

Orlando 2013

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COMPOST:

Processed by

Doppstadt US

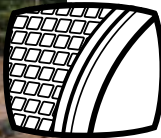
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USCC 21st Annual Conference & Tradeshow The Magic of Compost

28–31 January 2013
Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa
Orlando, FL

Conference time is at hand! Many of us will be gathering in Orlando, Florida in a few days to learn, network, explore and enjoy everything about the premiere composting and organic recycling event of 2013. We'll renew 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 21st Annual Conference & Tradeshow is almost here! Another excellent roster of topics, speakers and presentations is planned, and all just a 10 minutes walk from Downtown Disney! The full conference program is enclosed. See you soon!



President's Greeting Lorrie Loder



I am delighted to assume the position of President of the US Composting Council. I have been involved with the USCC for many years, and have served on a number of different committees. The opportunity to serve as your President is an honor, and rest assured that I will work very hard to advance the mission and to achieve the goals of this fine organization. These are exciting times for the USCC and I welcome the challenge of taking us to a new level!

My corporate background has been primarily in compost marketing and compost market development. The needs and desires of the USCC membership, based on our last member survey, are the highest in the area of my expertise. USCC members want to make compost a household word. USCC members want to receive more value for the compost that they are producing. USCC members want to see compost be recognized as the high quality, beneficial product that it is. We heard you and we have some exciting, new features and programs coming your way in 2013 to help us accomplish what you have requested.

We hired Colehour & Cohen (C&C) about this time last year to plan a national compost public relations/educational campaign. C&C, as you hopefully know by now, is the PR firm that helped to make "Energy Star" a household name. Months of planning and consultation with industry focus groups have led to the development of our "**Compost: Nature's Way to Grow**" slogan, being introduced in 2013 as the "**Million Tomato Compost Campaign**". We're joining with community gardens and chefs across the country to grow food crops using compost donated by USCC members. This campaign will help to spread the word that compost is a key component to building the healthy soil needed to grow sustainable, local food that helps build healthy

communities. Participating compost producers will be supplied with a media kit to share with local outlets, while the USCC and C&C will promote the program nationally on TV, the Internet and in print media. This is by far, the most ambitious and costly outreach effort ever undertaken by the USCC and we expect great results and member benefits resulting from our efforts!

We're in the process of developing a new, more consumer friendly website to help with the efforts described above and to make us much more visible to those looking for information on using and buying compost. Buy-compost.com is currently under development and we hope to be able to reveal the beta version at our 2013 conference. Our current USCC website is a fine organizational website, but it is not really designed specifically for consumers looking for compost. The new website will do exactly that. It will be much more aesthetically pleasing, be easier to navigate and contain the information that consumers need to find, buy and use compost! It will also serve as a site where community gardens can list their compost needs and where compost producers can connect with them.

We know that there is strength in numbers and strength in alliances with like-minded organizations. Our message gets disseminated more broadly, quicker and in more cost effective ways by joining forces with organizations with a similar mission. 2012 saw such alliances formed with Keep America Beautiful (KAB), the National Restaurant Association (NRA) and the American Biogas Council (ABC). The KAB alliance has already produced several mutually beneficial activities for USCC members. We completed three webinars on compost and its uses over the past year, and jointly promoted each other's events. KAB will be a source of community garden contacts for our 2013 campaign



President's Greeting (continued)

and we'll be working with them in Orlando with the first garden to participate in our **Million Tomato Compost Campaign**. Similar efforts, with different goals, are now underway with NRA and ABC.

Finally, last but far from least, we have another outstanding conference planned for you in Orlando. The educational content is more diverse than ever. We'll have 11 workshops, including several new ones, to select from. Demo day will once again be a world class opportunity to view more composting related equipment, actually operating in one location, than any other venue. The social events will be excellent and we've built in more time for networking with your industry peers. It is, of course, in Orlando, so the opportunity to combine business with pleasure is unlimited. I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new USCC members at the 2013 conference. Please plan on attending and make sure to introduce yourself if we haven't met. I am here you serve YOU, the USCC membership, and to enhance the value of your participation in our organization. I wish you and your family a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2013. See you in Orlando!



A Message from the Executive Director Michael Virga



Growth, Partnerships & Awareness—What a fantastic time to be in the compost manufacturing industry! After 15 months on the job as the Executive Director of the US Composting Council (USCC), I remain thrilled to be a part of this industry and passionate about

the opportunities that we have ahead of us. 2012 was a year for growing as an industry, establishing strategic partnerships, and enhancing public awareness of the merits of recycling organics. Let's consider each of these in turn.

Growth—Our industry is growing. Every month I look forward to reading *BioCycle* and *Waste & Recycling News* cover to cover. I know that many of you, like me, view these two publications as vital sources of information about the state of the compost manufacturing industry and value their timely analyses of where we fit into the regulatory, social and environmental landscape.

Of particular interest to me are articles which cover new composting facilities, efforts to establish and grow programs to recover and recycle organics, and legislative initiatives aimed at encouraging growth in our industry. Month after month, *BioCycle* and *Waste & Recycling News* chart positive trends in our industry and point toward a path filled with promise and opportunity. To accelerate the pace, the USCC will be busy in 2013 with several key initiatives. In January we will be releasing our model rules for compost manufacturing, developed by a multi-stakeholder group of experts, to assist states as they revise existing regulations or promulgate new ones. Adoption of these rules will help mitigate the regulatory burden and streamline the permitting process for new composting facilities, enhancing opportunities to build infrastructure.

In March, the USCC will be launching the Million Tomato Campaign, a national effort focused on promoting compost use. The campaign will bring together the nation's compost producers, chefs, community gardens and food banks to help build healthy soil that produces sustainably grown, local food for the nation's communities. Celebrity Chef Nathan Lyon, co-host of the PBS series, *Growing a Greener World*, and author of "Good Food Starts Fresh" is the spokesperson for the campaign, encouraging community gardens to grow their own tomatoes in soil improved with compost and offering healthy tomato-based recipes for families.

Partnerships—I am extremely proud of the USCC's efforts to build strategic partnerships that will help us move forward on this path of sustained growth and economic vitality. The USCC's efforts, particularly in this area, are based on economic theory and aimed largely at increasing and balancing both the supply of

feedstock and the demand for compost. To increase the availability of feedstock that our members rely on, we support legislative efforts to ban organics from landfills and seek opportunities to build awareness of the social and environmental benefits of recycling organic material. To increase market demand for compost, we collaborate with industrial and commercial consumers such as landscapers, landscape architects, golf course superintendents, green builders and designers, and state agencies responsible for transportation infrastructure.

During 2012 the USCC took that spirit of cooperation and collaboration to a new level and established formal agreements with Keep America Beautiful (KAB), the National Restaurant Association (NRA) and the American Biogas Council (ABC) to develop and promote markets and processes for separating, recovering and recycling organics. With its vast network of academic institutions, KAB does a wonderful job of promoting the benefits of using compost to educators and students. NRA and its many thousands of members offer incredible opportunities to increase the recycling of food residuals. The USCC collaborates with ABC on how to achieve our shared objective of keeping organics out of landfills. We will continue these cooperative efforts in 2013 as well as formalize new synergistic partnerships with organizations such as the American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA), the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and others.

Public Awareness—The President and CEO of Keep America Beautiful, Matthew McKenna, called "composting the next wave of environmentalism". That wave is upon us and we will ride it into 2013 and beyond.

In recent months the USCC has worked diligently on the groundwork for a national communication campaign intended to educate homeowners, gardeners, and schools on the merits of using compost. That campaign will build on opportunities to engage the media in dialogue about composting—most recently with a reporter from the New York Times. She requested an interview with the USCC for general information about backyard composting and the composting industry, but was particularly interested in learning about processes for separating and recycling food scraps and, in her words, dealing with "the yuck factor". As our conversation unfolded, her understanding of key concepts coalesced and her enthusiasm grew. By the end of the interview she was animated and eager to share with her readers the reasons why composting organics makes better sense than setting them out with the rest of the trash—and to assure her readers that it's not so unpleasant after all.

So where do we go from here? As proud as I am about the progress the USCC has made, I know we can do much more. As we move forward, USCC will build its capacity to address the core issues that are critical to our members. In 2013, the USCC will boost our

You're Invited!

BPI ZERO WASTE RECEPTION

**January 30, 2013
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. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided. Cash bar is also available.

Hope to see you there!

Every product carrying the BPI Logo Meets ASTM D6400 or D6868, based on testing in independent laboratories. These products are accepted by composting programs throughout the US and Canada.



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Executive Director (continued)

roster of members, diversify our streams of revenue, and expand our legislative platform and presence at local, state and federal levels. In short, the USCC will continue to raise the bar in order to expand market opportunities for your businesses; after all, that is our primary role as a trade association.

COMPLETE USCC STAFF CONTACT LIST

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Cherrie Yang *Event Planner & Program Coordinator*

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FUTURE CONFERENCE DATES

Work is already underway on future conferences scheduled for the following locations and dates.

January 27–30 2014

Oakland Marriot, Oakland, CA

We're back in downtown Oakland in 2014 and, as a reminder for anyone who missed our last conference there (2008): Oakland, across the San Francisco Bay from its better-known neighbor, has its own claims to fame. Where else can you tour a fortune-cookie factory and take the Black Panther Legacy Tour in the same morning? Other choices include hiking in the hills, dining in Chinatown, relaxing in a park and visiting historic homes. For a nighttime diversion, cheer for one of three pro-sports teams or head to **Jack London Square**, for fine seafood and nightlife.

Jack London Square, just a few blocks from the conference hotel, is a microcosm of all that Oakland is. Charming and historic, it's located where the city first began in 1852. Lively and entertaining, it reflects the vitality and diversity of Oakland's culture. Nestled in a natural estuary,

it offers inspiring views of our beautiful 19 mile waterfront and lush hillsides. It's a focal point for outstanding shopping, entertainment and dining as well as a gathering place for residents and visitors, children and adults, joggers and bike riders. Within just a few blocks, you can savor cuisines from around the world and drink in the magnificent waterfront view. It is the East Bay's premier restaurant destination. It's urban living at its most fulfilling, and Oakland at its very best!

