

COMPOST COMMUNICATOR™

The quarterly newsletter of the United States Composting Council – Fall 2004 Edition

Presidents Greeting Continued Progress!

—Kevin Tritz

The Board of Directors met in San Antonio in October for a two day workshop to review the status of our organization, and to continue the planning process for the future direction and needs of the USCC. The Board chose to hold its fall workshop in San Antonio to familiarize itself with the facilities, and to finalize the plans for the 13th annual conference that will be held at the Crown Plaza Riverwalk on January 23 to 26th, 2005. Next years attendance is projected be even bigger than this year's conference, where nearly 500 individuals attended. We have over 60 hours of technical seminars scheduled, in order to accommodate the high number of informational papers that have been submitted.

The Board has focused on building a strong, well rounded organization over the past 3 years, which will be able to support our industry as we move

times's running out partner!

Register NOW!

Deep In the Heart of Texas!

"Raising the Bar for our Industry"

- The 13th Annual USCC Conference will be a real 'roundup' of the composting industry's best and brightest.
- Will you be among them?

January 23–26, 2005
Crowne Plaza Riverwalk San Antonio, TX

forward into the next century. We have succeeded in creating an efficient, business based organization with increased membership. Communications with our membership have been improved and expanded through the use of quarterly newsletters and, more importantly, by successfully providing an annual conference that highlights the latest technologies, best practices, 'hands on' case studies, and issues impacting our industry.

One of the most important items identified in our recent planning process was

the need to improve, monitor and increase the accountability of our committees. **We need strong, active and well staffed member committees** to ensure that the USCC continues to support and guide our growing industry. The Board of Directors has established a work plan for the various committees to increase their effectiveness and to increase member participation. The results of these efforts should become apparent in the coming year.

We do hope that you'll be joining us in San Antonio next month. Also, consider attend-

ing one of the training courses scheduled for Sunday, January 23rd. On the lighter side, a golf outing has been planned for Sunday to take advantage of the sunny Texas weather. Monday and Tuesday will each be filled with educational and technical presentations on topics ranging from composting operations to compost marketing, and should provide many ideas to improve your facility operations. Wednesday will cap off the conference with a tour of The Texas Organics Products Composting Facility, equipment demonstrations, and a good old fashion Texas barbeque.

Don't miss the experience! I invite each and every one of you to renew your commitment to our industry by becoming an **active** member of a USCC committee. **WE NEED YOUR HELP.** Please contact Stu Buckner or me with any questions regarding committee membership. I look forward to hearing from you, and meeting you all in January!

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Forester COMMUNICATIONS

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15 Years of Leadership**

Forester Communications is proud to be associated with the US Composting Council and its role in building public awareness and support for composting and its pioneering efforts to promote effective composting standards. Over the years Forester Communications has had the privilege of supporting the council's activities and initiatives through editorials and articles in our *MSW Management*, *Erosion Control*, *Distributed Energy*, *Stormwater*, and *Grading & Excavation Contractor* magazines, and we look forward to continuing our association in the years to come. Whether it's to review current or past issues of any of our magazines, sign up for free subscriptions, check with us about advertising, or discuss editorial opportunities, we invite you to visit our Web site.



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Executive Director's Message USCC Programs and Initiatives

—Stu Buckner

Membership Growth

I am pleased to report that **more than 80 new members have joined the USCC already this year.** Recently, each USCC member has been provided with a membership package, along with a **request to recruit just 1 new member in 2004.** Please help out. Remember, the USCC is only as strong as its membership, so be sure to recruit your colleagues.

Exciting NEW Member Benefit - You asked for it!

