 Professional Achievement Award Honorees to be recognized at the USCC Annual Conference and Tradeshow.** This year, the USCC will name an elite class of compost professionals to become the newest recipients of the USCC's prestigious Professional Achievement Awards. These awards represent the highest individual achievement in the composting field. **The Professional Achievement Awards will be presented at the awards luncheon ceremony on Thursday, January 19.**

Please join us as we honor the awardees and hear comments from our colleagues. This year's awards will be as follows:

- **Composter of the Year**—For a commercial-scale composting facility, public or private, that has displayed excellence in both compost production and marketing/distribution
- **Hi Kellogg Award**—For outstanding service to the composting industry
- **Rufus Chaney Award**—For research excellence
- **H. Clark Gregory Award**—For outstanding grassroots efforts to promote composting
- **Clean Water Award**—For projects that have positively impacted water quality or increased awareness of the link between soils, compost and water quality
- **Special Service Award**—Awarded occasionally to individuals whose contribution to the composting industry merits special recognition

The USCC's Annual Conference and Exhibition in Austin will be carbon neutral!

The U.S. Composting Council has made a commitment to offset the greenhouse gas emissions associated with conference activities and attendees' air and vehicle travel to and from the conference, totaling up to 500 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. The **Environmental Credit Corporation** is providing carbon offset credits and retiring them on behalf of the USCC.

The carbon credits will come from specific projects that reduce methane from manure and organic residuals management and will be independently verified, audited and registered with the Chicago Climate Exchange. **Environmental Credit Corp.** is a leading offset provider for US and international markets, and a member of the USCC.

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While in Austin

Austin, Texas is ranked among top cities for safety, airport satisfaction, high-tech facilities and nightlife. As Texas' capital city and the Live Music Capital of the World®, Austin offers a cosmopolitan downtown and nearly 200 live music venues where day or night, weekday or weekend, you can always find something playing. Visitors will discover urban hiking trails, legendary barbecue and farm-to-table cuisine, and rich Texas history. When you're in Austin, you are invited to 'dig in' because whatever your palate is craving, they have it. The best barbeque. The coldest margaritas. Life-altering queso. 24-hour dives. Fare for foodies to write home about. From fine dining to fusion cuisine to comfort food and delectable desserts, you'll want to save room for it all.

Also leave some room for one-of-a-kind shopping finds, because Austin has an eclectic array of shops and boutiques. Head to South Congress, or SoCo, for unique and vintage treasures from apparel to jewelry, artwork and more. For 700,000 square feet of designer shops, try Austin's newest shopping destination, the Domain. Enjoy Austin and check out all the places to get a bite, do some shopping, and find out what really makes Austin weird—in a good way!

Good eats near the conference hotel: The conference hotel contains two nice restaurants, but you may also want to visit some other local dining establishments while at the Austin Renaissance, without straying too far. Visit this website to explore your many options: www.restauranteur.com/tx/austin/arboretum.htm



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Our 2012 Editorial Topics:

January: Organics / Chippers & Grinders
February: Auto / Wheel Loader Attachments
March: C&D / Demolition Equipment
April: Paper/Plastics / Plastic Granulators
May: Solid Waste / Waste Compactors
June: Alternative Energy / Natural Gas Converters
July: Metal Recycling / Metal Shredders
August: Solid Waste / Fleet Management Software
September: Electronics / Size Reduction Equipment
October: Auto / Catalytic Converter Shears
November: Rubber / Rubber Shredders
December: Metal Recycling / Attachments

Our readers are from:

Auction Houses
Auto Salvage/Dismantlers/Parts
Construction/Demolition
Equipment Mfg/Distributor
Government Agencies
Landfills/Transfer Stations
Materials Dealers/Processors/Brokers
Organizations/Associations
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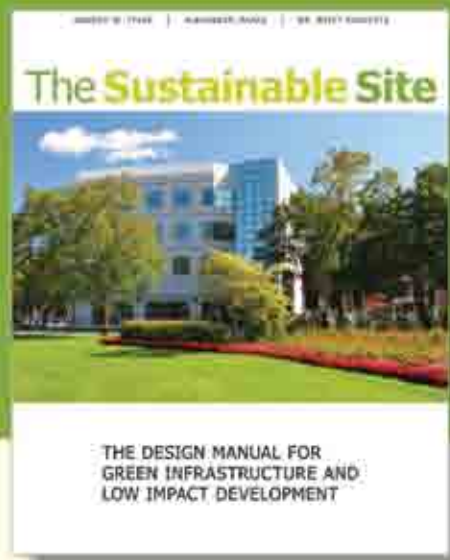


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Membership Growth

We are pleased to report that 188 new members have joined the USCC already this year. You can make a major contribution to the future of your USCC by simply getting one person to become a member. Membership materials can be found on the USCC web site or can be obtained by calling the USCC office at **631.737.4931**. Help grow your organization. Remember, the USCC is only as strong as its membership, so be sure to recruit your colleagues!

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these 73 new USCC members who have joined since the summer newsletter was published:

Wayne Lovett, *Bell County WCID1 Regional Compost Facility**, Killeen TX
 Peter Klaich, *Atlas Capital Holdings, Inc., Orchard Park NY*
 Scott Sedwick, *Arlington County/Solid Waste Bureau**, Arlington VA
 Summer Johnston, *Blanchard Machinery Co., W.Cola SC*
 Ranjeet Bhatia, *Ann Arbor MI*
 David Mosher, *Schenectady County Compost Facility, Glenville NY*
 Peter Edmunds, *Deming NM*
 Thomas Bryant, *B & B Farms, Goldston NC*
 Vanessa Fixmer-Oraiz, *Durham NC*
 Linda Byington, *Landrum SC*
 Kevin Piper, *Cal Poly State University, Agricultural Operations**, San Luis Obispo CA
 Kendell McCrary, *City of Marshalltown IA*
 Elizabeth Garrison, *Ever-Green Recycling, Greenville SC*
 Maclane Gibson, *Maryland Environmental Service**, Millersville MD
 Arius Schiff, *Porterville CA*
 Jenny Sebley, *Raleigh NC*
 Mohammed Al-Asmi, *Haya Water, Muscat*
 Risa Weinberger, *Dallas TX*
 Christine Lenches-Hinkel, *Waste Less Living, Inc., Altadena CA*
 Keith Blix, *Eden Prairie MN*
 Coleen Kramer, *Springleaf Strategies, Raleigh NC*
 Bronwyn Santos, *Charleston County Environmental Management, Charleston SC*
 David Lehfeldt, *Wichita Falls TX*
 Bill Davidson, *Montgomery County DSWS, Rockville MD*
 Kathleen Leahy, *Belmont NC*
 Gloria Hardegree, *Georgia Recycling Coalition, Atlanta GA*
 Gabriella Uhlar-Heffner, *Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle WA*
 Lynne Trufant, *ecomaine, Portland ME*
 Ginny Black, *Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, St. Paul MN*
 Michael Virga, *Silver Spring MD*

Jody Slagle, *Austin TX*
 Paul Arnold, *Dartmouth Canada*
 Bridget Stuchly, *Salt Lake City Corporation, Salt Lake City UT*
 Don Satchell, *Situ Biosciences LLC, Skokie IL*
 Wayne DeFeo, *Warren NJ*
 Susan Bender, *Erosion Control of Alaska, Anchorage AK*
 Robert Randel, *Gulf Breeze FL*
 Dianna Johnson, *Benton KY*
 Cara Gurney, *Oakland CA*
 Noel Garcia, *Texas Plant & Soil Lab*, Edinburg TX*
 Jack Moreman, *Rolling Plains Ag Compost, Inc., Clarendon TX*
 Douglas Sites, *Terra Select Inc., Orem UT*
 Alan Grant, *Jefferson County Solid Waste District, Boulder MT*
 Daniel Logan, *Brighton MA*
 Chris Galusha, *Commerce TX*
 Ron Carroll, *Fayetteville NY*
 Katelyn Virga, *Lowville NY*
 Lisa Graves, *Madison WI*
 Deborah Barton, *Montezuma County Landfill, Cortez CO*
 Hana Steel, *County of Maui Recycling Section, Wailuku HI*
 Martin Johnson, *Martinez GA*
 Richard Tillinger, *OWS, Inc. (Organic Waste Systems), Dayton OH*
 Jeffery Dannis, *Howard County DPW Bureau of Enf. Serv., Columbia MD*
 Zachary Hirschfeld, *San Francisco CA*
 Edwin Blosser, *Midwest Biosystems, Tampico IL*
 Hank Egigian, *RWP Soil Amendments, Pomona CA*
 Trudy Johnston, *Material Matters, Elizabethtown PA*
 Drew Gilchrist, *Rogers AR*
 Mark Herndon, *Sooner Recycling, Dallas TX*
 Ebrahim Ali, *Bapco, Muharaq*
 Steve Pearce, *DariTech, Inc., Lynden WA*
 Mitchel Zemel, *Zemel Seiler, Bradford Woods PA*
 Cristabal Ugartel, *Reciclajes Industriales S.A., Santiago*
 Line Nya Ngatchou, *Seattle WA*
 Marc Wilken, *City of Philadelphia, Fairmount Park Organic Recycling Center*, PA*
 Jim Bacom, *CountyLine Landfill, LLC, Archer FL*
 Karen Doyle, *Plantation FL*
 Bill Zinger, *Kissner Group, Cambridge Ontario*
 Monte Hight, *Rotochopper, Inc., Saint Martin MN*
 David Smith, *Simply Organic, Inc., Melbourne FL*
 William Swezey, *Great River NY*
 Jeff Swezey, *Harvard MA*
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Member's Corner

ONODAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY



Local Food Scrap Composting Program Garner's Statewide Recognition. NYSDEC honors OCRRA and five others for innovative environmental programs.

The Onodaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) was one of five organizations recognized for their pioneering environmental projects at the recent New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's 8th Annual New York State Environmental Excellence Awards ceremony. OCRRA was selected for this prestigious award based on its innovative, commercial food waste composting program that takes traditional trash (foodwaste) and converts it into a nutrient-rich, compost that can be used in place of chemical fertilizers. By using an efficient technique called extended aerated static pile composting, OCRRA processes food waste in a fraction of the time and with less energy than traditional composting systems. This approach also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. OCRRA offers this composting service to large-scale food waste generators including food distributors, grocery stores, hotels, restaurants and institutions. Excellus Bluecross Blueshield, OCC, Oncenter, Ramada Inn, Saint Camillus Rehabilitation Center, Syracuse Banana, Syracuse University (SU) and Upstate University Hospital are amongst the early adopters of the composting program.

According to the NYDEC, they established the Environmental Excellence Awards Program "in 2004 to recognize innovation, sustainability and creative partnerships that achieve exceptional environmental, social and economic benefits for New York." OCRRA's food waste composting project serves as an environmentally sound, cost-effective model for other municipalities. The program is also generating jobs, reducing disposal costs and helping New York State achieve it's "beyond waste" goals and objectives.

The five award winning programs were selected by an esteemed statewide review committee, comprised of 18 public and private sector members who sifted through a wide array of applications received in May. For additional information about the program, past winners and applying for an environmental excellence award, visit the DEC's website at: www.dec.ny.gov/public/945.html


This award follows several national, state and private sector awards bestowed upon OCRRA in 2010 and 2011, including:

- 2011 SWANA Excellence Award, Silver—Composting
- 2011 SWANA Excellence Award, Bronze—Integrated Solid Waste System
- 2011 SWANA Excellence Award, Silver—Marketing


- 2011 American Forestry and Paper Association Award for Community Recycling
- 2010 NYSAR³ Recycler of the Year—Group/Team
- 2010 Keep America Beautiful Waste Reduction and Recycling National Award
- 2010 Keep America Beautiful Litter Prevention National Award
- 2010 US Composting Council—Composting Program of the Year

About OCRRA: OCRRA is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation created by the New York State Legislature to manage the solid waste, or large amounts of trash, produced in Onondaga County. The organization is responsible for providing options for the safe disposal of garbage and the recycling of items that were once sent to a landfill. It is not an arm of County Government, nor does it receive tax support for its programs. The majority of OCRRA's revenue is generated from fees users


DIFFERENT APPLICATIONS DEMAND DIFFERENT TECHNOLOGIES




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Meet the Staff Leslie M. Crook, Program Assistant

pay to deliver trash to their locations, as well as the sale of energy created at the self-sufficient Waste-to-Energy Facility in Jamesville, NY. For more information, visit www.OCRRA.org

Greg Gelewski
Recycling Operations Manager, OCRRA
T 315.295.0734



Our organization is growing and evolving, and more growth is planned for the future. Our first, full time employee was hired in late August; Michael Virga, Executive Director. Many of you have read our press releases about that significant event or have heard from Michael directly

via telephone, Email or face to face contact. There are many other USCC staff people, however, whom you may not know much about, and who work behind the scenes to support Michael and to provide USCC members with the information and services that keep our organization operating efficiently. We thought that we'd introduce our newest employee, Leslie Crook, first!

Leslie is a California native and a Santa Cruz resident for 28 years. She has nearly 25 years' experience in executive administration, copywriting, marketing, sales development and staff management in the fields of eCommerce, manufacturing, design services and choice retail. Leslie comes to USCC with a multitude of operational and logistical skills obtained at various companies during the dotcom boom, as well as extensive personnel management and human resources experience culled from the fashion industry. Leslie has been an integral member of Expansion Inc.—a digital music instrumentation software manufacturer—since 2009, in the role of Logistics and North American Artist Relations.

Leslie is also an antique dealer; a collector of mid-century and vintage jewelry. She holds certificates in millinery and couture sewing techniques and is an active volunteer with non-profit and arts organizations. Her favorite restaurant is Original Joe's, with 'steaks & scallops as big as your head', according to Leslie!

T 831.295.9737
leslie.crook@compostingcouncil.org

..... **SAVE THE DATES**
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The US Composting Council is bringing its Compost Operations Training Course to Davis, California and to Houston, Texas in 2012

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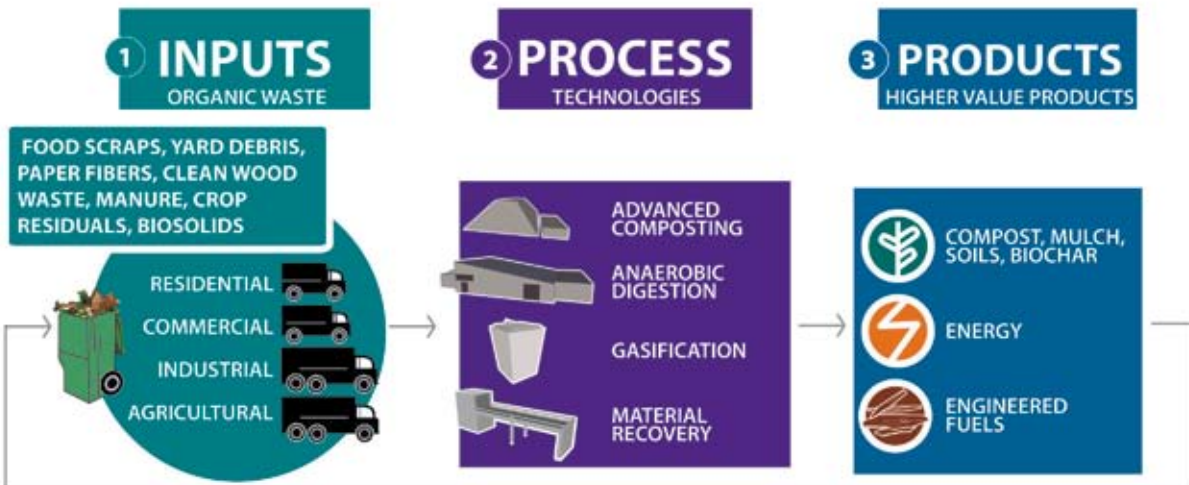


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BPI ZERO WASTE RECEPTION

January 19, 2012
US Composting Council
Annual Meeting and Trade Show

The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) is proud to sponsor a casual reception at the USCC Annual Conference and Trade Show. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow conference participants and catch up with old and new friends.

This is a Zero Waste event. Hor d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided. Cash bar is also available.

Hope you see you there!

Every product carrying the BPI Logo Meets ASTM D6400 or D6878, based on testing in independent laboratories. These products are accepted by composting programs throughout the US and Canada.



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STA Spotlight on Hsu Greenhouse & Landscape Supply STA Participant since 2002

1.5 Million Pounds... Every day grocery stores are forced to find a place for their bruised or spoiled goods; whether it be to local food pantries, animal feed, landfills or transforming them into recycled materials. Hsu Greenhouse & Landscape Supply, a soil and compost manufacturer has been helping their local grocery stores do just that.

Since April 2010, Hsu has been the drop off point for most of the unused produce from several central and northern Wisconsin grocery stores. Hsu has taken in over 750 tons of spoiled material since that date.

That's 1,500,000 pounds of scrap, which normally would have found its place in the bottom of a landfill, are now helping "green up" local communities.

A weekly average of 20,000 pounds are taken in and transformed into an economical grade of compost that can be used as a soil conditioner/additive. Once the veggie waste has been dropped off, the crew at Hsu gets to work covering the veggies with wood chips. Hsu then creates a windrow that is turned about every 10–15 days depending on the temperature. This process ensures that the windrow is breathing and breaking down properly. The composting process is complete after about 12–16 weeks of turning the windrow. This results in a recycled soil product that normally would have crowded our landfills, which can now be mixed into a soil blend which is then used in many local landscape projects, for Wisconsin DOT and DNR engineered soils and by local farmers to grow the produce sold at community farmers markets.

In the early 1900's, the fur trappers and woodland growers always spoke that "leaf mold" was needed to promote and protect their ginseng plants. With that information and research, Paul C. Hsu, President of Hsu Ginseng Enterprises, Inc. decided to amend his woods' grown ginseng with leaf mold also known as leaf compost. Hsu Greenhouse & Landscape Supply now manufactures and packages various high quality soil blends from organic potting soils, nursery mixes, custom blends and of course, compost. They enrolled in the STA Program in 2002.