2015 & 2016 Conference Information

January 19–22, 2015

Renaissance Austin, Austin, TX

January 25–28, 2016

Jacksonville Hyatt, Jacksonville, FL



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compost love
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Composting Council Research & Education Foundation (CCREF)

GENEROSITY FROM YOU. GROWTH WITHIN THE INDUSTRY. A HEALTHY PLANET FOR ALL.

The **Composting Council Research and Education Foundation** is a catalyst for advancement of composting technologies, practices, and beneficial uses that support resource conservation and economic and environmental sustainability. The philanthropic arm of the US Composting Council, the Foundation positively impacts communities locally and globally by:

- Fostering scientific research opportunities
- Increasing awareness and educating the public
- Advancing the stature and practices of the composting industry

Please consider the Foundation in your charitable giving. The reasons people donate are numerous and diverse. Whether it's one inspired moment, or a long-held desire to give back to your professional industry community, one thing is certain: Your generosity is a measure of your success.

The Foundation's goal is to collect \$20,000 by the end of January 2013. Please help us get there!

There are many ways to partner with the CCREF

- Giving a gift is easy for individuals, business owners and companies alike because of its flexibility and simplicity. Anyone can make a donation of any amount by going to the Foundation's web tab at www.compostingcouncil.org/ccref_donations/
- Once you reach a lifetime giving record of \$2,500, you become eligible for our **Sustaining Donor program**, which results in special recognition and other benefits.

- The **Two Cents for Compost Program** is the Foundation's big-picture fund. Compost producers may donate .02 per ton of compost sold, to this fund. This can be done on a quarterly or annual basis.

As we look ahead, we envision widespread advancement of composting and compost use throughout the US and beyond. The Foundation will work toward that goal by investing Two Cents Program funds in high quality, ground-breaking research and in cutting edge educational opportunities.

The Foundation would also like to extend warm thanks to everyone who donated last year. Thank you so much for the generosity you have already shown us, and we sincerely hope we can count on your support next year and into the future.

Two Cents Program Donors: These donors are enrolled in the Two Cents for Compost Program. The Foundation thanks these pioneering compost producers for contributing .02 per ton of compost sold to support critical research and education projects.

A1 Organics* ■ Chamness Technologies* ■ Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority* ■ LETCO Group/Living Earth* ■ McGill Environmental Services ■ Novozymes* ■ St. Louis Composting* ■ Waste Management Inc. ■ WeCare Organics* ■ Z-Best Composting Facility

*denotes Founding Members of the Two Cents Program

International Compost Awareness Week

MAY 6–12, 2013 PLANTING EDUCATIONAL SEEDS & GROWING PUBLIC AWARENESS

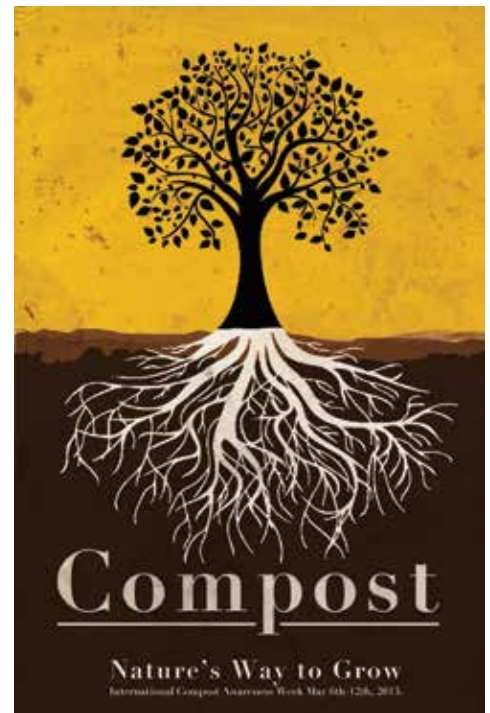
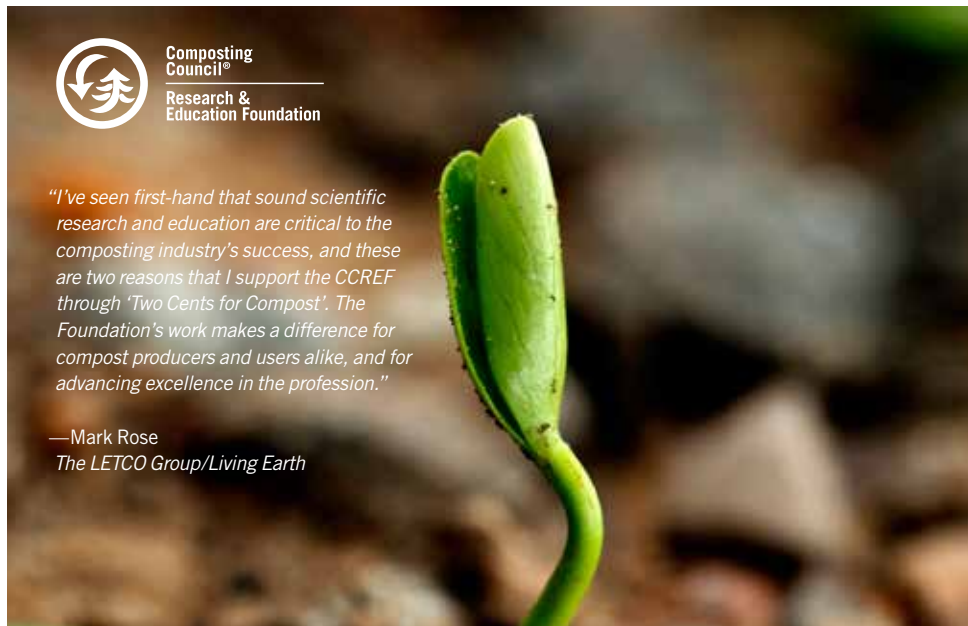
Join in the fun, raise awareness for the importance of composting, and celebrate this year's theme—**Compost: Nature's Way to Grow!**

ICAW 2013 is brought about thanks to the generous support of the following sponsors:

A-1 Organics | BioCycle Magazine | City of San Jose | Composting News | Filtrexx International | Ingeo | MSW Management | Recology | REOTEMP Instruments | St. Louis Composting | Soil and Mulch Producer News | Waste Management Inc. | WeCare Organics

Contact **Michael Virga**, USCC Executive Director at **301.897.2715** for more information on the 2013 ICAW campaign sponsorship and benefits.

For ideas how to celebrate, or to add your event the ICAW schedule of national events, visit our website at www.compostingcouncil.org/icaw



Poster Winner Jennifer Tigani, Grade 11, Westland MI

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Zero Waste Goals • Municipal Infrastructure • Organics Management

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BIOCYCLE



New Members

Please welcome the following 66 new USCC members who have joined since the fall Compost Communicator was published.

Hans Hesselein, *Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Inc.*
Brooklyn NY

Daniel Kerns, *SanDan Farm*, McLeansville NC

Damon Flowers, *Washtenaw Community College*,
Ann Arbor MI

Ayesha Waggaman, *Diversified Biomass Company dba
American Property Experts, Inc.* Wilmington NC

Phil Dickson, *Dickson Environmental Services Inc.*
Bath NY

Susan Riley, *DC Government Department of General
Services*, Washington DC

Gregory McCarron, *SCS Engineers*, Suffern NY

Glen Gregory, *St Lazare Canada*

Fred Wood, *Tierra Du Bois*, Wawa PA

Donald Rockwood, *Florida FGT*, Gainesville FL

Jim Wollschlager, *Blue Bag Organics*, Delano MN

Evelyn Golden, *Signature Marketing LLC*, Simsbury CT

Noah Fishman, *Highfields Center for Composting*,
Hardwick VT

Kevin Mattingly, *2 Creek Farm and Garden*,
Lacassine LA

Susan Gardner, *American Grading Co.* McCook IL

Brian Cash, *Oklahoma City University*,
Oklahoma City OK

Ishwari Deshpande, *Trio-Chem Sucrotech Engineering
and Projects Pvt. Ltd.*, Pune India

Rocky Chavez, *MetaFund*, Oklahoma City OK

Thad Schutt, *Royal Organic Products, LLC*,
Royal City WA

Robin Sweere, *Sweere Consulting*, Dallas TX

Mark Hope, *Pegasus Sustainability Solutions, Inc.*
Fitchburg WI

Calin Farley, *PME Compost*, Riner VA

Lorrie Kennedy, *Carlotta CA*

Ron Kennedy, *Carlotta CA*

Pete Crabtree, *Waukesha-Pearce Industries, Inc.*
Houston TX

Dawn Stressman-Orth, *Bioenergy Frontiers, Inc.*
Phoenix AZ

Tricia Niehoff, *PatriciaN Gardens*, Thornton CO

Tamara Spaur, *Nipomo CA*

Robin Barton, *New York NY*

Brian Loos, *Clark County Public Works*, Vancouver WA

Gary Nihart, *Grenville SC*

Aguilar Mendoza, *Ciiemad (IPN)*, Mexico

Teresa Cardona, *Universidad Metropolitana*, Mexico

David Escalera, *Compostamex SA DE CV*, Tlaquepaque

Jim White, *Fishcat Farm*, Charlotte NC

Rusty Orner, *Quiet Creek Herb Farm & School of
Country Living*, Brookville PA

Zenny Neumann, *The City of Calgary—Waste &
Recycling Services*, Calgary Canada

Thomas Redick, *Clayton MO*

Del Bottcher, *SWET, Inc.* Gainesville FL

Andre Mathews, *Mephis TN*

Charmaine Lopes, *Custom Milling & Consulting, Inc.*
Wyomissing PA

Robert Finlay, *North East Ag. Services, LLC*,
Peterborough NH

Thomas Sisk, *Atlantic Compost*, Washington DC

Saul Furstein, *Atlanta GA*

Tim Rosario, *Rosby Resource Recycling, Inc.*,
Brooklyn Heights OH

Amber Gribben, *Urban Worm Girl, L3C*, Chicago IL

Mary Tinker, *Grand Rapids MI*

Eric Nelson, *Johnson County Community College*,
Lenexa KS

Timothy Hamilton, *Forest VA*

Jay Faulkner, *Faulkner Farms*, Silverhill AL

Marcos Alejandro Badra, *Campinas BR*

Dave Dressler, *Bio-Environmental Resource Recovery
International*, Walla Walla WA

Eric Ennis, *Ennis Inc.*, Lakeside CA



The latest news in composting, wood recycling and organics management

Composting News

the latest news...

the real story

Now featuring wholesale pricing of compost products



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and

Be sure to visit way-2-grow.com,
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www.way-2-grow.com



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.