Several months ago, a member asked if we could check into finding group insurance policies for the USCC. The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that new Voluntary Life and Health Insurance Benefit plans will be available to USCC Members, their families and their employees through: International Consultants Alliance, LLC. (ICA), 120 White Plains Road, Suite 135, Tarrytown, NY 10591. Tel: 914-366-7401; Fax: 914-631-1083. You can visit their website at: www.annuitymanagers.com. 'Go to Association Plans' on the homepage and click on U.S. Composting Council to view the various plans offered. The company has experience in working with organizations like the USCC, and in providing national coverage. We have done a fair amount of research in this area, and finding a company that can provide all of these plans, in every state of the US, has been a challenging task. ICA will be exhibiting at the USCC Trade Show in San Antonio in January, 2005. **Please note that these insurance offerings are VOLUNTARY, and anyone interested in making a purchase should review and compare ICA plans and prices to those of other companies and make sure that any selection meets their individual needs.**

We are also researching other member benefits, and will offer them to you as they develop. A new, 'used equipment' list and a 'help wanted' section will be available beginning in the next newsletter. We will continue working to make the USCC an increasingly valuable part of your business!

Annual Conference & Trade Show

The conference program for 2005 is completed and this is shaping up to be our best event ever. **A record 30 Sponsors have already signed on to help support the USCC and make this event a success.** The conference program has been expanded from 2 to 3 concurrent tracks, due to the overwhelming response to the *Call for Papers*. Important issues that affect all composters and those affiliated with our industry will be addressed. Please see the program agenda included in this newsletter, and visit the USCC website for specific program details. The conference features:

- more workshops and training opportunities
- more technical and educational sessions
- more interactive hands-on seminars and question and answer sessions with leaders in the industry
- more equipment demonstrations, and
- more networking opportunities than ever before

This conference will give you a wonderful opportunity for professional growth and will provide you with the tools to improve and optimize your facility operations, as well as to manage successful compost marketing programs. Discover how to increase your operating efficiency, improve your products, and add to your bottom line. Be sure to join us in San Antonio!

Equipment Demonstrations

Equipment demonstrations at Texas Organic Products, one of the premier windrow composting facilities in the US, will feature NEW products from several manufacturers.

These include:

- Grinding and shredding equipment from Peterson Pacific, Morbark, and Bandit Industries
- Screening equipment from Wildcat Manufacturing and McCloskey Brothers
- Mixing equipment from Supreme International and ROTO-MIX
- Compost turning equipment from Scarab Manufacturing
- Compost application and spreading equipment from ROTO-MIX
- Rolling stock and loading equipment from Caterpillar
- Erosion control products from Filtrexx International
- Compost application equipment from Soil Express

We only have space available for just 2 more pieces of equipment, so please act quickly if you want your equipment to be seen in operation.

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.

- 1) **Golf outing at the Pecan Valley golf club-Sunday, January, 23**
- 2) **Monday Night Exhibitor's Reception - January 24**
- 3) **Monday & Tuesday Breakfasts, mid-morning and afternoon refreshment breaks - Jan 24 & 25**
- 4) **Tuesday Awards Luncheon-September 25**
- 5) **Tour of Texas Organic Products Compost Facility, Equipment Demonstrations and a Texas Barbecue Luncheon - Wednesday, January 26**

Join us at Texas Organic Products, one of the premier windrow composting facilities in the U.S. The facility is home to a wild game farm around the perimeter of the property, in addition to a 30 acre windrow composting operation. Texas Organic Products will host an entire day event consisting of; Equipment Demonstrations by many of the leading equipment manufacturers and suppliers in the industry, a tour of the composting facility and game farm, and a Texas barbecue in its pavilion and conference center. Attendees will also have the opportunity

to participate in the field session part of the "Tools of the Trade" Workshop.

- 6) **USCC/SWANA Compost Certification Exam- Wednesday, January 26**
- 7) **Compost Showcase 2005 – San Antonio**



At the first Compost Showcase in Las Vegas, Scott Plett, the City of Davenport, IA, could not get enough of a good thing. "Hey Scott, that's not how we sample compost!"



