

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

WELCOME !!



US Composting
Council

Working Toward A Sustainable Tomorrow

Understanding & Expanding Compost Infrastructure

Hilton Atlanta Airport

Sept. 28-29 2009

Sponsors

U.S. Composting Council

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. EPA Region 4

BioCycle JG Press, Inc

Celebrating 50 years of Solutions & Success !

**Georgia Department of Environmental
Protection**

**Florida Department of Environmental
Protection**

From Drought to Floods



The Soil and Water Connection

NRCS Quote:

“Because organic matter enhances water and nutrient holding capacity and improves soil structure, managing for soil carbon can enhance productivity and environmental quality, and can reduce the severity and cost of natural phenomena, such as **drought, flood and disease**”

Organic Management

- **What lessons have we learned and what is yet to be taught?**
- **What does it take to make composting operations viable and successful?**
- **What must be done to make composting and compost a permanent part of a municipality's infrastructure ?**
- **Where do we go from here?**

U.S. Composting Council – Voice of the U.S. Composting Industry

Mission, Programs and Opportunities



Scope of Presentation

- **US Composting Council (USCC)**
 - **Mission**
 - **Programs and Initiatives**
 - **Major projects**
 - **Member Services/benefits**
 - **Partnerships, Affiliations, Outreach and Technology Transfer**
 - **Education and Certification**



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USCC Mission

- **Dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the composting & organics recycling industry based upon sound science, principals of sustainability and economic viability**
- **USCC achieves this mission by:**
 - Supporting and performing research
 - Promoting best management practices
 - Establishing standards
 - Educating professionals and the public
 - Enhancing product quality
 - Developing markets for compost products



USCC Background

- **Formed in 1990**
- **Only national, non-profit organization dedicated to composting & organics recycling industry in the U.S.**
- **Broad based membership**, e.g., composters, organic recyclers, consultants, regulators, equip. manufacturers & product suppliers, system suppliers, labs, state and other affiliated associations, academic/research
- **Commitment to science based principles**
- **The USCC also directs the Composting Council Research and Education Foundation (CCREF), a 501(C)(3) charitable foundation which administers public and private research and education activities**

USCC Programs & Initiatives

- **Test Methods for the Examination of Composting & Compost (TMECC)**
- **Compost Analysis Proficiency Program (CAP)**
- **Seal of Testing Assurance Program (STA)**
- **Training and Certification Programs**
- **Promotion of compost use by State DOT's**
- **Compostable Logo Program**
- **Initiatives with the American Association of Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO)**
- **International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW)**
- **State Affiliate & Chapter System**
- **Industry Representation**
 - Position Statements on issues (NOP, Clopyralid, Bioreactor Landfills, Climate Bill ...)
 - Industry promotion and market development (BioPreferred, Golf Show, ASLA, Green Roofs ...)
- **Affiliations & Partnerships, Outreach and Technology Transfer**
 - National & International
- **Annual Conference**



USCC Programs & Initiatives

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- **Compostable Logo Program**
- **Training and Certification Programs**

Science-based programs that increase the credibility and reliability of compost producers, compost products & “raise the bar” for the industry



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Test Methods for the Examination of Composting and Compost, TMECC

- ⇒ Compost Analysis Laboratory Manual - benchmark for testing compost
- ⇒ <http://www.tmecc.org/tmecc/>



Compost Analysis Proficiency, CAP

- ⇒ Inter-Laboratory Proficiency Testing Program
- ⇒ <http://www.tmecc.org/cap/> QA/QC among labs using TMECC

Seal of Testing Assurance, STA

- ⇒ Compost Data Disclosure and End-Use Recommendations
- ⇒ <http://www.tmecc.org/sta/>



Composting Council Research and Education Foundation, CCREF

- ⇒ CCREF strives to serve as the pre-eminent clearinghouse of technical guidance and information for composting activities around the world.
- ⇒ <http://tmecc.org/> & <http://compostingcouncil.org/>

Seal of Testing Assurance (STA)

- Compost testing and information disclosure program
- Purpose is to promote the widespread use of compost as a mainstream horticultural, agricultural and retail product
- **Goals:**
 - To improve customer confidence in compost selection and utilization
 - To improve market acceptance (customer satisfaction) and 'field' results
 - To improve compost purchasing decisions
- Participants regularly sample and test product at CAP approved labs using TMECC methods
- Participants then provide test data, directions for use, ingredient statement
- Allows use of 'Logo' in product promotion
- **STA improves consumer confidence by assuring product quality and performance**



US COMPOSTING COUNCIL
Seal of Testing Assurance

Barnes - Regional Composting
3511 West Cleveland Ave.
Huron, OH 44839
Telephone: 800-421-8722
Fax: 419-433-3555