Composting News, from McEntee Media Corporation, is a monthly must-read among industry professionals.

Subscribe or get more information by calling 440.238.6603 or visiting

www.compostingnews.com

And be sure to check out our online equipment directory:
www.recyclingSTUFF.com

RecyclingSTUFF.com



New Members (continued)

- Greg Cambell, *Compost Consultants & Engineering*, Maitland FL
- Sunny Varghese, *Puget Sound Novelty & Distribution*, Auburn WA
- Luke Pritchett, *Lukes Worms*, Fort Myers FL
- Wendell Blanton, *Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority*, Conway SC
- Marchal Brown, *NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation*, Brooklyn NY
- Cheryl L H Pittenger, *Coatesville PA*
- Edward Wansing, *The Compost Company*, Ashland City TN
- Brian Dooley, *BCR Environmental Corporation*, Jacksonville FL
- Brock Reinhard, *Future Organics, Inc.*, Mokena IL
- Nicholas Smith-Sebasto, *FOR Solutions, LLC*, Newton NJ
- Paul Galmitz, *Green Cycle Equipment Solutions LLC DBA Neuenhauser North America*, Pen Argyl PA
- Mark L. Byers, *Malvern PA*
- Kevin Lynch, *Selbyville Pet & Garden Center*, Selbyville DE

Member's Corner

WASTE MANAGEMENT OF ILLINOIS AND GARICK ANNOUNCE COMPOST MARKETING AGREEMENT

Waste Management of Illinois, Inc. and Garick LLC announced they have reached a multi-year agreement under which Garick will market compost created at two Waste Management facilities for distribution in Illinois, Indiana and Southern Wisconsin. The agreement covers Garick's distribution of compost from Waste Management's Willow Ranch site in Romeoville, Ill. and its Harbor View facility on Chicago's Southeast Side.

Waste Management is the leading generator of compost from yard trimmings and food residuals in Illinois. Garick, a Cleveland-based company majority owned by Waste Management, is a manufacturer, marketer and distributor of organic natural resource products. Several Garick composting facilities are currently enrolled in the USCC's STA Program, and the two recently acquired facilities are also STA participants.

Garick will market the compost and compost blends to landscapers, soil blenders, garden centers, nurseries, turf grass professionals, and urban and rural farmers.

It will be available in packaged and bulk quantities and sold under the Organic Valley® and Nature's Helper® brand names.

"The Willow Ranch and Harbor View facilities produce high-quality compost that is a blend of clean yard trimmings and food residuals," said Robert Schanz, Garick's vice president of operations. "This compost, because of the good residual product from which it is made and the finishing process, yields compost that is high in organic matter and micronutrients and low in soluble salts."

"Waste Management has substantially expanded its capacity to manage yard wastes and organics, and we now operate the largest network of composting facilities in northern Illinois," said Dale Hoekstra, director of operations in the Company's Illinois-Missouri Valley Area. "Our agreement with Garick supports our goal to extract as much value as we can from the materials we manage. Our composting operations enhance this value by creating a high-quality product that now will be marketed to a broader range of end users in the landscape industry."

The agreement combines Waste Management's expertise in collecting and managing organic materials and Garick's knowledge and resources in marketing

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Ingeo plastic is revolutionizing contemporary living. Today, everything from plates, cups and cutlery to the durable goods you use every day are being made with this new industrially compostable plastic.

World class organizations like the Portland Trail Blazers are taking full advantage of the exciting new waste diversion opportunities made possible with Ingeo—reaching upwards of an 80% waste diversion rate in 2011 and 2012.* In addition, the manufacture of Ingeo emits less greenhouse gas and requires less energy than traditional oil-based plastics.

Over 100 leading brands, manufacturers and distributors now offer comprehensive ranges of Ingeo food-service ware in use by foodservice operators nationally.

* Read more and see the case study figures at: natureworksllc.com



Ingenious materials from plants, not oil

TRAIL BLAZERS **ROSE QUARTER**

CASE STUDY

THE ROSE GARDEN ADOPTS INGENO-BASED FOODSERVICE WARE COMPOSTABLES FOR GREEN SPORTS ALLIANCE FOUNDING MEMBER – PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS*

SITUATION: 2,000,000 pounds of solid waste

- A major food center for events
- Opportunity to reduce environmental impact
- Highly visible high foot-traffic venue
- Highly visible single-stream waste management

SOLUTION: Comprehensive waste stream management

- Complete food and packaging waste stream into one sustainable waste stream recycling facility
- Event engagement with new Green Cycle recycling stations and signage
- Highly supported by Green Cycle and community based events
- Comprehensive waste to landfill-free operations EPA certified
- Waste-to-energy and other compostable changes

2012 Rose Garden Achievements

- ✓ 83% landfill diversion rate
- ✓ \$375,000 waste diversion saving (prior 2008 baseline)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

- Enhance fan and guest experience
- Reinforce the Trail Blazers brand
- Avoid added environmental costs for sustainable food service
- Reduce operational costs
- Improve environmental practices
- Support City of Portland's waste policy goals and climate action

INGEO ROLE IN MEE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

- Ingeo-based food service packaging products
- Ingenious materials from 100% renewable resources
- USDA Wetland and 50 products initiative (PFI) role
- Cost and performance for food service operators
- Marketing support and a visible solution versus the packaging alternatives

GREEN SPORTS ALLIANCE

The Green Sports Alliance is a coalition of sports organizations that support the use of 100% renewable resources in the production of sports equipment and packaging. The Green Sports Alliance is a coalition of sports organizations that support the use of 100% renewable resources in the production of sports equipment and packaging.



Member's Corner (continued)

compost, Hoekstra said. The capability responds to the Company's commercial, industrial and municipal customers who increasingly wish to divert organic wastes from landfills, achieve sustainability goals, recycle and reduce disposal costs.

More than 30% of the nation's waste stream is comprised of organic material, according to the US EPA. Of this, approximately 14% is food scraps, 13% is yard trimmings and 6% is wood fiber. Waste Management composted more than 2.5 million tons of organic material at Company and partner facilities in 2011.

About Waste Management—Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Their subsidiaries provide collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. They are the largest residential recycler and also a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill-gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. Their customers include residential, commercial, industrial and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more visit www.wm.com or www.thinkgreen.com

About Garick—Garick, LLC, a North American distributor, processor and recycler of sustainable natural resource products, prides itself on its commitment to sustainability and environmental practices. Using food, yard and forest products residuals, Garick diverts and beneficially reuses organic waste streams and creates organic mulches, soils and other sustainable products, supplying customers with a complete range of products in bags, bales or bulk. Garick's six facilities make nationally branded products including Black Satin® Mulch, Organic Valley® soil, Designated Dryer® sports turf conditioner, HydRocks® soil enhancer, Rooflite® certified green roof media, Kids Karpel® recreational surfacing, Moo-Nure® organic compost and Nature's Helper® soil conditioner. To learn more visit garick.com

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT ORBITZ TRAVEL DISCOUNTS & BENEFITS

Many USCC members are presented with a wide breadth of opportunity for professional growth that often requires travel. How many of you attend conferences, training events, exhibitions and organization

meetings or have routine business travel needs? All of this travel is costly.

With these member needs in mind, the USCC is joining **Orbitz for Business Express (OBE)** to help you and your employees save time and money on airfare, accommodations and car rentals. OBE is an advanced version of the typical Orbitz site that most of us use online, but with greater discounts and flexibility for organizations enrolled in this program!

The USCC will launch its very own Orbitz web-based portal in mid-January, where Council members can register individual & business accounts to receive the following **Orbitz for Business Express** exclusive benefits:

OBE allows you to streamline your company's travel process into one customized website.

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2013 Compost Campaign Coming Soon: The Million Tomato Compost Campaign

Join the US Composting Council (USCC) in our new campaign, starting in March 2013! We're joining with community gardens and chefs across the country to grow crops using donated compost. This campaign will spread the word that compost is key to building healthy soil to grow sustainable, local food.

Who's involved?

The Million Tomato Compost Campaign is a program of the US Composting Council (USCC)—a national organization dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting industry.

Chef Nathan Lyon is helping spread the word about the campaign. Nathan is the co-host of PBS's *Growing a Greener World*, host of *Discovery Health's* and Fit TV's *A Lyon in the Kitchen*, and guest chef/expert on TLC's *Real Simple Real Life* and *Home Made Simple*. His book "*Great Food Starts Fresh*" was named one of the top cookbooks of 2012 by the Washington Post.

Other partners in the campaign include AmpleHarvest.org, the American Community Gardening Association, Chef's Collaborative, Keep America Beautiful, community gardens and food banks.

How will it work?

- USCC's members will donate compost to participating community gardens.
- Community gardens will use compost to grow tomatoes and food crops, either for their own use or for donation to local food banks.
- Chefs will work with the community gardeners, schools and nonprofits to teach people about using sustainably grown local food in recipes that even kids will love!
- The campaign will be unveiled in national media, featuring kids who've started planting in donated compost.

Why take part?

The Million Tomato Compost Campaign is a chance to connect with your fellow USCC members, sustainable food leaders, chefs and community partners to spread the word about the power of compost. The more people participate, the bigger the message we will send!

How can I join?

We need the help of our members to promote the campaign, recruit community gardens and provide compost. To become a part of the Million Tomato Compost Campaign, go to the Campaign website at

www.buy-compost.com (launching soon), or contact Al Rattie at al.rattie@compostingcouncil.org, 215.258.5259.