They are a division of Hsu Ginseng Enterprises which is located in Wausau, Wisconsin—the heart of ginseng country. For more than 35 years, Paul C. Hsu has supplied the World with the highest quality ginseng products available. They farm more than 1000 acres of prime ginseng farmland in central Wisconsin. What was originally founded as a small mail order business, sending ginseng products to family and friends, has now developed into an international enterprise with offices worldwide and offering wide array of high quality health products.

Hsu Greenhouse & Landscape Supply
T6500 County Road W, Wausau WI 54403
T 715.675.5856
info@hsucompost.com

Scott Theiss, *General Manager*
scott@hsucompost.com

Sylvia Slivicke, *Customer Relations*
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the real story



Composting News was launched in 1992 to fill a void of information in the composting and organics recycling industry. It quickly earned a reputation for telling the real story, covering controversial, but important issues others stayed clear of. Today, *Composting News* continues to feature vital issues of concern to producers, marketers and users of compost, mulch and other organic waste-based products. Every issue of *Composting News* features monthly market prices for compost and related products along with compost market profiles.

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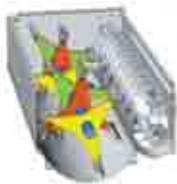
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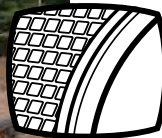
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2012 USCC Conference Featured Speakers

Lee Matecko



Lee is currently the Global Vice-President of Store Development for Whole Foods Market, and also co-leads the company, Green Mission efforts. He has been with the company for 13 years, serving for nine years as the VP of Operational Finance, before moving into his current role in 2007. Prior to Whole Foods, Lee spent 15 years with the H-E-B Grocery Company, in store operations and financial leadership roles. Lee is our Plenary Keynote speaker and will present, "Whole Foods Market's Sustainability Efforts—The Environment as a Stakeholder".

Bob Gedert



Bob is the Director of the Austin Resource Recovery Agency for the City of Austin where he is working on the implementation of the Austin Zero Waste Plan. He has been involved in recycling and waste reduction programs since 1975. As the former Chief of Recycling for the State of Indiana, Bob wrote many state statutes supporting recycling efforts. He increased the recycling diversion rate from 29% to 75% while working for the City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities. He will be our Award's Luncheon speaker and will present, "Austin—Zero Waste Plan".

Frank Franciosi



Frank, in addition to being the current President of the USCC, is also the Composting Program Manager for Novozymes North America. Frank helped develop Novozymes 'Nature's GREEN-RELEAF™' compost production facility and the subsequent marketing program. Novozymes is the biotech-based world leader in enzymes and microorganisms. Frank will present, "Introducing the Consumer Compost Use Program and Strive for 5%", the USCC's newest compost promotional program and the first national compost certification program directed towards the retail consumer.

Frederick Steiner, Ph.D., Mark Simmons, Ph.D. and Danielle Pieranunzi, LEED AP

Dr. Steiner is the dean of the School of Architecture and the Henry M. Rockwell Chair in Architecture, at The University of Texas at Austin. He has worked with local, state, and federal agencies on diverse environmental plans and designs. His most recent books include 'Design for a Vulnerable Planet' (2011), 'Planning and Urban Design Standards' (2007), 'The Essential Ian McHarg: Writings on Design and Nature' (2006) & 'Human Ecology: Following Nature's Lead' (2002).

Dr. Simmons is Director of the Ecosystem Design Group at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas. He lectures widely on his Group's research and consulting projects which focus on sustainable and regenerative landscapes, and include green roofs, native turfgrass, urban prairies, prescribed fire, invasive species control, and urban green space restoration. Clients include the Army Corps of Engineers, George Bush Presidential Center, NASA, and the National Park Service.

Danielle is the Director for the Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™)—a program created to transform land development and management practices using a national voluntary rating system for rewarding sustainable landscapes. Danielle has been involved with the SITES program since its inception where she worked closely with experts from across the country researching and developing guidelines and performance benchmarks for sustainable landscapes.

These three innovative and dynamic speakers will present, 'The Sustainable Sites Initiative™—Focus on Compost' This session will provide those involved in land development and management practices with insight into how compost is addressed in (SITES™) Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks 2009 rating system, which is currently being field tested with over 150 pilot projects across the country.

Nora Goldstein



Nora Goldstein is Editor of BioCycle, the magazine for Advancing Composting, Organics Recycling and Renewable Energy. She has spoken at many previous USCC Conferences. Nora and her family are legends of our industry! Nora will present, "Roadmap to Sustainable Organics Diversion—2012 And Beyond".

Barrie Cogburn



Barrie began her career with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in 1986 and currently holds the position of Landscape Design and Enhancement Section Director. She is responsible for developing, directing and overseeing statewide policies, procedures and administrative rules for landscape architecture and aesthetic design for TxDOT. Other duties include administration of the Department's statewide landscape programs and the federally funded Transportation Enhancement Program. She will present, "Three Million Cubic Yards and Counting: Ensuring a Sustainable Market for Compost in Texas".

Michele Young



Michele is the Organics Program Manager for the City of San Jose's Environmental Services Department, where she is developing an integrated organics strategy for the City's Zero Waste Plan and Green Vision. Current projects include Organics to Energy infrastructure development, redesign of the City's commercial collection and processing systems, food waste collection for residences, schools, and the airport, and support for compost research and marketing. She will present, "Teaming Up to Develop Landscaping Markets" and is also a speaker in the Second Annual Compostable Plastics Symposium.

Ron Alexander



Ron is the President of R. Alexander Associates, Inc., a company specializing in product and market development for organic recycled products. He is a horticulturalist with over 27 years of experience working with compost. Ron is a USCC Board Member and the author of 'The Practical Guide to Compost Marketing and Sales'. He is also the recipient of the US Composting Council's Hi Kellogg Award, for outstanding service to the composting industry, and last year's Clean Water Award. He will present, "Landscaping & Environmental Trends in Compost Usage".

Paul Sellow

Paul is the CEO of Harvest Power, Inc., a technology and project development company dedicated to harnessing the renewable energy in organic waste. He has been a leader in the organics industry for more than 25 years. He founded and led 5 organics or energy-related companies, and was a senior executive with Synagro, Inc. He will present, "An Inflection Point in Organics Management".

Todd Williams



Todd has a 30-year career in environmental engineering with experience and specific emphasis in residuals and biosolids management. He has made numerous presentations specific to residuals management and is a contributing author for several articles and books significant to residuals management, composting and odor control. Todd is the Chair of the Water Environment Federation's Residuals and Biosolids Committee and is located in CH2M HILL's Richmond, Virginia office where he serves as their Global Technology Leader for Residuals Resource Recovery and Biosolids. He will present, "Biosolids Compost—What's It Worth?".



2012 USCC Conference Featured Speakers (continued)

Ramani Narayan, Ph.D.

Dr. Narayan, with Michigan State University, is an internationally recognized expert in the engineering and design of sustainable, bio-based products, biodegradable plastics and polymers, with eighty publications in leading journals and fourteen patents. A focus area of his is on developing LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) protocols for meeting a product's environmental stewardship. He will present, "The Science Behind Compostable Plastics and the ASTM Standards" in the Second Annual Compostable Plastics Symposium.

Sally Brown, Ph.D.



Dr. Brown is an Associate Professor at the University of Washington. Her research has focused on using residuals to reduce metal availability and restore ecosystem function in drastically contaminated soils.

She is also working in partnership with local farmers to set up a biodiesel industry which integrates municipal biosolids into the biodiesel production process. She will present, "Compost and Carbon Sequestration".

Rhonda Sherman



Rhonda is an extension specialist in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering at NC State University, providing leadership for university outreach programs on solid waste management issues through the Cooperative Extension Service. Rhonda

provides education and technical assistance about vermicomposting and composting throughout the US and

abroad. Rhonda will present, "Why Is Vermicompost Selling for 15 Times the Price of Compost?"

Mary Schwarz

Mary Schwarz is an Extension Support Specialist for the Cornell Waste Management Institute at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. She has been conducting research, outreach and education at Cornell University for 30 years, with the last 7 in the management of organic residuals. Mary has spoken at numerous conferences including previous USCC and BioCycle conferences, and on mortality composting at numerous venues, including the 2010 Canadian Compost Council. She will present, "Composting: It's What We Do! On-Site Composting for Small to Medium Food Waste Generators".

Jay Kilbourne



Jay is responsible for leading New England Organics' business development efforts, including new organics recycling facilities, strategic partnerships and new technologies. Jay is currently helping the company launch the Agreen anaerobic digestion technology project to generate renewable energy from food wastes. He has assisted the company to achieve targeted strategic growth through product development and marketing, operations management, sales, and business development. Jay will present, "Co-Anaerobic Digestion of Manure and SSO".

Matt Cotton



Matt is the principal of Integrated Waste Management Consulting, LLC. He has over 20 years of experience in composting and has helped permit and develop some of California's best composting facilities. He recently

completed three terms as the President of the Board of Directors of the US Composting Council. Matt will present, "Using Compost Cap for Odor and Emissions Control" and will instruct at the USCC Foundations of Composting workshop with Bob Rynk, Ph.D.