There was plenty to sample, with over 72 different compost products from 45 different producers. Products came as far away as Australia (Jeffries 2004 Vintage), New England Organic's (Composter of the Year Award) and specialty products such as Dr. Subler's Earthworm Castings Tea Bags, just to name a few.



We will be holding our second event, the **Compost Showcase 2005 - San Antonio**. New and improved, **Compost Showcase 2005 – San Antonio** will be even better! We have revised the registration process and expanded the Showcase display area. **Pre-registering your product by January 7, 2005** will ensure that your product will receive plenty of showcase space, will be listed in the Showcase Directory and will be eligible for fun prizes!

To register for any of these events, as well as for the USCC Annual Conference & Tradeshow, visit us at www.compostincouncil.org or call 631-737-4931

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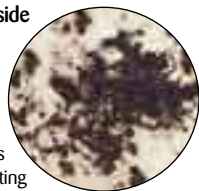
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2004 Professional Achievement Award Honorees

This year, the USCC will name an elite class of 5 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 January 25, at the 2005 USCC Conference. Please join us as we honor the awardees and hear comments from our colleagues.

This year's awards will be as follows:

Composter of the Year - for a commercial-scale composting facility, public or private, that has displayed excellence in both compost production and marketing/distribution

Hi Kellogg Award - for Outstanding Service to the Composting Industry

Rufus Chaney Award - for Research Excellence

H. Clark Gregory Award - for Outstanding Grassroots Efforts to Promote Composting

Clean Water Award - for projects that have positively impacted water quality or increased awareness of the link between soils, compost and water quality.

DON'T FORGET THE PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER EVENTS:

- USCC Compost Training Course taught by Dr. Robert Rynk & Matt Cotton

- Compost Sales & Marketing training course taught by Ron Alexander
- Compost Tea Workshop taught by Cindy Salter, Vicki Bess, Brantlee Richter & Tyler Tuttle
- Worker and Public Health Impacts of Composting Facilities workshop taught by Dr's Eliot Epstein, Fatih Buyuksonmez, & Robert Reimer
- 1st Annual "Tools of the Trade" Workshop, featuring demonstrations of equipment for evaluating all aspects of the composting process and product quality
- CEU's will be offered by SWANA for Attending the USCC Conference and for attending any of the pre-conference workshops

U.S. COMPOSTING COUNCIL

Board Objectives

- Improve individual member's profitability
- Improve overall industry health
- Raise the profile of composting to the general public
- Create a positive business climate for industry

The majority of USCC Committees will review their goals, activities and progress at the USCC Conference. Committee meetings will run concurrently with the conference sessions, so please plan your days accordingly if you wish to attend. All are invited to attend these meetings.

Where's Your Company's Ad?

Call the USCC offices
(631-737-4931)
for COMPOST
COMMUNICATOR
advertising rates!!

Please refer to the USCC website for committee goals and plans:

2004 Committee Goals and Priorities, PDF file:

www.compostingcouncil.org/pdf/04_com%20_workplan.pdf

State Affiliations Committee

– Wayne King and Teri Sorg-McManamon, co-chairs

Committee Activities:

ICAW Week - May 1-7, 2005

The Possibilities are Endless ... Compost!, will be the message spreading globally during **International Compost Awareness Week, May 1-7, 2005**. The week, which will be celebrating its 11th year in 2005, is designed to promote the benefits of composting and compost use for both effective resource management and improved plant growth. Millions of people across the U.S., Canada and Europe will be introduced to **The Possibilities are Endless...Compost!**, thanks to a combined partnership between the U.S. Composting Council, the Composting Council of Canada and the UK Composting Council. This rallying cry is the perfect backdrop for your company or municipality to engage customers and employees in activities that will encourage and celebrate composting. Refer to the "Compost Week" section on the USCC web site at www.compostingcouncil.org under "How to Celebrate Compost Awareness Week" for assistance in planning your events. Please visit the site often to find out what's going on in your area, and for event tools such as; sample press releases, proclamations and examples of successful promotions from past years, that will help you plan your own campaign for 2005.