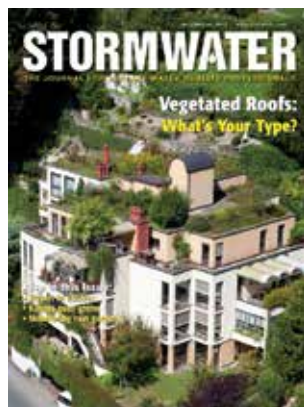
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STA Spotlight on City of Appleton STA Participant since 2012

BIOSOLIDS COMPOSTING— SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS THROUGH INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

The City of Appleton Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWTP) has a long standing practice of recycling nutrient rich biosolids back to agricultural soils as part of the facility's Biosolids Management Program (BMP). The AWWTP serves a population of approximately 75,000 and each year produces approximately 20,000 wet tons of biosolids that are recycled to agriculture permitted through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Permitted sites are located as far as 75 miles west of the City of Appleton to accommodate land application when local clay soils prohibit access in the spring following snow melt. The AWWTP BMP focuses on protecting public health and the environment, meeting regulatory requirements, and strengthening relationships with agricultural partners. The facility is recognized by the WDNR as being a leader in biosolids management within the state.

The AWWTP's commitment to the success of its BMP has meant continued investment in research and initiatives that evaluate not only the current land application practices but also to look to other environmentally sound management alternatives for organic waste streams that compliment biosolids recycling. In the late 1990's, the City of Appleton and other area communities investigated composting as a viable recycling alternative for leaves, brush, yard materials, biosolids, and other "waste" materials. However, the idea did not transition beyond the conceptual stage due to many challenges including siting an acceptable facility location, the costs for operations, establishing a viable market, lack of return on investment and regulatory permitting of a facility. In 2008, the AWWTP again looked to composting as a low-tech option to diversify its BMP, help control long-distance biosolids transportation costs, and alleviate on-site biosolids storage limitations. The option also held promise for the Appleton Department Public Works (DPW) by providing a reliable outlet for the City's leaves and yard brush.

In 2009, the AWWTP sought out partners that shared common goals and understood challenges both past and present which could impede large-scale

composting from moving forward. This led to the intergovernmental formation of the "Compost Advisory Group". The group consists of representatives from the AWWTP, Appleton DPW, and Outagamie County Department of Solid Waste. The group's shared mission was to "seek long-term, cost-effective, and environmentally sound alternatives for management of organic waste streams." The formation of the Compost Advisory Group was a pivotal first step in developing a pilot project that could produce shared benefits while methodically approaching and resolving challenges that caused former composting efforts to fall short.

Funded by the AWWTP, the goal of the compost pilot project was to determine the feasibility and cost effectiveness of converting Class B biosolids into a Class A biosolids compost that could be utilized for multiple applications including reclamation or restoration projects such as landfill cover systems, erosion control best management practices, commercial landscaping and agriculture. Proving success first here would have tangible benefits to the needs and goals of the partners involved. The group members recognized that there were no other working biosolids composting models to point to in the state of Wisconsin and



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STA Spotlight on City of Appleton (continued)

biosolids composting regulations were somewhat undeveloped at the time. Therefore, WDNR presence throughout the process was vital to get buy-in and support for the project.

In June of 2010, following years of meetings, correspondence, planning, contracts, and approvals, ground breaking for the construction of the 4.5-acre compost pilot facility took place at the Outagamie County landfill. Built at a cost of less than \$85,000, the engineered compost processing area was constructed from clay diverted from local stormwater projects and recycled (milled) asphalt from area road projects. The clay compacted in lifts to a total thickness of 18 to 24 inches serves as the liner diverting contact water and leachate to a catch basin where it is pumped back to the AWWTP for treatment. The 8-inch thick layer of recycled asphalt provides suitable working surface for large equipment while protecting the underlying clay liner. A filter stone layer, comprised of ballast rock diverted from a county roofing project, was placed on the entire width of the pad and used to prevent material from entering the catch basin. Coordinating available

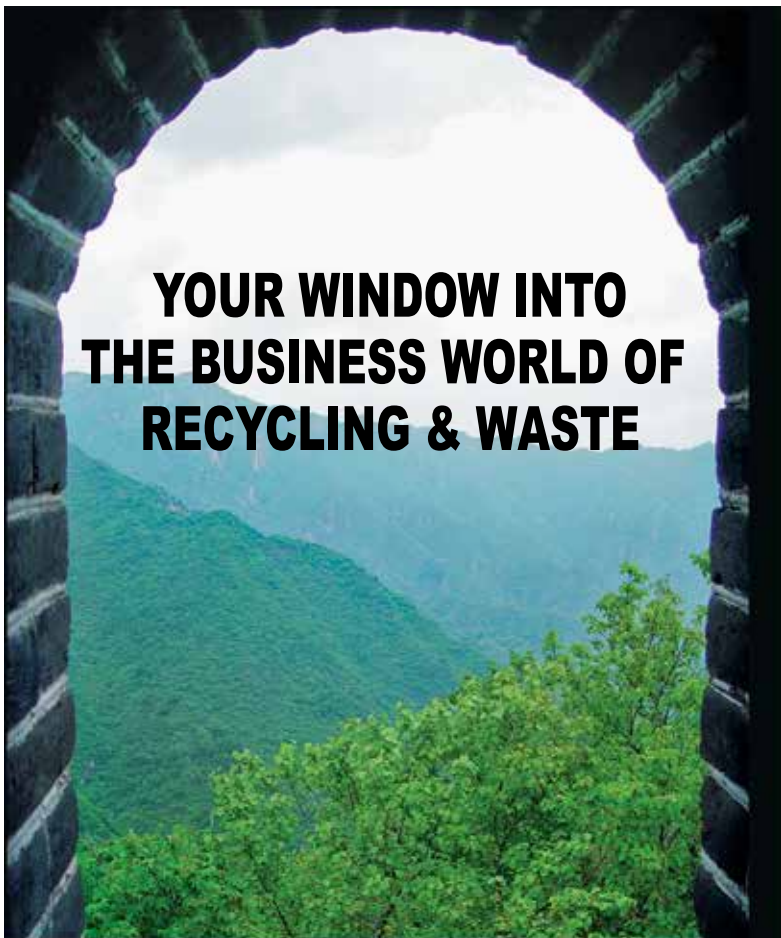
recycled materials into the design and construction of the compost pad greatly reduced costs which were economically necessary to effectively demonstrate large-scale outdoor windrow composting.

Construction was completed in late September 2010. By the end of October 2010 approximately 6,500 cubic yards of leaves, brush, and biosolids were placed in windrows. Various ratios of leaves, brush, and biosolids were evaluated to determine the optimum blend to move forward with. The process was further improved to maximize available footprint, refine process techniques, improved process logistics, and evaluate variations in finished compost quality as a function of end use.

The AWWTP realizes that in order to appeal to various compost markets it must provide analytical support that biosolids compost produced at the Appleton-Outagamie County pilot facility meets or exceeds some recognized standards. Therefore it was decided from the offset that all finished compost must meet test methods and parameters developed by U.S. Compost

Council (USCC) Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program, as the STA testing requirements were more extensive than the WDNR requirements at the time. Compost industry producers and users from across the country recognize the STA program as the standard for evaluating compost quality. Furthermore, contacts and resources available through the USCC were and continue to be relied upon whether for active composting or product marketing. Compost trial results have consistently indicated that windrow composting can be successful in creating a Class A product even during winter months, as the results verified that the compost met criteria established by the WDNR and USCC.

Concurrent to refining compost processes over the past two years, there has been a focus to develop resources and gather data that would address potential concerns both large and small volume users might have. In 2012, the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (UWO) was contracted to evaluate the physical, chemical, and biological parameters of compost. Primary elements of the UWO research is to look into the Appleton compost properties for erosion prevention and sediment control;



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STA Spotlight on City of Appleton STA Participant since 2012

nutrient loss and migration evaluation; plant vigor evaluation; and plant nutrient and metals uptake. A final report is expected by early 2013. This information along with various compost use demonstration projects to date have been brought together to formulate a marketing brochure and informational packet. These materials are being used to engage potential area markets or users of compost. A recent residential give-away was well received by residents including some area community gardens with a larger event being planned for spring 2013. UW-Extension's Market Garden assisted with the UWO project by providing land for display and research with the results being well received by garden administrators. There continues to be a growing interest with area landscapers with some now trialing the material on their own. Communication

with larger volume users such as soil blenders and highway department remain ongoing but positive. The final UWO compost research report will be invaluable in providing the product specific information large and small volume compost users desire.

Although many challenges remain, this project is an excellent example of government entities working together along with the state regulatory agency to develop sustainable alternatives and to improve the overall community's fiscal and environmental conditions.



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What you missed on Saturday, Jan 26!

The USCC's First Annual Community Garden Planting Project, informally launching the 2013 national compost educational campaign! Local companies, non-profits & students will be kicking off a new gardening project in downtown Orlando, as part of a nation-wide collaborative effort to build healthy soil to grow healthy food for community gardens & food banks.

On January 26, volunteers and kids applied compost at the Downtown Credo's community garden, planting tomatoes and assorted vegetable plants. It's all part of the US Composting Council's Million Tomato Campaign, which will bring together the nation's compost producers, chefs, community gardens and food banks to help build healthy soil that produces sustainably grown, local food for the nation's communities.

This event came together through the combined efforts of the USCC, Keep America Beautiful, C&C Peat, Apenberry's Garden Center and Filtrex.



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For more information about **Recology**, please visit our website www.recology.com or call 800.208.2371



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2013 Conference Items of Interest

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.

First Annual Community Garden Demonstration Project—January 26

Most of you won't be in town to see this, but we'd be remiss if we didn't make you aware of this exciting event. We hope to do something similar at all future USCC conferences.

Orlando Students Help Grow 1,000,000 Tomatoes for Community Gardens & Food Banks

Local Garden Puts 28,000 Pounds of Donated Compost to Work: Local nonprofits, students and an STA compost producer will be kicking off a new gardening project in downtown Orlando, as part of a nation-wide collaborative effort to build healthy soil to grow healthy food for community gardens and food banks. On January 26, volunteers and kids will be laying down compost at the Downtown Credo's community garden and planting tomatoes and assorted vegetable plants. It's all part of

the US Composting Council's Million Tomato Campaign, which will bring together the nation's compost producers, chefs, community gardens and food banks to help build healthy soil that produces sustainably grown, local food for the nation's communities.