Stephanie Busch

Stephanie has worked with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for 18 years. She currently manages EPDs Waste Reduction Unit, where her responsibilities include increasing the diversion of food residuals from landfills and developing a sustainable materials management strategy for Georgia. As Program Manager with the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division, she was responsible for overseeing the Division's core programs and activities, including its Environmental Leadership program. She will present, "Partnership to Develop a Model Compost Rule Template".

Plus, many other speakers reflecting an unparalleled level of composting, organics recycling, anaerobic digestion, renewable energy, biomass, climate change, carbon credits & GHG industry expertise and experience!



Converting Organic Waste into a Sustainable Resource

The Wilmington Organic Recycling Center is the most state-of-the-art, large scale commercial food and yard waste composting facility serving the New York City to Baltimore market areas.



USCC 20th Annual Conference & Tradeshow

The Soil & Water Connection

The Largest Conference & Exhibition in the world for the Composting, Wood Waste, & Organics Recycling Industry. The national forum for those involved in the development & expansion of the composting & organics recycling industry.

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More than 60 educational & technical presentations on many aspects of Composting & Compost Use including: Using Compost for Improved Soils & Water Quality, Best Practices in Organics Recycling, Worker Protection, Anaerobic Digestion & Integration with Composting, Odor Control, On-Site & Smaller Systems, Compost Markets & Marketing, & International Development: Spotlight on Nigeria ■ 8 Training Courses ■ Pre-conference Tour of 3 Composting Facilities ■ More than 100 Exhibitors at the Trade Show ■ “Live” Equipment Demonstrations by 20+ manufacturers at the Texas Disposal System’s Compost Facility & Exotic Game Ranch ■ Certification Exams & CEU’s ■ Special—Second Annual Compostable Plastics Symposium ■ Two receptions, free shuttle buses to downtown, networking opportunities & so much more!

PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING COURSES & WORKSHOPS TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

USCC Foundations of Composting

This course will provide a foundation for novice compost operators, managers and regulators and will refresh veteran composters on the underlying scientific principles. *Instructors: Dr. Robert Rynk, SUNY at Cobleskill; Matthew Cotton, IWM Consulting.*

Compost Use in Agriculture, Horticulture & Landscaping

Workshop participants will learn proper compost use for specific crops and other applications. *Instructors: Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton, University of Florida/SWFREC; Dr. Ronald French-Monar, Texas A&M University-TCE.*

Aerated Static Pile Composting: Applications and Advancements

Participants will learn about the anatomy of an Aerated Static Pile, different generic and proprietary aerated compost systems, how the basic composting parameters (C:N, bulk density and moisture content) play a critical role in designing an ASP System. *Instructor: Peter Moon, PE, O2Compost, Snohomish, WA.*

Health and Safety Issues of Composting

This half-day program covers the specific health and safety concerns of the composting operation, including mechanical hazards of equipment, heat/

cold stress, overexertion injuries, engulfment and the biological and chemical hazards of raw materials and the composting process steps. *Instructor: Nellie Brown, Cornell University.*

When Bad Things Happen at Your Composting Facility—Imagining What Can Go Wrong and How You Can Recover

In this highly-interactive half-day workshop, we will explore a range of crises to which a composting facility may be vulnerable and begin the process of developing plans for recovery and business/operation continuity. *Instructor: Nellie Brown, Cornell University.*

Zero Waste Program Development and Implementation

This workshop will give program managers and special event planners the tools necessary for successful zero waste program development, planning and implementation. *Instructors: Peter Klaich, GreenTech; John Connolly, JF Connolly Associates; Steve Chiv, San Francisco County, CA; Andy Taylor, Organix Recycling.*

Compost Outreach: Best Practices in Compost Education Programs

This half-day workshop takes you through the components of successful compost education programs and outreach efforts. *Instructor: Stan Slaughter.*

Management of Odor Issues at Compost Facilities

This workshop will provide information for and discuss odor management for various handling systems and control technologies for composting. *Instructor: Jeff Gage, Longview, Washington.*

Tour of Three Local Composting Facilities

Climb on board for a tour of 3 very different compost operations

1. Lanier High School, who have installed an XACT In-Vessel BioReactor and Vermicomposting System
2. City of Austin Hornsby Bend Biosolids Composting Facility, award winning producer of Dillo Dirt
3. Texas Disposal Systems Materials Recovery Facility, Composting Facility, and Exotic Game Ranch (this will be a more in-depth tour than what will be possible at the Equipment Demonstrations on Friday). *Instructor: Risa Weinberger.*

To review new offerings, visit the USCC website www.compostingcouncil.org

CONFERENCE PROGRAM / WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

PLENARY SESSION

Welcome. *Lee Leffingwell, Mayor of Austin, TX* ■ **Plenary Keynote: Whole Foods Market's Sustainability Efforts—The Environment as a Stakeholder. *Lee Matecko, Whole Foods Market, Austin, TX***

TRACK 1: INDUSTRY FUTURE, POLICY DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

FUTURE OF THE INDUSTRY

An Inflection Point in Organics Management. *Paul Sellow, Harvest Power, Waltham, MA* ■ **Roadmap to Sustainable Organics Diversion: 2012 & Beyond.** *Nora Goldstein, Biocycle Emmaus, PA* ■ **A Code to Call Our Own—A Call to Action: The Road to a NAICS Code for Composting.** *Andrew Kessler, Turning Earth, Berwyn, PA*

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING ORGANICS RECYCLING

Partnership to Develop a Model Compost Rule Template. *Stephanie Busch, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, GA* ■ **Landfill Bans on Organics: Update & Strategies.** *Rebecca Geraty, St. Louis Composting, St. Louis, MO* ■ **Imprelis Update.** *Fred Michel, Ohio State University, Wooster, OH*

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: SPOTLIGHT ON NIGERIA

Help Create the Future of Composting in Nigeria. *Ilesanmi Oluwaseun, Federal College of Forestry, Ibadan, Nigeria* ■ **Economic Importance of Composting in Organic Farming.** *Fetuga Oluwatosin Esther, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria* ■ **Composting Education in Nigerian Institutions: Prospects & Challenges for Sustainable Development.** *Onawumi Olufisayo, Federal College of Forestry, Ibadan, Nigeria*

TRACK 2: FACILITY MANAGEMENT, ODOR CONTROL, ANAEROBIC DIGESTION

COMPOST FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Quality Metrics: The Art & Science of Producing Top Quality Products. *Jan Allen, Harvest Power, Waltham, MA* ■ **Web Based Compost Controls: How to Improve Sustainability & Performance Without Getting in Your Car.** *Tim O'Neill, Engineered Compost Systems, Seattle, WA* ■ **BMPs for Stormwater Management.** *Scott McCoy, KSS Consulting, Austin, TX*

ODOR CONTROL AND AIR QUALITY IMPACTS

Air Quality Implications of Enclosed Organics Processing Facilities. *Craig S. Coker, Coker Composting & Consulting, Vinton, VA* ■ **Odor Management Planning.** *Jeff Gage, Compost Design Services, Olympia, WA* ■ **Using a Compost Cap for Odor and Emissions Control.** *Matthew Cotton, IWM Consulting, Nevada City, CA*

ANAEROBIC DIGESTION, INTEGRATION WITH COMPOSTING

Benefits of Combining Anaerobic Digestion & Composting Operations. *Caroline Chappell, Bioferm Energy Systems, Madison, WI* ■ **Co-Anaerobic Digestion of Manure & Source-Separated Organics.** *Jay Kilbourn, New England Organics, Portland, ME* ■ **End of Life Option for Bioplastics: Benefit of Mirel's Anaerobic Biodegradability to Generate Biogas.** *Deb Darby, Mirel Bioplastics by Telles, Lowell, MA* ■ **Cost-Benefit Analysis of Integrated AD & Composting Versus Composting Alone.** *Luc De Baere, Organic Waste Systems, Dayton Ohio*

TRACK 3: THE SOIL & WATER CONNECTION

COMPOST USE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The Sustainable Sites Initiative: Focus on Compost. *Frederick 'Fritz' Steiner, Mark Simmons and Danielle Pieranunzi, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, University of Texas and American Society of Landscape Architects, Austin, TX* ■ **Compost & Carbon Sequestration.** *Sally Brown, University of Washington, Seattle, WA*

COMPOST UTILIZATION IN CROPS AND LANDSCAPES

Heavy Metal Uptake by Leafy Greens & Implications for Health Impacts. *Awotoye Olubukola Omotayo, Federal College Of Forestry, Ibadan, Nigeria* ■ **Compost Use: Innovative Compost Gardening System Applies to Conventional Agriculture, Urban Gardens, Backyards & More.** *Rodney W. Tyler, Filtrex International, Grafton, OH* ■ **Study on Producing Manmade Media for Sowing & Planting Seedlings of Several Plants.** *Nguyen Thanh Binh, Nong Lam University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam* ■ **Use of Compost Tea for Bioremediation.** *Fatih Büyüksönmez, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA*

IMPROVED WATER SANITATION & IRRIGATION THROUGH USE OF COMPOST

Composting, Organic Technology & the Challenges of Urban Organic Waste & Stormwater

Management in Nigeria: A Case Study of Ibadan Metropolis. *Amori Adeola Abayomi, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria* ■ **Soil Water Availability Status Under a System of Rice Intensification.** *Dr. Veena Sharma, Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agricultural, Sciences & Technology, Jammu, India* ■ **Use of Composting Toilets for Improved Intestinal Health.** *Keith Bell, Recycling Programs, Inc., Lake Worth, FL*

TRACK 4: POWER MEETING, COMPOST MARKETS & MARKETING

GET EMPOWERED!