Sample Date: 8/14/20

COMPOST TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

Compost Parameters	Reported as (units of measure)	Test Results	Test Results
<i>Plant Nutrients:</i>	% weight basis	% wet weight basis	% dry weight basis
Nitrogen	Total N (TN or TKN+NO ₃ -N)	.72	1.12
Phosphorus	P ₂ O ₅	.15	.21
Potassium	K ₂ O	.32	.50
Calcium	Ca	2.34	3.64
Magnesium	Mg	.57	.89
Moisture Content	% wet weight basis	42	
Organic Matter Content	% dry weight basis	31.31	
pH	unitless	7.4	
Soluble Salts <i>(electrical conductivity)</i>	dS/m (mhos/cm)	3.49	
Particle Size	screen size passing through	1/2"	
Stability Indicator <i>(respirometry)</i> CO ₂ Evolution	mg CO ₂ -C/g TS/day, 45m	.14	
	mg CO ₂ -C/g OM/day	.5	
Maturity Indicator <i>(bioassay)</i> Percent Emergence, AND Relative Seedling Vigor	average % of control, AND	92	
	average % of control	86	
Select Pathogens	PASS/FAIL per US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.32(a)	Pass	
Trace Metals	PASS/FAIL per US EPA Class A standard, 40 CFR § 503.13, Tables 1 and 3.	Pass	

Participants in the US Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance Program have shown the commitment to test their compost products on a prescribed basis and provide this data, along with compost end use instructions, as a means to better serve the needs of their compost customers.

Look for the Seal...



US COMPOSTING COUNCIL
Seal of Testing Assurance

STA logo use on approved products



LOOK FOR THE SEAL...

Seal of Testing Assurance Program (STA)

- The number of companies in STA has increased to 129
- Products in STA increased to 166
- Total Production certified in STA now exceeds 6.0×10^6 cy/yr
- USCC STA Facilities located in 33 states
- STA certified labs - 9



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Compostable Logo Program

- **Joint program of USCC and BPI**
- **Logo enables easy identification of compostable plastics**
- **Products must pass ASTM D6400, *Standard Test Specification for Compostable Plastic* or ASTM D6868, *for Biodegradable Plastics Used as Coatings on Paper and Other Compostable Substrates***
- **Allows use of Compostable Logo for products that qualify**



Other USCC Programs, Initiatives & Partnership opportunities



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ICAW – a great way to partner with the USCC

- The State Affiliations Committee is spreading the message about ICAW 2010 – *“Compost! Recycling The Way Nature Meant It To Be”*
- **ICAW is the largest environmental education event to promote the benefits of compost**
 - Features a National poster campaign
 - provides an opportunity for states, communities and facilities to engage customers and the public in activities that will encourage composting & compost use
- The **“How To Celebrate ICAW”** manual has been developed to provides tools, such as sample press releases, proclamations and successful promotions in past years, that will help communities plan ICAW campaigns for 2010



Existing Alliances and Partnerships

- **USCC alliances and partnerships with associations & end user groups:** Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, ORBIT (Organic Recovery and Biological Treatment), American Association of Meat Processors, American Nursery and Landscape Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, SWANA, USDA BioPreferred Program, AFOR, CCC, Composting Association of Ireland, WMA Australia, JORA, EDPA, Taiwan
- **Media organizations and trade journals:** BioCycle, Composting News, MSW Management, Resource Recycling, Forest Product News, Recycling Product News, American Recycler, Waste Handling and Equipment News – all are USCC members
- **Starbucks Coffee Company:** preparation of home composting brochure “*Treat Your Garden to Coffee – and Watch it Grow*”



US Composting Council

Examples of Member Services & Benefits

- **Communications**

- Members are kept informed of industry issues and Council activities by e-mail, the website, the quarterly newsletter, **USCC List Serve, Member Directory, & Annual Conference**

- **Newsletter**

- Features include member company profiles, Board and committee activities, the *Best of the USCC List Serve*, advertising, a professional services directory, and articles on important topics and issues affecting the industry

- **Membership Directory**

- Annual publication & updates are available on the website (“members only” area). A “Who’s Who” of compost producers, marketers, and product, equipment, system & service providers

- **Web Site**

- Continually expanding with new and improved offerings, e.g., Fact Sheets, Position Papers, Educational Resources, Storefronts, Training Calendar, publications for download, ICAW evens and manual

- **RFP Notification Service**

- Provides a “first look” at RFP’s, bids for products and services, & grant announcements - posted on website & members are notified electronically

- **Grant Management & Administration**

- **Group Life & Health Insurance plans available for members**

- **Industry representation & position statements on issues affecting the industry**

- **Committee activities to further the organization’s mission**

- **Clearinghouse for information and technical guidance on composting and organics recycling**



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USCC Committees/Projects

- **Market Development:** STA, AAPFCO
- **Standards & Practices:** TMECC, CAP, CFOG
- **Professional Credentials:** Training & Certification Programs
- **Legislative and Environmental Affairs:** Provide comment and support on state legislation and regulation, e.g., Climate Bill, NOP, Bioreactor Landfills
- **Communications:**
 - Website development, Newsletter
- **State Affiliations and ICAW**
 - Affiliate & Chapter System development
 - International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW)
- **Membership | Nominating & Awards | Finance | Policy & Procedures | Strategic Alliances**

**Join the USCC; Join a Committee,
*Get involved in the future of your industry!***



US Composting
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USCC 18th ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW
Wyndham Orlando Resort | Orlando, FL
January 24-27, 2010



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