C&C Peat, in Okahumpka, Florida will be donating 28,000 pounds of compost, Apenberry's is donating plants and seeds and Filtrex is donating GardenSoxx mesh growing containers. The project will also partner with Credo New Image Youth Center, an after-school nonprofit for kids located on Parramore Ave, where the garden is housed. Through Downtown Credo's gardening program, kids will plant vegetables, sell produce at the farmer's markets and learn to cook fresh food from the garden. At the planting event, the US Composting Council will teach kids about how to compost, and how compost builds healthy soil.

"We're so excited to see this campaign getting off the ground in Orlando," said Michael Virga, Executive Director of the US Composting Council. "By working together to build healthy soil and grow healthy food, we can offer meaningful ways for kids to learn about improve their local environment and their own health." All of the compost producers participating in

the Million Tomato Compost Campaign produce Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) certified compost, which certifies that their compost meets federal health and safety standards and has passed stringent testing measures, which ensure ongoing quality and safety.

"This project is a prime example of how hands-on stewardship can help solve problems by reducing waste and beautifying our communities," said Matthew McKenna, Executive Director of Keep America Beautiful. "We're looking forward to seeing how other projects across the country contribute to the goal of growing one million tomatoes."

Who—US Composting Council's Million Tomato Campaign, Keep America Beautiful, Keep Orlando Beautiful, Downtown Credo, New Image Youth Center donations by Apenberry's, Filtrex and C&C Peat

Where—Downtown Credo, 706 West Smith Street, New Image Youth Center, 212 South Parramore Avenue



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2013 Conference (continued)

USCC First Annual Conference Golf Outing & CCREF Benefit—January 27

Do you have your foursome yet? Please come out and join your friends and composting industry colleagues for a fun-filled day on the links at a premiere golf course while supporting a great cause: the Composting Council Research and Education Foundation. The CCREF is a charitable nonprofit dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting industry in the United States. \$40 from each registration fee goes 100% to CCREF projects.

Exhibitor's Reception—January 29, 6:00 PM

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 & Afternoon Refreshment Breaks—January 29 & 30 7:30 AM, 10:00 AM & 3:30 PM

The breakfasts & breaks provide good food and plenty of time to explore the Trade Show and meet with Exhibitors.

Awards Luncheon—January 30, 12:30 PM

The Awards Luncheon this year will feature a keynote presentation by Will Allen on "The Power of Urban Agriculture and the Role of Compost"

USCC/SWANA Compost Certification Exam—January 30

"Raising the Bar" for the Composting industry—Become certified as a Manager of Compost Programs.

Zero Waste Reception—January 30, 6:00 PM

The 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 Orange County Landfill and Composting Facility—January 31

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 Orlando will feature products from the following manufacturers:

- Grinding and shredding equipment from **Bandit**, **Diamond Z**, **Doppstadt**, **Duratech**, **Komptech**, **Morbark**, **Peterson Pacific** & **Vermeer**

- Screening and Stacking equipment from **Doppstadt**, **Komptech**, **McCloskey International**, **Neuenhauser**, **Terra Select** & **Vermeer**
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- GardenSoxx filling equipment by **Filtrex**

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2013 Conference: (continued)

2012 Professional Achievement Award Honorees to be recognized at the 2013 USCC Annual Conference & 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 Wednesday, January 30th.**

Please join us as we honor the awardees and hear comments from our colleagues. Our annual awards include:

- **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.

CCREF'S ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST FUNDRAISING EVENT A SILENT AUCTION COMPOSTING FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

The Silent Auction will take place in the Exhibit Hall at the USCC Annual Conference. Items will be on view from 10 a.m. on January 29th through Noon on the

30th, with the winners announced at the Zero Waste Reception hosted by the Biodegradable Products Institute that evening.

All of the funds raised from this event will support CCREF's work in research, education & outreach on both national & local community levels to advance this great industry.

Here is a sneak peek at some of the items that will be up for auction:

- 4 One Day Park Hopper Passes to Disney (can be used at all Disney World Parks in Orlando)
- Autographed copy of Second Nature, by NY Times best-selling author Michael Pollan
- Autographed copy of The Good Food Revolution, by world renowned urban farmer Will Allen
- Vermicompost Gift Basket, donated by Worm Power
- Organic Coffee Basket, donated by Green Mountain Coffee
- Fresh Wave Gift Basket, donated by OMI Industries
- Residential BioPod Plus, donated by Compost Mania
- Heavy Duty Compost Thermometer, donated by REOTEMP Instruments
- Super Duty Fast Response Thermometer, donated by REOTEMP
- Compost Education Gift Basket, donated by Eco-Troubadour
- Garden Education Gift Basket, donated by Life Lab
- Official NBA basketball signed by the Orlando Magic
- 24 Living Earth Titleist Pro V 1 golf balls, donated by The LETCO Group LLC/Living Earth
- The Sustainable Site: The Design Manual for Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development, donated by co-authors Dr. Britt Faucette and Rod Tyler of Filtrexx
- An EcoSort station, donated by EcoSafe Zero Waste
- The ComBox compost bin, donated EcoSafe Zero Waste

- An EcoStep bin, donated by EcoSafe Zero Waste
- Framed ICAW 2013 posters, USCC
- 2 Gore-Tex Men's Shell Jackets, donated by W.L. Gore
- In-SinkErator, donated by Gaia Strategies
- Autographed copy of "Great Food Starts Fresh," donated by Chef Nathan Lyons
- 1 BioCycle West Coast Conference Registration, donated by BioCycle Magazine
- Autographed copy of the "Humanore Handbook," donated by Joseph Jenkins
- Recycled cooler and 50 "Picture Me Making Compost" coloring books, donated by Target Marketing Group
- Filtrexx Garden Soxx kit, donated by Filtrexx
- 3 figurines made of recycled materials, donated by Signature Marketing
- Compost Caddy and compostable liners, donated by BioBag

We are still collecting merchandise such as nonperishable goods, gift certificates, books, products for gift baskets and other items for the event, and would greatly welcome your donation.

If you would like to donate an auction item, please contact **Leanne Spaulding**, CCREF Development Officer leannespauling@compostfoundation.org 301.897.2584

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| | | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Ages 10+ | \$94.79 | \$168.70 | \$231.96 | \$245.38 | \$256.88 |
| Ages 3-9 | \$88.40 | \$157.20 | \$216.63 | \$229.09 | \$239.63 |

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Add the *Park Hopper*® Option to your Meeting/Convention Base Ticket and visit more than one Theme Park on the same day: *Magic Kingdom*® Park, *Epcot*®, *Disney's Hollywood Studios*®, and *Disney's Animal Kingdom*® Theme Park. Purchase a full-day ticket of 2 days or longer before you arrive and save 10%. Prices include tax.

| | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Ages 10+ | \$132.06 | \$223.34 | \$286.60 | \$300.02 | \$311.52 |
| Ages 3-9 | \$125.67 | \$211.83 | \$271.26 | \$283.72 | \$294.26 |

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| | | | | | |
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| Ages 10+ | \$178.92 | \$244.42 | \$307.68 | \$321.10 | \$332.60 |
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To order tickets, please visit <https://disneytickets.disney.go.com/store/uscc13> or 407-566-5600

Orders must be placed by 01/28/2013



Advance purchase savings on all full-day tickets of 2 days or longer. Savings based on the non-discounted price for the same ticket sold at Disney owned and operated guest service desks in the Central Florida area as of 6/3/2012. 6-Day+ Meeting/Convention Theme Park Tickets are also available.

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PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING COURSES & WORKSHOPS MONDAY, JANUARY 28

LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS 8:00 AM–5:00 PM

Foundations of Composting ■ Compost Use in Agriculture, Horticulture and Landscaping ■ Aerated Static Pile Composting ■ Compost Business Management ■ Compost Marketers Toolkit ■ In-depth Food Waste Recycling Workshop for the Restaurant and Supermarket Industries ■ Compost Outreach: Best Practices in Compost Education ■ What’s in your Compost? How to Know and What to Put on Your Label ■ Zero Waste and Organics Collection Training for Special Event Coordinators ■ Odor Control & Process Management: Focus on Food Wastes ■ Vermicomposting Food Residuals at Restaurants, Businesses and Institutions

TOUR OF LOCAL COMPOST FACILITIES 9:30 AM–4:30 PM

C&C Peat Windrow Composting & Potting Soil Production ■ Waste Management’s Vista Park In-vessel Composting of Mixed Organics

DISNEY INSTITUTE’S “BUSINESS BEHIND THE MAGIC”

1:00 PM–4:30 PM

Walt Disney World Resort Nursery & Tree Farm ■ The “Utilidor” System ■ Epcot Cast Services ■ Textile Services

All full-day workshops (or two half-day workshops) & tour include lunch. For workshop descriptions, instructors & agendas, please visit

compostingcouncil.org/conference/program.php

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION & SETUP 11:00 AM–7:00 PM

USCC CONFERENCE PROGRAM TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

PLENARY SESSION 8:00 AM

Welcome *Lorrie Loder, USCC President and Michael Virga, USCC Executive Director* ■ **Opening Keynote: Journey to Zero Waste** *Vonda Lockwood, Walmart Director of Sustainability* ■ **Panel of Industry Leaders: Opportunities & Barriers to Compost Industry Growth** *Jeffrey Leblanc, WeCare Organics; William Caesar, WM’s Recycle America & Organic Growth; George Dreckmann, City of Madison, WI, Scott DeFife, National Restaurant Association; Moderated by Mitch Kessler, Kessler Consulting*

SESSION ONE 10:45 AM–12:30 PM

Composting Growth: National & Regional Composting: Great Potential? So What’s the Hang Up? *Lisa Skumatz, Skumatz Economic Research Associates Inc. Superior, CO* ■ **100% Diversion—What Will it Take & What Will it Mean for America?** *Noel Lyons & Lynn Lucas, McGill Environmental Systems, Harrells, NC* ■ **Growing Food Waste Diversion Programs—Trends in Food Waste Composting in the Southeast** *Miriam Zimms, Kessler Consulting, Inc., Tampa, FL*