Attend the meeting of POWER (Perishable Organics Waste to Energy Recycling) to learn how the National Restaurant Association promotes post-consumer food residual recycling. Lively presentations address the highest & best use for post-consumer food scraps & food & composting safety measures. The session ends with closing the loop via urban agriculture using compost made from local restaurant food scraps. Compost's vital role in developing healthy soil, water & agricultural systems is emphasized throughout the session. Support the foodservice industry with their POWERful role in diverting organics.

MARKETING PROGRAMS: ACHIEVEMENTS & ADVANCES

Selecting and Selling to the Right Market. *Folaseun Morunfoluwa Ajayi, EXP Nigeria, Lagos, Nigeria* ■ **Three Million Cubic Yards & Counting: Ensuring a Sustainable Market for Compost in Texas.** *Barrie Cogburn, Texas Department Of Transportation (TxDot) Design Division, Austin, TX* ■ **Biosolids Compost—What's It Worth?** *Todd Williams, CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc., Mechanicsville, VA* ■ **The Value of Vermicompost.** *Rhonda Sherman, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC*

COMPOST MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

Introducing the Consumer Compost Use Program & Strive for 5%. *Frank Franciosi, Novozymes North America, Franklinton, NC* ■ **Teaming up to Develop Landscaping Markets.** *Michele Young, City of San Jose, San Jose, CA* ■ **Landscaping & Environmental Trends in Compost Usage.** *Ron Alexander, R. Alexander Associates, Inc, Apex NC* ■ **Putting a True Economic Value on the Use of Compost in Various Applications which Impact Soil-Water Connections, Healthy Soils, Safer Local Food & Clean Water Resources.** *Rodney W. Tyler, Filtrex International, Grafton, OH*

CONFERENCE PROGRAM / THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

TRACK 1: EDUCATION, DIVERTING ORGANICS FROM THE WASTE STREAM

COMPOSTING EDUCATION & EDUCATING WITH COMPOST

Best Practices In Compost Education. *Stan Slaughter, Tall Oak Productions, Lee's Summit,*

MO ■ **Composting as Co-Curricula Activity for Secondary Schools; The Nigerian Experience.** *Oladele George, Osun State College of Technology, Esa Oke, Nigeria* ■ **Composting Education: A Bedrock for Sustainable Development.** *Onawumi Temitope Timothy, Egbeda Local Government, Ibadan, Nigeria* ■ **In the Concrete Jungle of New**

York City, Composting Brings Urban Youth Back to Nature. *Leanne Spaulding, Western Queens Compost Initiative, New York, NY*

ORGANICS DIVERSION 1: BEST PRACTICES

Best Management Practices in Food Scraps Recovery—A National Study. *Juri Freeman,*

Skumatz Economic Research Associates, Superior, CO ■ **Social Marketing May be a Way Past Food Scraps Programs Perceptions & Behavioral Barriers—Results from a Detailed Social Marketing Project.** Lisa A. Skumatz, Ph.D., Skumatz Economic Research Associates, Inc., Superior, CO ■ **Organics Collection Drive Innovation and 80% Waste Diversion in San Jose's 2012 Commercial Solid Waste System.** Jo Zientek, City of San Jose, San Jose, CA

ORGANICS DIVERSION 2: EXPANDING OPTIONS

Municipal Commercial Food Waste Recycling Program—from Single Originators to Route System. Ana Carvalho, City of San Diego Environmental Services Department, San Diego, CA ■ **Diverting Grocery Store Organics—Year One Perspectives.** Robin Sweere, PMP, CSCA, Quest Recycling, Frisco, TX ■ **Expanding the Toolkit for Diverting Food Scraps: Disposers and the Wastewater Treatment System.** Kendall Christiansen, Principal, Gaia Strategies; Senior Consultant for Insinkerator, Brooklyn, NY ■ **What's The Story on Garbage Disposal Food Scraps Programs? Pros & Cons from Implementation in a Colorado Community.** Lisa A. Skumatz, Ph.D., Skumatz Economic Research Associates, Inc. (SERA), Superior, CO

TRACK 2: WORKER PROTECTION, COMPOSTING TECHNOLOGIES

RISK REDUCTION AND WORKER PROTECTION AT COMPOST FACILITIES

Worker Safety at Compost Facilities. Eric Pennington, Texas Disposal Systems, Creedmoor, TX ■ **Composting Road-Killed Deer Carcasses: Worker Protection.** Nellie J. Brown, Cornell University, Buffalo, NY ■ **Preventing & Controlling Fires.** Robert Rynk, SUNY Cobleskill, Cobleskill, NY

COMPOSTING TECHNOLOGY

State-Of-The-Art For Utilizing Organic Waste. George M. Savage And Luis F. Diaz, CalRecovery, Inc., Concord, CA ■ **Operational Experience Using The Aerated Static Pile Composting System.** John T. Bouey, Managed Organic Recycling, Inc., Oakland, CA ■ **Successful Food Residual Integration Into Existing Yard Waste Composting Operations.** Jeffrey Budzich, P.E., WeCare Organics, Jordan, NY

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Go to www.compostingcouncil.org or call the USCC at 631.737.4931. Exhibitor information, sponsorship opportunities, conference registration forms, conference highlights & workshop agendas are available at the USCC website or call the number above.

ON-SITE/SMALLER SCALE SYSTEMS

Small Scale Urban Composters: The Front Line of Composting. Justen Garrity, Veteran Compost, Aberdeen, MD ■ **In-Vessel Composting & Vermicomposting Case Study Using the Xact Bio-Reactor & The Oragrow Worm Bed in an Austin High School.** Willis M. Ponder PE, ACR Engineering Inc., Austin, TX ■ **Social and Economical Benefits of Mid-Scale On-Site Composting for Residential, Institutional and Commercial Sectors.** Cecilia Ek, Susteco AB, Gothenburg, Sweden ■ **Composting: It's What We Do! On-Site Composting for Small to Medium Food Waste Generators.** Mary Schwarz, Cornell Waste Management Institute, Ithaca, NY

TRACK 3: SECOND ANNUAL COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS SYMPOSIUM

The types, products and uses of compostable plastics are growing, bringing great possibilities, significant challenges, and a lot of uncertainty. Where are these products working? Where and why are they not? What are the issues faced by producers, users and composters and how will they get resolved? This one-day “conference-in-a-conference” will update you on the hot issues, educating stakeholders and fostering participation in this important conversation. **Featured speakers include:** Brenda Platt, Institute for Local Self Reliance, Steve Mojo, Biodegradable Products Institute, Ramani Narayan, Michigan State, Matt Cotton, Integrated Waste Management Consulting & Michele Young, City of San José.

The USCC, in partnership with the California Organics Recycling Committee (CORC) and the SPI-Bioplastics Council, initiated a Task Force on these issues at the 2011 Conference in California. To see proceedings from the 2011 Symposium and check out the Bioplastics White Paper, visit www.compostingcouncil.org/compostable-plastics-symposium/

SYMPOSIUM PART 1: COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS BASICS

Overview & Issues. Brenda Platt, Institute for Local Self Reliance & Sustainable Biomaterials Collaborative, Washington, DC ■ **Bioplastics: Opportunities and Challenges.** Julia Dolfen, Fkur Plastics Corporation, Cedar Park, TX ■ **What's a Composter to Do?** Matt Cotton, Integrated Waste Management, Inc, Nevada City, CA

SYMPOSIUM PART 2: STANDARDS, LABELING AND IDENTIFICATION

The Science Behind Compostable Plastics and the ASTM Standards. Ramani Narayan, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI ■ **Are Compostability Standards Representative for Real-Life Composting Plants?** Bruno De Wilde, Organic Waste Systems, Gent, Belgium ■ **Labeling & ID Recommendations.** Steve Mojo, Biodegradable Products Institute, New York, NY

SYMPOSIUM PART 3: WORKING GROUP UPDATES—CONTINUING THE NATIONAL CONVERSATION

Progress Reports and Discussion from the Five Working Groups: Legislation and Enforcement, Consumer Education, Labeling and Identification, Compostability Standards, and Operational Impacts. Michele Young and Deb Darby, USCC Task Force Co-Chairs

LIVE EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATIONS & FACILITY TOURS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

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8:30 pm–12:00 pm / Jeff Gage
 - When Bad Things Happen at Your Composting Facility—
Imagining What Can Go Wrong & How You Can Recover** \$145 / \$195
1:00 pm–5:00 pm / Nellie Brown
 - Zero Waste Program Development & Implementation** \$145 / \$195
1:00 pm–5:00 pm / Peter Klaich, John Connolly,
Steve Chiv, Andy Taylor

- One-Day Pass**
- Wednesday, January 18
 - Thursday, January 19
 - Member Rate \$225
 - Member Rate (after December 24) \$245
 - Non-Member Rate \$255
 - Non-Member Rate (after December 24) \$280