Please contact the USCC office at 631-737-4931 if you're interested in sponsoring this year's national poster. Each Council member will receive a complimentary poster and additional posters will be available for \$5.00 each, to cover printing and postage. For questions on ICAW call USCC Committee co-chairs Wayne King, Erth Products, 770-487-6677 or Teri Sorg-McManamon, BioCycle, 610-390-7930.

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Seal of Testing Assurance Program

- Ron Alexander and Al Rattie,
Program Managers

The Seal of Testing Assurance Program, or STA as it's commonly called, continues to steadily expand. There were, at last count, 82 companies and 109 different compost products in the program. 27 states are represented, and nearly 3 million cubic yards of compost are now STA certified! Progress continues to be made with various state Departments of Transportation, resulting in more STA compost use specifications being written. The figures listed above will surely be larger by the time of the conference, if past history is an indication of future performance!

Welcome New Members

- Jon Cheatham, Angelina & Neches River,
Lufkin, TX
- Keith Edwards, BASF Corporation,
Florham Park, NJ
- Mark Jenner, Biomass Rules, Greenville, IL
- Dwayne Wolf, Bosque River Compost,
Stephenville, TX
- Rex Edwards, Carolina Recycling,
Pittsboro, NC
- Rufus Chaney, Beltsville, MD
- Lorrie Anderle, City of Arlington, TX
- Gayla Wright, City of Denton, TX
- Ellen Ryan, City of Flagstaff, AZ
- Cliff Lee, Compost We R Inc., Childress,
TX
- Frank Kalsbeek, Dairy Cow Compost,
Stephenville, TX
- Susan Bast, Dakota Valley Recycling,
Burnsville, MN
- Al Goehring, DuraTech Industries,
Jamestown, ND
- Theodore Pytlar, Dvirka and Bartilucci,
South Plainfield, NJ
- Tim Yoder, Great River Regional Waste,
Fort Madison, IA
- Peter Klaich, Heritage Bag Company,
Williamsville, NY
- Grady Holt, Saraland, AZ
- Ken Bouma, Iowa Department of Natural
Resources, Des Moines, IA
- Steve Rossi, James L Rossi Inc., Templeton
CA
- Don Legacy, J-V Dirt + Loam, Austin, TX
- Mike Kochergen, Kochergen Farms,
Fresno, CA
- Darrin Harn, Kuhn Knight Inc.,
Bodhead, WI
- Jeff Langbehn, Lake County Solid
Waste, Merrville, IN
- Ann Bleinberger, Mid-Atlantic
Composting, Millersville, MD
- Greg Berry, Midwest Bio-Systems,
Tampico, IL
- Susan Stenander, Midwest Organics,

The latest news... The real story

Special
Offer

Composting News

www.reggie.se

Composting News was launched in 1992 to fill a void of information in the composting and organics recycling industry. The publication immediately earned a reputation for telling the real story, covering controversial, but important issues that other periodicals steered clear of. Today Composting News continues to feature vital issues of concern to producers and users of compost and other organic waste products.



- * Composting News is an independent publication with an obligation only to its readers and is not affiliated with any trade association or company involved in composting or affiliated industries, so our reporting is always unbiased.
- * Composting News is the first and only industry publication to track and publish current market prices for compost and mulch products.
- * Composting News tracks new legislation and regulations at the state and federal levels so readers are always on the cutting edge of what lawmakers are doing that could impact their businesses or jobs.
- * Every issue contains the supplemental Product/Equipment and Services Guide - a handy categorized listing of product, equipment and service providers to the composting industry. At a glance, readers can find suppliers of everything from compost turners to analytical laboratories.