Diverting Organics From Disposal

Closing the Loop on Supermarket Recycling: A Case Study *Patti Olenick, Weis Markets, Sunbury, PA* ■ **Highest and Best Use of Residential Organics—A Source Separated Organics Feasibility Study** *JD Lindeberg, Resource Recycling Systems, Ann Arbor, MI & Tim Brownell, Eureka Recycling, Minneapolis, MN* ■ **Maximizing Organics Diversion: A Comparison of Residential Food Waste Capture Rates** *Rhodes Yepsen, Novamont North America, Inc., Danbury CT* ■ **Close the Loop Vermont: Developing Systems to Recycle all of Vermont’s Food Scraps by 2017** *Noah Fishman, Highfields Center for Composting, Hardwick, VT*

Community Composting in NYC

Applied Concepts in Urban Composting *Stephanos Koullias, Western Queens Compost Initiative, Astoria, NY* ■ **Community Supported Composting** *Erik Martig & Christine Petro, Gowanus Canal Conservancy, Brooklyn, NY* ■ **Public Engagement in Local Composting** *Charlie Bayrer, Earth Matter NY, Inc., Brooklyn, NY* ■ **Slow Compost in the City** *David Buckel, Red Hook Community Farm, Brooklyn, NY*

Worker Protection at Composting Facilities

Conducting a Hazard Evaluation of an On-Farm Anaerobic Digester and Related Systems *Nellie J. Brown, Cornell University-ILR, Buffalo, NY* ■ **Improving Safety at Compost Facilities** *George Driver, Old Castle Lawn and Garden*

SESSION TWO 2:00 PM–3:30 PM

Compostable Packaging Great

Understanding the Links in the Compostable Foodservice Packaging Value Chain *Lynn M. Dyer, Foodservice Packaging Institute, Falls Church, VA*

Update on Persistent Herbicides

Persistent Herbicide Damage in Vermont *Tom Moreau & Dan Goosen, Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD), Williston, VT* ■ **Recent Research Results** *Fred Michel, Ohio State University, Wooster, OH* ■ **EPA Response** *TBA*

Urban and College Composting

Composting in a Big Apple High Rise *Michael Bryan-Brown, Green Mountain Technologies, Bainbridge Island, WA* ■ **The Business of Organics Recycling in Dense Urban Centers: Updates & Case Studies from New York City** *Matt de la Houssaye, Global Green USA, New York, NY* ■ **SSO Composting at St. John’s University** *Peter Moon, O2Compost, Snohomish, WA* ■ **The Goshen College Composter—Food Waste to Garden Greens** *Lewis Naylor, Goshen College, Goshen IN, Goshen, IN*

Composting Education

Composting as Co-Curricula Activity for Secondary Schools: The Nigerian Experience *George Oldele Opeolu, Osun State College of Technology, Esa Oke, Nigeria* ■ **Closing the Loop While Building Communities—The Value of Connecting Organic Recycling & Compost with Schools & Community Gardens** *Anne Ludvik & Rob Friend, Specialized Environmental Technologies, Inc, Eden Prairie, MI* ■ **Green School Solutions: Innovative School Composting Program** *Jason Sanders, Texas Disposal Systems, Buda, TX* ■ **Austin Home Composting Rebate Program** *Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez, SOLURSO Sustainable Urban Solutions, Austin, TX*

SESSION THREE 4:15 AM–6:00 PM

Municipal Planning and Composting

The Challenges of Composting in Rockbridge County in Southwestern Virginia: Bringing County, City & Institutional Stakeholders to the Table *Bill Hamilton, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA* ■ **The City of Dallas—Critical Importance of Composting in Reaching Long-term Resource Recovery Goals** *Risa Weinberger, Risa Weinberger & Associates, Inc., Dallas, TX* ■ **Bordo Poniente Composting Facility in Mexico City: 2,500 ton/day of Feedstock Producing 500 ton/day of Compost** *Luis Raúl Tovar, Francisco Javier Barrón, Ma. Eugenia Gutiérrez, & María Teresa Nuñez, National Polytechnic Institute, Mexico City, Mexico*

Tools of the Trade

Interactive workshop on getting the most out of new and common tools of the industry with an emphasis on monitoring & sampling. *Jeff Gage, Compost Design Services, Olympia, WA*

Composter as Collector

Panel of composters discuss the advantages & pitfalls of being their own hauler.

Recent Research in Compost Uses

Turfgrass Seeding Practices for Reclaiming Disturbed Urban Land with Compost *Gregory Evanylo, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA* ■ **Use of Composted Wastes of the Tequila Industry as Growing Media** *Marcos Rafael Crespo-Gonzalez, University of Guadalajara, Mexico, Guadalajara, Mexico* ■ **Nutrient Budget for Fruit & Vegetables Based on Compost and Inorganic Fertilizer** *Monica Ozores-Hampton, University of Florida/Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee, FL* ■ **Water Productivity in SRI Method of Rice Establishment** *Veena Sharma, Technical Officer, Jammu, India*

USCC CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

USCC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:30 AM

All members attending this meeting will be eligible to win a free conference registration for the 2014 conference in Oakland, CA (must be present to win).

SESSION FOUR 8:30 AM–10:00 AM

Anaerobic Digestion

Food Waste Pre-Processing for Anaerobic Digestion *Dr. Roland Kirchmayr, Klaus Ruhmer & Thomas Maier, BDI-BioEnergy International, Graz, Austria* ■ **Development & Operation of a County Managed Organic Waste Anaerobic Digester in NY** *Charles Duprey, WeCare Organics, Jordan, NY* ■ **Analysis of Dry Fermentation Anaerobic Digestate to Finished Compost Product** *Steven Sell, BIOFerm Energy Systems, Madison, WI* ■ **BioGas Project Development & Plant Delivery** *Klaus Ruhmer, Anthony Cimino & Mark Thomson, BDI-BioEnergy Int'l, Lakeway, TX*

Food Waste in Focus

Food Court Composting *Holly Elmore, Elemental Impact, Atlanta, GA* ■ **The Business Side of Post-Consumer Food Waste Composting** *Dan Matsch, Eco-Cycle, Boulder, CO* ■ **National Restaurant Association & USCC: Joining Together to Expand Composting in Restaurants** *Jeff Clark, National Restaurant Association, Ventura, CA*

Compost Facility Start-Ups: Opportunities and Challenges

Business Case Study: Compost Facility Start-Up Opportunities & Challenges *Pierce Louis & Tyler Miller, Dirt Hugger The Dalles, OR* ■ **Challenges and Lessons Learned in Building a Food Scraps Composting Facility** *Eric Walter, Black Bear Composting, Crozet, VA* ■ **Planning, Permitting & Constructing an Urban Commercial Compost Business in Less than 12 Months** *Grant A. Gibson, Compost Cincy, Cincinnati, OH*

Market Development Committee Meeting

Annual Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) Program Meeting 8:30 AM–9:30 AM

Introducing the Million Tomato Campaign 9:30 AM–10:00 AM

SESSION FIVE 10:45 AM–12:15 PM

Compost Technologies 1

Davenport Iowa Odor Control Improvements *Todd Williams, CH2M HILL, Mechanicsville, VA & Scott Plett, City of Davenport, IA* ■ **Heat Redistribution System for Composters** *Eyad Jamaledine, McGill University & Vertal Inc, Longueuil, Quebec* ■ **Food Waste Composting With Plastic on Purpose** *Sal Moretti & Kevin Baker, City of Bakersfield, Bakersfield, CA* ■ **State-of-the-Art for Removing Contamination from Organic Wastes** *George M. Savage & Luis Diaz, CalRecovery, Concord, CA*

3rd Annual Compostable Plastics Symposium—Sponsored in Part by NatureWorksLLC

Greening the Arena: A Case Study in the Compostable Plastics Value Chain *Debra Darby, Darby Marketing, Lowell, MA & Phil Ragan, EcoSafe Zero Waste, Surrey, BC*—**Members of the Case Study Panel:** *Keith Edwards, BASF Corporation; Dick Lilly, Seattle Public Utilities;*

Susan Thoman, Cedar Grove Composting; Xavier Noblat, R3 Redistribution; Leslie Lucas, L2 Environmental; & Scott Jenkins, Seattle Mariners & Chair Green Sports Alliance

The Business of Organics Recycling

Organics Operating Systems: Applying Integrated Approaches to Managing Organic Materials *Paul Sellow, CEO, Harvest Power, Waltham, MA* ■ **Food Waste Composting: A Look at a Growing Business** *Wade Hooton, EcoScraps, Inc, Provo, UT* ■ **Establish a Cost Effective Marketing Budget and Track Your Return on Marketing Investment (ROMI)** *David Hill, CycleLogic, Sarasota, FL*

SESSION SIX 2:15 PM–3:45 PM

Compost Technologies 2

Geographical Information System: An Approach to Innovation Composting Systems & Techniques in South West Nigeria *Obianuju Maureen Ogoiegbone, Sowunmi IfeanyiChukwu Linda & Lawal Oduola Ibrahim, Forestry Research Institute Of Nigeria, Ibadan, Oyo, Nigeria* ■ **Utilizing GPS & GIS Technology for Compost Facility Management & Compliance** *Shawn M. Kelley, Michael B. Whitt & Kara R. Grones, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Prior Lake, MN* ■ **The Benefits of Upgrading to Intensive Compost Process Management at a Large Scale Source Separated Organics Facility** *Tim O'Neill, Engineered Compost Systems-ECS, Seattle, WA* ■ **Innovative Composting Technology for Biosolids Conversion to Class AA** *Bill Townshend, South Dade Soil & Water Conservation District, Florida City, FL*

3rd Annual Compostable Plastics Symposium

Update on Compostability Standard Development *Michele Riggs, Cedar Grove Composting, Seattle, WA* ■ **Sorting Through the Latest Names, Claims & Performance of Degradable Additives & How They Impact Compostable Plastics** *Keith A. Edwards, SPI-Bioplastics Council, Liberty Twp, OH* ■ **Lessons Learned from California's Compostable Plastic Labeling Laws** *Sue Vang, Californians Against Waste, Sacramento, CA & Laurie Hansen Strategic Partners Group, Sacramento, CA*