- Full-Day Workshops**
- USCC “Foundations of Compost” Training Course** \$195 / \$245
8:30 am–4:30 pm / Dr. Robert Rynk
 - Compost Use in Agriculture, Horticulure & Landscaping** \$195 / \$245
8:30 am–4:30 pm / Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton &
Dr. Ronald French-Monar
 - Aerated Static Pile Composting—Applications & Advancements** \$195 / \$245
9:00 am–3:00 pm / Peter Moon

- Certification Exam**
- USCC/SWANA Rate \$175
 - Non-Member Rate \$275

- Tradeshow**—Program guide, exhibits, refreshment breaks & reception
- Wednesday, January 18 \$85
 - Thursday, January 19 \$85

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(check all additions)

- Half-Day Workshops (AM)**
- Management of Odor Issues at Compost Facilities** \$145 / \$195
8:30 am–12:00 pm / Jeff Gage
 - Health and Safety Issues of Composting** \$145 / \$195
8:30 am–12:00 pm / Nellie Brown
 - Compost Outreach: Best Practices in
Compost Education Programs** \$145 / \$195
8:30 am–12:00 pm / Stan Slaughter

- Networking Events (check all that apply)**
- Tour of Three Local Compost Facilities (Friday) \$95 / \$145
 - Awards Luncheon (Thursday) \$25
 - Equipment Demonstrations, Facility Tour & Luncheon \$55
 - Exhibitors' Reception (Wednesday) included
 - BPI Zero Waste Reception (Thursday) included
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Hotel Information

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2012 USCC Conference 'Sneak Preview(s)'

We've published just a few abstracts gleaned from the many excellent presentations planned for the **20th Annual USCC Conference & Tradeshow**. The following selections represent the broad scope of topics that will be presented at the 2012 conference. A list of other presentation sessions can be found on the USCC website at www.compostingcouncil.org and in the conference insert contained in this newsletter.

WHOLE FOODS MARKET'S SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS— THE ENVIRONMENT AS A STAKEHOLDER

LEE MATECKO, Whole Foods Markets

Whole Foods Markets strive to fulfill a deeper purpose in running its business. The company and team members serve many interconnected stakeholders, including the environment. This presentation will speak to Whole Foods market's sustainability efforts, their evolution in environmentally friendly store design, the company's work and vision in composting and recycling and how 'being green' is a way of life at Whole Foods markets.

USING COMPOST CAP FOR ODOR AND EMISSIONS CONTROL

MATTHEW COTTON, Integrated Waste
Management Consulting

Odor control at composting facilities continues to be the industry's Achilles heel—odors from compost operations are still the number one reason compost facilities close. In recent years there have been great strides in understanding compost odors, and how to deal with them. Most of these don't involve

complicated technical fixes, and in fact many sources of odor at compost facilities can be managed via simple management practices and procedures.

One of the most useful ways at managing odors from composting facilities is to look at the individual components of a given facility and manage odor at each step of the manufacturing process. Receiving, processing, composting, screening, curing, storage, etc. Looked at this way, individual techniques can be applied to individual areas, hopefully lowering the overall odor profile of the facility. There are a great variety of composting facilities out there and feedstocks, local conditions (especially meteorology), technology, and proximity of neighbors can all have an impact on whether or not compost odors become a nuisance.

It is well-established that the largest and most consistent volume of odor at a windrow compost facility are the windrows themselves. This is predominantly due to the large surface area represented by the windrows. In general, materials in the early stages of decomposition present the greatest risk of odors because they generate greater quantities of volatile compounds and they need more oxygen to remain aerobic.

In 2007, the California Integrated Waste Management Board commissioned a study of compost odors. The Comprehensive Compost Odor Response Project may not have been the first time someone thought of using finished compost as a pseudo-biofilter, but it was the first time the impacts were quantified in a laboratory setting. Dr. Fatih Büyüksömez, San Diego State University was the lead researcher on the C-CORP report and documented that the "compost cap" was effective at reducing odors of terpenes, ammonia and reduced sulfur compounds.

The presentation will summarize the research that has been done on compost cap, but will focus on the use of

the cap as an odor and VOC mitigation technique, following recent decisions by air districts in CA to require the compost cap as part of VOC mitigation.

CO-ANAEROBIC DIGESTION OF MANURE AND SOURCE SEPARATED ORGANIC WASTE

JAY KILBOURNE, New England Organics

In order to achieve the multiple public policy objectives of: "Zero Waste", including organic waste diversion from disposal; renewable energy development; and enhanced sustainability of local dairy farms & agriculture, many technical, operational, regulatory and financial challenges must be overcome. This presentation will explore the challenges and some solutions to the management and co-digestion of manure and food wastes, or Source Separated Organics (SSO feedstock).

Topics will include:

- Approaches to successful contracting and collection of SSO based upon recent experience with customers in the industrial & commercial sector who generate food scraps and food preparation/processing byproducts.
- Lessons regarding valuation and quality considerations for selection and digestion of SSO.
- Processing & handling SSO for successful digestion.
- Understanding the digestion process and feedstock recipe calculations.
- Planning for highest value end products of digestion and managing their uses.
- High level financial analysis and considerations.
- A Green Five Farm Project Update.

Specific project experience informing this presentation includes development of the Agreen Energy project for co-digestion of manure and SSO.

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2012 USCC Conference (continued)

COMPOSTING: IT'S WHAT WE DO! ON-SITE COMPOSTING FOR SMALL TO MEDIUM FOOD WASTE GENERATORS

MARY SCHWARZ, Cornell Waste Management Institute at Cornell University

In 2008, an estimated 389.5 million tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) were generated in the US. Ninety-four million tons (24%) was recycled, composted or mulched, 7% was burned in waste-to-energy plants, and the rest, 270 million tons or 69%, was sent to landfills. Compared to 1999 figures in which 33% was recycled and 60% was landfilled, it appears that Americans need to rethink how and what they discard. In broad terms, we need to prevent waste, reuse materials, recycle those we cannot reuse, recover organics (food residuals, non-recyclable paper and yard trimmings), and redirect materials to other than their original use.

Food residuals, yard waste and other organics make up approximately 35% of the waste stream. In an individual household, food scraps can make up 20–50% of daily waste. For primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, restaurants, caterers and small food processing companies, that number can climb as high as 80%. Although organics make up a large part of these entities' waste streams, they are generally small to medium volume generators for whom transporting to commercial compost facilities may not be economical, available or feasible. On-site composting of these materials can not only reduce the amount of waste that is sent to the landfill and reduce greenhouse gas generation, but the use of the end product, compost, can store carbon and bring other benefits to the soil. In addition, converting food residuals and other organics to compost and then using that compost in the garden to grow more food completes the circle. On-site composting can help communities increase recycling rates even if they don't have the capacity for large scale composting.

Several institutions can help with education directly, or by partnering with industry including Cooperative Extension, USCC, waste managers and municipalities. The use of bins sales in these programs can be an

incentive for these places to start composting. A broad scale education program that highlights the "why's and how's" of on-site composting can help homeowners and other small to medium scale food scrap generators infuse composting into the culture of their homes, schools, institutions, restaurants and businesses and make composting "What We Do".

COMPOST AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION

SALLY BROWN, Ph. D., University of Washington

Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a powerful tool to evaluate the full range of costs and benefits associated with a particular practice. A number of LCAs have been done on different components of municipal solid waste including food scraps, yard trimmings and municipal biosolids. These types of analysis can be used to evaluate the most appropriate end use or disposal option for these materials. LCAs can be flawed however, when only a portion of potential benefits are considered. In addition, these types of analysis are typically conducted on the basis of a per mass unit of residual. If the perspective is changed, to say one hectare or one acre—a very different perspective is provided. We recently completed a sampling of a range of sites in WA state where composts and biosolids had been applied over time. Total carbon, soil bulk density, total N, available P, and soil water holding capacity were measured. Results were expressed on both a per ton of amendment applied and a per ha basis. Across all sites sampled, amendment addition resulted in significant increases in soil carbon and nitrogen. Increased water holding capacity was also observed on a number of the sites. Expressed on a per ha basis, organic amendment addition results in highly significant soil carbon storage and is likely the most effective way to restore soil tilth in a timely manner.

BIOSOLIDS COMPOST—WHAT'S IT WORTH?

TODD WILLIAMS, CH2MHILL

Biosolids composting in the United States continues to proliferate with nearly 260 active projects, according to

Beecher and Goldstein (2010). Many utilities continue to consider composting as a proven biosolids management alternative, especially when management of other materials such as brush and yard wastes are included. However, with the exception of anecdotal information about occasional case studies, little information exists in the public domain on the value of compost products being generated and in the majority of cases, sold by public and private composters nationwide. Due to the lack of this information, many would-be planners and designers of new biosolids composting facilities believe that a cost for disposal of compost produced must be included. The fact is, the majority of facilities have robust marketing programs and many of them are sold out of compost products. But, limited information exists on the regional pricing of compost sold, the methods used for sale (bulk sales, bagged, or both) and the marketing efforts being practiced. Further, little is known about the breakdown of market segments to where compost is being sold on a national basis. In order to determine more accurate information on the marketing practices and the value of compost products throughout the U.S., the authors surveyed biosolids composting facilities throughout the U.S., to gather definitive data on the value received from the sales of compost products, its nutrient contents, the marketing methods used (in house staff, contract sales, etc.) and the overall impact on operating costs that the revenues of these products offset. Trends in compost pricing over the past 5 years will also be discussed.