Compost Markets and Marketing

The Market Potential of Compost: Who Buys What, Why, When and How *Juri Freeman, Skumatz Economic Research Associates Inc. Superior, CO* ■ **Florida's Emerging Compost Markets? Developing a Market for Compost in a Barren Landscape** *Keith A. Howard, Lee County Solid Waste Division, Ft. Myers, FL* ■ **New Technologies in Compost: What Works for the Organic Production Market?** *Doug Currier, OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute), Eugene, OR* ■ **How to Market Yourself, Your Brand & Your Compost** *Justen Garity, President-Veteran Compost, Aberdeen, MD*

Legislative Updates and Initiatives

New & Model Rule Development *Nora Goldstein, Biocycle, Emmaus, PA, Stephanie Busch, GDNR, GA & Ginny Black, MPCA, MN* ■ **Status of Ban Repeals** *Rebecca Geraty, St. Louis Composting, St. Louis, MO*

Certification Exam for SWANA/USCC Manager of Composting Programs 3:00 PM–6:00 PM

SESSION SEVEN 4:30 PM–6:00 PM

Vermicomposting & Mortality Composting

Composting Poultry Mortality System Modified for Exposed Desert Environment *Samir Al-Ghawas, Research Scientist, KISR, Kuwait City* ■ **Review of Mid-to-Large Scale Food Residuals Vermicomposting** *Rhonda Sherman, NC State University, Raleigh, NC* ■ **Large Scale Vermicomposting Case Study** *Tom Herlihy, Worm Power, Geneseo, NY* ■ **Use of Biopolymers in an Indian Composting-Vermicomposting System Proves Effective** *C. Dhakshayani, Harita-NTI, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India & Shilpa Manjure, Natur-Tec, Circle Pines, MN*

3rd Annual Compostable Plastics Symposium

Working Groups meet and report-out.

Organics Stewardship

Humanure—The Use of Human Excrement as a Compost Feedstock *Joseph Jenkins, Joseph Jenkins, Inc, Grove City, PA* ■ **Growing Local Advocacy for Healthy Policies and Healthy Communities** *Nicole Chardoul, Resource Recycling Systems, Ann Arbor, MI* ■ **Building Organics Stewardship in Puerto Rico** *Melissa Young & Carissa Matthews, Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY*

USCC CONFERENCE “LIVE” EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATIONS THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

LIVE EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION & FACILITY TOURS

Come out to the Orange County Composting Facility to see this year's Equipment Demonstrations. Nowhere else will you get to compare & contrast so many different machines operating alongside each other. This is a unique opportunity to observe some of the best & newest equipment in operation. **The equipment demonstration & tour is included in your full conference registration.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DEMONSTRATION DAY SPONSORS

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USCC FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE GOLF OUTING SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

HAWK'S LANDING GOLF CLUB 8:00 AM

Please come out and join your friends and composting industry colleagues for a fun filled day on the links at a premiere golf course close to our conference HQ, while also helping to support a great cause; the Composting Council Research and Education Foundation (CCREF). The CCREF is a 501(c) 3 charitable nonprofit organization, dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting industry in the United States. \$40 from each registration fee goes 100% to CCREF projects. For more info on the CCREF, go to compostingcouncil.org/foundation/

We've selected Hawk's Landing Golf Club at the Orlando World Center Marriott for this first golf outing. Transportation will be provided from the Buena Vista Palace, site of our Annual Conference and Trade Show, which is only about 15 minutes from the golf course. Take a look at this magnificent golf course at Hawk Landing, golflawkslanding.com.

Your \$179 covers all of the following items: Green fees for 18 holes ■ Tournament service gratuities ■ Complimentary water & soda for each golfing guest ■ Complimentary transportation to/from Buena Vista Palace ■ Golf cart complete with touch screen GPS system with electronic scorecard, real-time electronic leader board ■ Practice facility usage (driving range, putting green & chipping area) ■ Tournament services (designated tournament coordinator) ■ Tournament services gratuity ■ Assistance with pairings ■ Customized cart signs & scorecards ■ On-course contests (long drive, closest to the pin, etc.) ■ Pick up & delivery of any golf bags from the hotel bell stand (bags will be pre-loaded on the staged carts prior to your event) ■ Complimentary locker & locker room supplies ■ Curbside greeting & bag valet ■ On-course beverage cart service ■ Earn Marriott Rewards Points (10 points/\$1.00) ■ 10% discount on golf shop apparel

REGISTRATION INFORMATION \$179/PERSON

We need at least 40 golfers to make this work and to hopefully start an annual USCC conference tradition. The course has a maximum 80 golfer limit, so please register soon, plan for a great day in the Florida sunshine in January, and help a great cause. Register at cvent.com/d/0cqs58/4W

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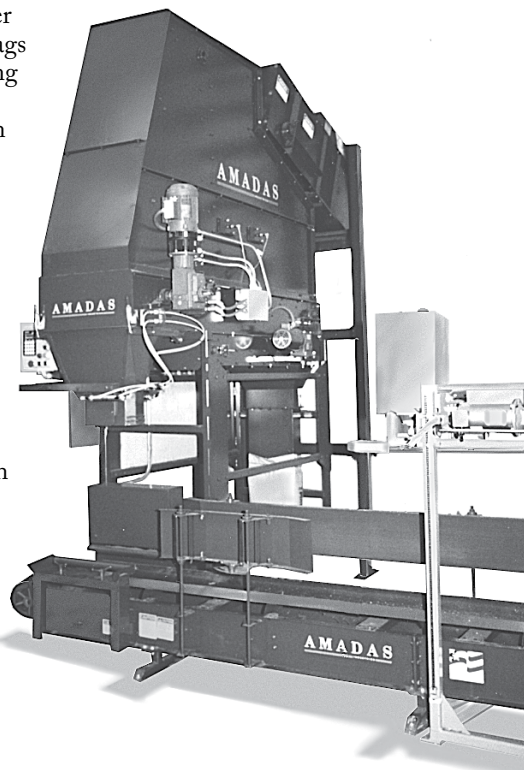
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Best of List Serve

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.

Compost nutrient content along with soluble salt testing, measurement and content in compost has long been a contentious issue. What constitutes “good salts”, versus “bad salts”? How do we account for the natural nutrient content found in most compost? How do we educate spec. writers and compost users about these issues? These questions have risen to our industry’s surface again as work on the TMECC review and revision project is underway. We hope to provide answers that will be of significance to compost producers and to USCC members.

Question—Does anyone know if there is a difference in nutrient solubility in water between fully composted and mature yard waste compost versus fully composted and mature food and wood chip compost and assuming the same NPK for both?

Responses

1. Being the nutrients are the same and we are talking about a mature and stable compost. The nitrogen is in basically three forms; ammonia, nitrate and organic N. The ammonia should be close to zero and the nitrates can be high but most is in the organic fraction. Phosphorus can be in several forms as well, Reactive o-PO₄, acid hydrolyzed and organic forms; little in the reactive form with some in the Hy and most in the organic forms. Potassium is mostly all available.

It’s the non-organic forms that are more available with the organic forms slowly released. So I suggest it’s the salts measured that give the best indication. The higher the EC value the more available the nutrients present (if the AgIndex is ~4+). Manures and food waste seem to have the highest salts with yard waste and biosolids lower. Biosolids already having the salts diluted and squeezed out.

2. All things being equal (esp., presence of P-binding compounds in the feedstock), P or K solubility will not likely change significantly during the composting process. Potassium (K) is not organically complexed and, thus, remains loosely bound (and easily exchangeable, soluble and available) to negatively charged organic matter sites. Phosphorus (P) that is not adsorbed to metal (esp., Fe, Al) oxides may become incorporated into organic matter during the composting process (if not already present in

organic P forms), but such organic P is typically rapidly mineralized to the more soluble mineral form upon application of the compost to soil (regardless of the degree of compost stability). At that point, P solubility will depend on its chemical interaction with soil P-binding constituents.

Nitrogen (N) availability does change throughout the process, but its mineral (available)—organically-complexed (unavailable) distribution throughout the process depends on the initial C:N ratio of the feedstock and distribution of mineral and organic N in the feedstock. As composting proceeds and more C than N is lost via mineralization to CO₂, the C:N ratio should decrease. At C:N ratios of > ~25:1, net soil immobilization occurs (i.e., N is not very available); however, by the completion of composting (as the C:N ratio decreases to e.g., 12:1 to 20:1), net N mineralization occurs (and N becomes more available).

3. I do not think it would be possible to generalize, as there are too many variables. Nutrient solubility is not routinely tested, and would have to be determined on a case by case basis.
4. What are your thoughts on a compost with high EC (16 mmhos/cm dry wt) if the material has high nutrients (7% NPK dry wt) and low NaCl (.5%)? The material has a 15 ag index. I believe that the salts are less of a concern than they are at face value as the NaCl is low and the NPK is high with a high percentage of organic N (82%).

That said, many specs. rule out the material due to high Ec and some customers are buying other material and then amending with chemical fertilizers or avoiding compost altogether and simply applying chemicals. I try to encourage them to look at the EC of the fertilizers but overall less nutrient-rich compost is being used in many places due to fear of salts.

5. The EC that is excessive for a compost is different than for a soil. The high water holding ability of compost helps prevent salt toxicity. If the Sodium Adsorption Ratio is fine, and if the compost potting medium or compost amended soil will be watered, the salt levels are seldom of importance. Only in dry land conditions does the level of salts in composts and manures, etc., matter much.

Further, the test method matters. It is difficult to do a traditional EC for organic media. The traditional EC is for the wetted soil when it first shows the sheen of a water film on the surface (“saturation extracts”); this measure is commonly used to assess salinity risk. But compost is difficult to conduct a “saturation extract” on.

I have heard of cases where a high salt organic amendment was incorporated in a fairly dry soil to produce a turfgrass which was no salt tolerant. Drought ensued and germination was severely inhibited where a sensitive species was seeded but not where a more salt tolerant species was seeded. Lawsuits followed.

As always, one has to apply both the science and common sense to plan best use of composts under the widely varied conditions in the US.

6. I don’t have extensive data on this, but I know that a great deal of manure compost with high pH and high EC and low organic matter was used with good agronomic results on highway projects in Texas until TxDOT revised its testing criteria. The effect of the new criteria excluded most of the manure products previously used. It would be very useful to have solid research data on the horticultural and agricultural results and runoff water quality results of using compost with high pH and EC exceeding typical current standards where Na is low and available nutrients relatively high. The varying salt and pH tolerance of different plants is of course a factor.
7. An Ag Index greater than 10 for an end product suggests that the compost’s end use should not be restricted due to its favorably high macro nutrient content [N plus P2O₅ plus K2O] relative to its lower low salt content [Na plus Cl]. The Ag Index value is based on the concentrations of five elements alone, nothing else. This ratio should therefore be considered as only one of many indicators for assessing compost quality

Electrical Conductivity (EC) is another indicator test. EC is a process management indicator test for composters. It is a measurement that end-users like for its indication of whether or not the compost product might serve well as a medium for direct-seeding. In the end, it is simply an indicator test. No specific assessment can be made of a compost through interpretation of this test as a sole indicator of compost quality, stability, maturity or condition.

EC as measured for compost (per specific protocols by TMECC/CAP/STA) is a measure of the ability of a well dissolved 1:5 compost:water solution to conduct electricity (one part compost to five parts water, dry weight basis). Pure deionized water has a conductivity of zero dS/m. As ion concentrations increase, so does the solution’s ability to conduct electricity. EC measures are reported as deciseimens per meter, dS/m or mmhos per cm (Ohm, resistance, is the inverse of a Mho, conductivity = 1 / Ohm).

An EC value alone should not be evaluated without rigorous review of the compost’s ion content. The



Best of List Serve (continued)

compost consumer is interested in the EC measure because plants in general when grown directly in a compost (or any blended potting media) with a high EC will wilt and sometimes die as the process of osmosis withdraws water from the plant roots where water flows preferentially out of the plant roots towards the higher ion concentrations of the rooting media (~ ion activity). This is why commercial growers rinse high EC potting media with water—to decrease the water-soluble ion concentration of the rooting media by rinsing with water. An EC value can be elevated by high concentrations of various water-soluble ions, most commonly: potassium (positive charge), sodium (positive charge); chloride (negative charge); sulfates (negative charge); ammonium (positive charge), and organic VFAs/VOCs (negative or variably charged ions, anaerobic byproducts). For example, a high EC with low potassium (K), low sodium (Na) and low chloride (Cl) could indicate that a compost is immature if the ammonium-nitrogen level was high (NH₃+NH₄), where the positively charged ammonia+ammonium ions in the extract solution will elevate the EC measure.

EC is an indicator test method and should at a minimum standard be interpreted in parallel with Compost Stability (respirometry), the Ag Index, the maturity bioassay result (cucumber

emergence and growth), and the concentrations of ammonia+ammonium nitrogen, sulfate-sulfur, sodium, chloride, and potassium. A high concentration of any one of these individual ions or combinations of these ions will affect an elevated EC measure. In no case should a specificity for the presence of any individual or pair of water-soluble nutrients or ions be assumed without validation through parallel testing. Again...this test result should be considered as only one of many indicators for assessing compost quality...and, no specific assessment can be made of a compost through interpretation of EC as a sole indicator of compost quality, stability, maturity or condition.

8. This seems an excellent compost (from data you present) and use should be encouraged for all (most all) sites. To not encourage, or even say it should not be used, is wrong IMO and points to a marketing problem.

Let's take a look at how inorganic fertilizers are marketed: Walk into a mass merchandizer (e.g., Home Depot) and look at the bags lined up in a row. You see three things; (1) Large BOLD N-P-K numbers, (2) "Best used for" information and (3) Price. These three are what people use to make their choice.

1) The N-P-K gives you the Nutrient concentrations where one can compare to the others. So the Low to High are relative to values compared from the different products to the left and right in the row.

2) The "Best Use" are for crops where the N-P-K are in the right proportion for growing a plant, root development or to produce flowering. Add too little and nothing happens, add too much and dead plants. The nutrient ratio "Moves nutrient concentrations in the right direction" for the purpose and so is the most optimized product for the intended use.

3) And the price to compare. A product may be cheaper but if not optimized one may need to buy more.

Dry fertilizer has a salt content measured like compost (EC5 w/w) of 60+ much higher depending on the fillers included. The AgIndex of NaNO₃ = 0.61 and the AgIndex of KCl is 1.12. So chloride and sodium build-up in soils are a potential problem when using these lower priced nutrient sources. So adding too much inorganic fertilizers are a problem and a build-up of specific ion toxicity of sodium and/or chloride are real problems when using lower cost fertilizers and poor drainage or drip systems. Same as compost.



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Best of List Serve (continued)

How does the Fertilizer industry handle this potential salt problem? They (almost) ignore it. No talk of AgIndex. One must look at the fine print to determine if the nutrients are from sodium or chloride sources. They only focus on the Big NPK numbers. What they do is suggest an application rate. This is a risk because they know nothing about the receiving soil so they assume it is nutrient deficient. If the plants survive that initial application the rest is easy as they suggest future rates based on typical soils and water quality.

How do we market compost? **We scream SALTS! LOOK-OUT!** If you add too much you will kill your plants. Composters: don't try to make compost with high nutrients because the compost will become "salty" and toxic! Base regulation on the total soluble salts in compost.

How should we market compost? We follow the inorganic fertilizer program.

- 1) We mention and RATE the points (reason) people are buying compost and show on the outside of the bag. Low to High: organic content, AgIndex, available nutrients, slow release nutrients, safety, etc.
- 2) We state the "direction constituents of a compost will move a receiving soil (builds up organic matter, increase available nutrients, light bulk density for easy moving, etc). Note: we should NOT rate; good for potting soils, field soils green roofs etc. rather uses pertaining to the compost properties based on reasons people buy compost. Because that's all we can do.

3) Price.

Salts are never mentioned because they are not a problem. And (most important) people have other ideas what the real word "salts" mean—and what they think is likely wrong. The EC is a tool to determine comparable (to the other bags) the soluble nutrients + sodium-chloride concentrations. The AgIndex provides the potential (low to high) for a sodium-chloride build-up over time. People should know that high EC and high AgIndex means lots of available nutrients ready for the plants. Not that the compost is toxic.



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In The News

UPDATE ON PERSISTENT HERBICIDES

CARY OSHINS

In response to significant herbicide contamination of compost in Vermont, along with other incidents around the country involving persistent herbicides the USCC launched a grassroot effort in early August calling on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to add a "compostability test" to its registration requirements and set a compostability standard for all chemicals that could potentially end up in a composting facility.

The USCC went further, urging EPA to

(1) immediately initiate a Special Review Process for all herbicides that are pyridine-based compounds and act by mimicking plant growth hormones (auxins), and

(2) impose a moratorium on the use and sale of these herbicides pending the conclusion of the Special Review Process.

On August 16th, USCC President Frank Franciosi and Executive Director Michael Virga, along with Brenda Platt, Chair, USCC Legislative & Environmental Affairs Committee and Dr. Fred Michel, Ohio State University, met with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the recent incidents and crop damage resulting from persistent herbicides in compost. Representatives from EPA included Dan Kenny, Branch Chief, Herbicides Branch and Lois Rossi, Director, Registration Division, and representatives from the Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division, the Environmental Fate & Effects Division and the Biopesticides & Pollution Prevention Division.

Concerned stakeholders from Vermont, Pat O'Neill, Director, Composting Association of VT, Tom Moreau, General Manager, Chittenden Solid Waste District

and Cary Giguere, Pesticide Program Section Chief, Agrichemical Management Section, Vermont Agency of Agriculture participated in the meeting via telephone to offer their thoughts and experiences.

Since that meeting, the USCC and EPA have formed a joint task force to continue to examine how to address the issue. Two subcommittees, a technical one focused on testing, and a policy one, have been formed. Key issues include:

- Developing the fate-in-compost testing protocol
- Understanding to what extent the Vermont contamination was a stewardship issue, a labeling issue, or a misuse issue.
- Setting up a reporting procedure ("hotline") where suspected contamination incidents can be reported
- Working with chemical companies to establish funding sources and mechanisms to protect and defray composters' costs associated with contamination
- Developing a USCC policy position on persistent herbicides

Come to the "Update on Persistent Herbicides" session, 2-3:30 PM in the Great Hall East/West on Tuesday, Jan 29 to hear the latest research and efforts on this critical issue.

WEIS MARKETS, ABC & THE USCC—CLOSING THE RETAIL LOOP

BIOCYCLE MAGAZINE

Packaged STA Compost Closes the Retail Loop

In the Spring 2013, shoppers at Weis Markets in Pennsylvania will have an opportunity to participate in their ground breaking composting program - as a

purchaser of Weis Choice Compost. American Biosoils & Compost (ABC) is packaging compost that contains separated organics from the Weis organics diversion program and private labeling it under the Weis brand. "Our compost is recycled from the organic waste generated in our stores such as floral trimmings and food scraps," reads the description on the bag. "...We are proud to 'Close the Loop' and offer a premium compost for our customers", states Patti Olenick, Weis Director of Sustainability. Weis Markets is the first supermarket chain in the US to commit to diverting all organics from some of their stores to composting, and then purchasing the compost back for resale in their stores! They anticipate adding additional stores as the program evolves and develops.

Weis is under contract with ABC to purchase 9,000 half-cubic foot bags initially. Weis Markets is planning a launch in the spring, likely scheduling it around its Earth Day events. Patti states that, "We anticipate a great reception and will evaluate how our customers respond through sales data. We are excited to have our Weis private brand compost as a standard product on the shelves demonstrating our commitment to recycling organic waste and taking it one step further and returning the compost as a value added product in our stores." ABC has a bagging line at its Douglasville, PA composting facility.

ABC and Weis Markets have been working with the US Composting Council (USCC) to certify the compost under the USCC's Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program. Al Rattie, the USCC's Director of Marketing and Manager of the STA Program, also has been helping ABC register the bagged product with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PADOA) and coordinate PR for this project. "The Weis Compost bags also display the USCC's Consumer Use Program icons," notes Rattie. "To our knowledge, Weis Markets is the first supermarket chain involved in a food waste composting initiative that is selling compost made from its processed organics under its own brand, and has enrolled their product in our Consumer Compost Use Program."

The introduction of Weis Choice Compost in the spring connects well with the USCC's 2013 campaign, "Compost: Nature's Way to Grow".

Please look for the full article soon in the January issue of BioCycle magazine!



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