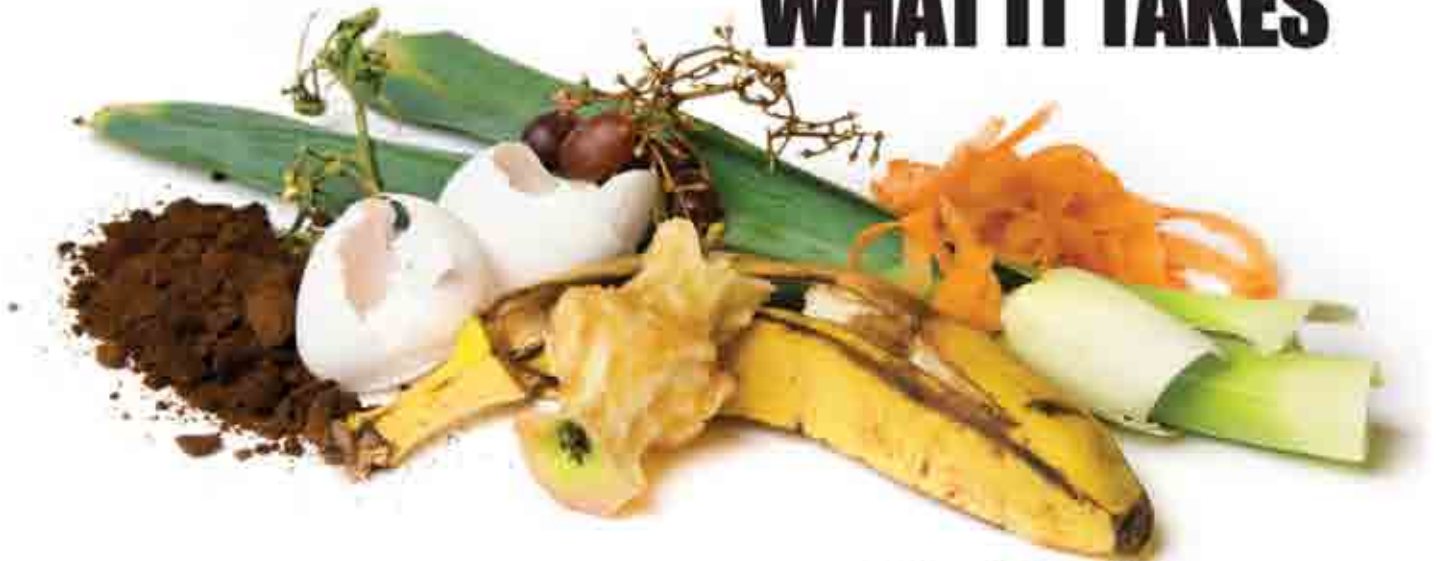
This information will provide useful and meaningful data to planners and engineers who are considering composting as an alternative for biosolids management or who are actually developing new or expanded facilities.

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ICAW is an annual event designed to promote composting and the use of compost to communities across the world. It is fun and educational creating opportunities for young and old to learn about compost and its benefits. It features both composting projects in people's backyards as well as some of the largest commercial facilities in the world. For tips and ideas, see the ICAW page under programs on www.compostingcouncil.org or contact the ICAW Committee at icaw@compostingcouncil.org

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Best of List Serve

This feature is not intended to provide detailed and thorough answers to the questions or issues raised. They can be found, in some cases, by examining the volumes of compost science research. The edited dialogs printed are just that, with some answers yet to be determined. This section is presented to provide a summary of the thoughts and suggestions of those who participated in an exchange that generated much interest and many responses. The handling of grass, out of all the organic feedstocks, generated a huge number of responses over the past two months, as listed below.

Q: I recently returned from a greenwaste composter in the western U.S. who is separating out (as best as he can) grass clippings from brushy greenwaste as he claims it accelerates the wear on the teeth of his tub grinder. However, he's getting odor problems from the grass clippings being added directly into his windrows at a ratio of 2 volumes ground brushy waste to one volume of grass. As a stopgap measure, I suggested he raise his ratio to 3:1, but am thinking he should run the clippings through the grinder for mixing, if nothing else. Has anyone had experience with grinding (or not grinding) grass clippings?

Responses

1. Does this greenwaste project turn with a loader or turner? If he's using a loader I suspect that your recommendation to grind is worth the cost as the grass clumps are a certain odor problem. If he's using a turner he should be fine as long as he aggressively turns very soon after forming the row. I have had the worst trouble with grass as much due to mixing problems as low C:N.
2. How large is the screen size in the grinder? With a large screen the wear is minimal compared to the advantages of mixing reducing the labor of separation and adding later, etc.
3. I have had 19 years of experience of grinding, and not grinding grass from curbside green waste collections. (I agree) regarding grinding if the windrows are loader turned, and not grinding if windrow turners are used. The other point I would like to emphasize is that this has to be accomplished very soon after receipt, usually within 2 to 4 hours. Grass is very difficult to manage and not generate significant odors. Here is a synopsis of what I have been doing to limit odors from grass rich loads.

We screened out grass first with a 3 inch disk screen to reduce wear on the grinder, we then re-combined the separated materials immediately using the discharge conveyors from the screen and the grinder, once we even used a 3" mesh screen at that point to really remix the materials well. For this system we either shipped the separated, ground and re-mixed materials to a second facility or we kept it at the primary site. No matter what, we had an aeration floor for the mixed material to be placed on, whether it had to be shipped or directly composted. If this step was neglected, we had significant silage odors within 8 hours of screening and grinding and remixing. It was like turning on the big composting switch, temps would exceed 150 degrees F within one day, and we had to deliver air flows greater than 5 cfm per cubic yard to limit malodors being generated, and also to keep the piles below 140 degrees F where we had great success controlling odors without biofilters. Likely due to the diverse micro-fauna eating the volatile organic compounds in the moist outer layers of the pile, and maintaining over 15% oxygen in the piles at all times.

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We also found that we had to turn very frequently every 2 to 4 days or the piles would compact and lose volume, and even with forced aeration could get dense and odorous near the base of the pile. By week 3, most of the active composting was complete, and we were able to go to curing, turning every 7 to 10 days and significantly reduced aeration. This system was handling over 70% grass during the spring and summer by volume as delivered without additional bulking agents added. The Pierce County Compost Facility in Purdy Washington has been operating since 1992 in this manner without significant odor impacts in a suburban community, handling on average 45,000 tons per year on a 2 acre pad.

At Lenz Enterprises in Stanwood Washington we expanded from 50 tons per day of self haul yard waste, chicken manure and paunch manure to 270 tons per day of that feedstock plus the extra new stuff being Spring and Summer curbside green waste and post consumer food waste. Here we bucket blended the delivered materials within a half hour of delivery and fed it all directly into a Peterson horizontal grinder with 6 and 8 inch grates on it. We would add about 25% wood chips by volume to the blend before grinding to keep some structural porosity. This material was well blended and it took very little time. We placed it in an aerated static pile and covered it with a foot of finished coarse compost. This system had a biofilter in the suction mode and the one foot cover in the pressure mode. Oxygen levels were maintained above 15% at all times as air was provided continuously for seven days and then the pile was removed, rewetted, and then put into a turned extended horizontal pile. No aeration was provided except by turning after the seventh day. We turned the pile twice a week during the grass season. This facility has been operating for 3 years next to a major highway and homes without odor complaints.

So the point is it is a combination of on-time handling, thorough mixing with turners or grinders, making a very coarse porous structure or using forced aeration to keep oxygen levels above 15% in the piles, and turning to reestablish porosity during the first one to two weeks. If you do this then odors will be minimized for handling grass.

4. Thanks for your comments. To answer your questions, the Duratech tub grinder has a 4 x 4 screen on one side and a 5 x 7 screen on the other. Windrows are turned with a Scarab straddle turner (tunnel size 8' x 18'). Additional information: composting pad is bare earth, windrows are built with a Volvo loader using a 7 CY bucket. The operator pulls one bucket out of the grass clippings/garden residuals pile, places it in the windrow, then covers it with two buckets (now three) of ground up brushy wastes. The windrow is built 500' long and turned with the Scarab after watering at 220 gpm with an overhead traveling irrigation system. Bulk density of a portion of a windrow built in late August (measured with bucket test) was 450 lbs/CY. While I was there, a windrow built in late July was turned and there was a noticeable sour grass smell (windrow temps were 140–145 until mid-Sept, then up to 159–165 in late Sept.; windrow has been turned 8 times). Moisture is an issue (annual rain of less than 12") and, even with watering almost daily, dryness in the windrows is keeping temperatures elevated longer. I've suggested they try to "layer-cake" grass clippings and grindings in the windrow building process to spread the grass clippings out, rather than "bucket-build" the ingredients prior to turning (I'm thinking this is creating clumps of grass clippings in the windrows not fully mixed by the Scarab) and to build this over a 12" bed of ground brushy material (to serve both as an air plenum and leachate absorbent layer).



Best of List Serve (Continued)

5. If I understood your time line they are currently making 8 turns in 8 weeks. Try 8 turns in 4 weeks. Definitely have him layer cake for proportioning either in a pre-mix pile before grinding, or pre-mix windrow, or if it is placed in the final windrow location. It is more difficult to do this in the final windrow location without driving up on the compost. Layering is done easier from the side of a windrow, which takes lots more alley space or requires the neighboring windrow to be removed before constructing a new one.

Have him throw out the 4" by 4" grate sections and stick with 5 by 7 inch sections throughout the grinding chamber. This will increase his throughput, keep the brush pieces bigger which will help porosity, and then he should again try grinding the grass in the right proportions with the brush (try the 2:1 ratio again with the smaller windrows) and see if he can live with the tooth wear. This will reduce the number of times to turn with the windrow turner that first day. There really is no free lunch to good initial mixing, it just takes work.

Then if he is not co-grinding everything together, definitely have him turn the same day as construction even if the windrow is not completed in length. This initial pile really should be turned and watered twice to get reasonable initial mixing and to make sure it is wet enough.

It may also be very important to have him create an initially smaller pile than an eight foot deep pile, especially during the first 2 weeks of composting. Perhaps target a 6' even a 4' pile. The whole issue of what initial pile size depends on his materials particle size, proportions chosen for the mix, moisture levels, and of course turning frequency. With so many variables, he should invest in and USE an oxygen probe to make sure he maintains an oxygen level above 10% at times in the first few weeks no matter what the pile size, bulking agent and turning frequency configuration he chooses.

At 450 pounds per cubic yard, it sounds like the bulk density was already low enough for good oxygenation, assuming this is a 55% plus moisture bulk density reading. If not, he should have a big hose and spray bar on the end of the grinder to assure they start off with plenty of surface moisture before placing in the windrows or water while turning those two times the first day. The properly wetted (>55%) initial material should be below 600 pounds per cubic yard if at all possible for small windrow composting.

The silage smell will go away with good oxygen levels (>10%) throughout the new windrows. He cannot be a slave to the size of the machine he bought. He has to adjust the pile sizes, pile porosity in his initial mix, and turning frequency until the air flow through the pile meets the biological oxygen demand continuously. Until he gets the right formula, he needs to test the oxygen as frequently as he checks temperatures. When the mix changes with the seasons or new feedstocks, he should recheck his piles and assumptions.

6. I suggest you construct rows with brush only, then later add the grass on top and turn into the row with the straddle turner. The idea is to have a row that is begging for moisture and nitrogen allowing the grass to provide what's needed instead of something that needs to be mitigated. I think that the imperfection of the grass application by a loader will be acceptable as the row is porous, carbon-rich and ready to accept the grass. Water can later be added as needed to adjust moisture, but if all goes well, subsequent applications of grass may be added.
7. I would agree that bulking agent is laid out and the denser material is added in lifts of two to four applications shaved (is what we call it) across the length of the windrow for even distribution. The bulking agent also has to be screened by loader operator if it is real woody (pallets). We also shave that across the normal ground curbside. We water before each turn with a water truck, turn and then add another layer the next day and sometimes the same day. No smell and easier on Scarab.

8. I would suggest building the windrow exactly opposite of how they are building the row. Build with the brush material on the bottom and the grass on top, and turning immediately after to mix. Then you should add your water. The way the straddle windrow turner lifts the material into the air, the heavy material (wet grass) stays on the bottom and the light material (brush) stays on top. If you flip flop the way they are building the row you should get a much better mix as the material falls to the ground. I don't think it would matter as to when you add the water before or after you turn the row.

9. Odor is the killer. Everything else doesn't matter if you generate odor and neighbors complain. They will cause any composting operation severe heartburn. I agree with nearly all of the suggestions that the grass should not be put unmixed on the bottom. The only one suggestion I might hedge on would be minimum oxygen content and turning. If a pile is above 130, and approximately 50% moisture, it is working.

If odor is a problem, experiment with capping the windrow with wet ground wood if it is above 5% oxygen. As I tell people, dog poo doesn't smell till you step in it. By turning a row that has odor in the inside, that odor is released. If left alone with a little time, the exterior of the row becomes somewhat of a biofilter. Turners, like grinders, also are expensive to operate and maintain. I consider them an excellent mixing/grinding tool but they should be used only when necessary.

When I have had rows that were too dense & wouldn't breathe, I found the oxygen levels dropped below 5% within 20 minutes of turning. If your ingredients are grass and brush and your density is under 500lbs/cu yd., and your moisture is 50%, I think your problem was caused by putting the grass at the bottom. That recipe should breathe like a wood stove.

Grind everything that comes in each day, except wood going to the mulch market. Please go to a larger screen if wear and throughput are a concern, add water at grinding if needed. If a pile of ground YW isn't put into the row the same day, cap the peak of the pile with ground wood.

10. I agree with most of what has been said on this thread so far. Not surprisingly I agree with the need for better mixing. Re-reading your post I recall the use of a 7 cubic yard bucket. That's a pretty big bucket to use for loader-mixing. I agree this facility might consider using the Scarab more aggressively for initial mixing as others have suggested.

Given that your original post sought a stop-gap measure for odor, you might consider (in addition to the techniques previously mentioned) adding a 4 to 6 inch layer of finished compost "blanket" (or what our colleague Fatih Buyuksonmez calls the "Pseudo-biofilter") to the top third or so of the initial windrows. Although the compost blanket has some counterintuitive properties (i.e., it will increase overall pile bulk density and may inhibit air flow), Fatih's work has shown that it can be effective at reducing some of the odors you would expect from grass—ammonia, amines, and VOCs. Apply the blanket immediately after pile formation and turn it into the windrow when you turn. There is anecdotal evidence that by turning in the finished compost you are also "seeding" the fresh organics with more fully developed bacterial populations present in the finished compost. Some air districts in CA are going to be requiring the Compost Blanket as a VOC reduction measure, so we will probably have a lot more evidence of this technique's effectiveness in a few years (these Rules were just written and have not been fully implemented).

Eliot once told me that grass in large quantities can be a lot like biosolids. The compost blanket has been used successfully at biosolids composting facilities (as well as at green material and food scraps sites)—though it can be challenging to apply if you don't have an articulated loader—and also probably challenging



Best of List Serve (Continued)

with a 7 cubic yard loader bucket—especially for the interior rows. In Fatih's lab experiment (using biosolids for organic acids) the compost blanket didn't show much improvement. The "sour" smell you describe might be from organic acids from the grass? So in the end the solution is better, more thorough, more frequent, mixing, but the compost blanket may minimize the odors from those piles that aren't thoroughly mixed.

I also agree that this facility may want to consider a different means of up front (initial) watering. Although I haven't seen the facility, what you describe as "an overhead traveling irrigation system" sounds like top-watering, which isn't going to be very effective in that climate. You need to get that water into the pile, not just on it. An increasing number of facilities here in CA are adding spray bars to the end of their grinder's discharge conveyors and/or using turners with integrated watering systems, all in hopes of adding moisture that stays in the pile. This is probably critical in the arid West where annual evaporation rates may be 2 or 3 times (or more) the annual rainfall.

Of course another option would be to investigate using a dedicated mixer (as you know, there are several makes and models available)—which in my experience is a fairly common practice at biosolids facilities and yet still rare at yard trimmings sites... Depending on the scale of the facility, using a dedicated mixer might also be cost effective—potentially reducing loader and Scarab time?

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In The News

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The types, products and uses of compostable plastics are growing, bringing great possibilities, significant challenges, and a lot of uncertainty. Why have compostable plastics? The goal is simple. Take what is now a contaminant at our compost yards and replace it with a material that is not only a feedstock in it’s own right but more importantly allows access to other valuable feedstocks, especially food residuals. What are the issues? Labeling and enforcement are two. Some products are compostable but it’s almost impossible to distinguish them from the noncompostable products they are supposed to replace. Other products may claim compostability but are not certified, so may not actually be compostable. Then there are the ones that are truly compostable but not within the processing time of the facility. That has lead some to question whether the standards for compostability themselves need to be updated, a third issue. A fourth major issue is whether there can or should be processing standards for facilities that take these materials. Finally, there are questions around the impact that these materials may have on marketing, especially if you sell to certified organic farms.

Where are these products working? Where and why are they not? What are the issues faced by producers, users and composters and how will they get resolved? This one-day “conference-in-a-conference” will update you on the hot issues, educating stakeholders and fostering participation in this important conversation. You can register for just the day or come for the whole conference.

Featured speakers include: **Brenda Platt**, *Institute for Local Self Reliance*; **Steve Mojo**, *Biodegradable Products Institute*; **Ramani Narayan**, *Michigan State*; **Matt Cotton**, *Integrated Waste Management Consulting* and **Michele Young**, *City of San Jose*.

You can register for just the day of the Symposium, Thursday, Jan 19, or for the full conference. For full conference info go to www.compostingcouncil.org/conference/

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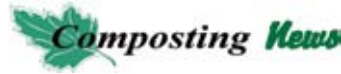
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