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- Chicago, IL
- Dan Brandon, Morbark, Inc., Winn, MI
- Cody Cravatt, New Earth, LLC, San
Antonio, TX
- Martha Brodylo, New York City Dept.
of Environmental Protection, Corona, NY
- Tony Gioffre, Novamont S.P.A.,
Ridgefield, CT
- Dave DeCou, Organic Materials Review,
Eugene, OR
- Wes Cook, Organic Partners LP,
Franklin, TX
- Beng Leong Ooi, Organic Recycling,
Inc., Tappan, NY
- Bart Morr, Paradise Composting,
Smithville, OH
- George Peregrin, Fishers, IN
- Phil Hayes, Pinetop-Lakeside Sanitary,
Lakeside, AZ
- Jerry Powell, Resource Recycling,
Portland, OR
- Fred Martin, Rocky Top Resources Inc.,
Colorado Springs, CO
- Brock Harrington, Scotia Machinery,
Indianapolis, IN
- Brian Minasian, Sun-Land Garden
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quality accessories and equipment for the composting industry since 1985. Allu recognizes an important part of expanding our success is continuously looking, together with our customers, for new application possibilities and providing them with realizable solutions. The high quality Allu product lines accomplish just this. The main product lines of Allu are the; Allu SM screener/crusher attachment, the Allu AS compost windrow turners and the Allu PM power mixers for mass stabilization.

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Member Profile - Allu

The Allu Group is the US office of Allu Finland. Allu has specialized in manufacturing superior

The Allu SM is a versatile accessory for wheel loaders, excavators and skid steerers. The efficiency of the Allu SM processing attachment comes from its patented innovation of horizontal rotating drums. The SM can replace much more expensive stationary screening and crushing plants. It can even be used as a pre-screener for the feeding of a stationary plant for difficult wet materials, considerably increasing volume in some applications. It can screen down to 3/4" size, crush, pulverize, blend, mix, aerate and separate a variety of materials in a single step. The SM can be used to grind food waste, debug grass, process animal mortalities, to mix and aerate biosolids, as well as mix compost.

The portable Allu SM is suitable for many applications in the composting field. You can scoop, shake and separate compost from big fraction waste matter, all in one step. Compost can also be mixed with bulking agents as well as aerated and screened. You can even mix peat or sand with the compost, and load it on to trucks. The advantages of the Allu SM are more work opportunities with one single machine, capable of processing a wide range of materials at a higher capacity, than with conventional machines.

The Allu AS windrow turners have been designed for the treatment of many different materials. They are currently running effectively worldwide under both arctic conditions and hot, desert temperatures. The Allu AS are track drive, straddle-type turners capable of turning a windrow up to 26 ft. wide and 10 ft. high. The patented mixing drum allows for complete mixing and 100% aeration, with minimum power requirements. The dual reversed augers mixes the material from both sides, into the middle of the windrow. The AS then throws the material behind the machine, fully aerating it and forming a new windrow. It has the highest turning capacity of any turner, up to 6000 tons per hour. The AS turner is easily transportable and does not require special permits in most countries, when transported on a low bed trailer.

The Allu PM power mixer is a versatile hydraulic accessory for excavators, converting them into an easily movable and effective mixing plant. It can handle various materials such as contaminated soil, peat, sludge

and even difficult, clay-like soils. The PM's effectiveness is based on horizontal drum positioning and an inventive construction of mixing elements. The drums move and mix material in three different directions simultaneously. The PM is available in three sizes to reach a maximum 16.5 ft. depth.

Allu has subsidiaries in the US, Germany, France, Great Britain, China and South America. Visit our website at www.allu.net, or call our toll-free number, 1-800-939-2558.

Best of the 'on line' discussion board

This feature is not intended to provide detailed and thorough answers to the questions raised. They can only be found, in many cases, by examining the volumes of compost science research. This is presented to provide the thoughts and suggestions of those who responded to the query.

Adding Chemical Fertilizers

Q - Has anyone used or heard of using chemical fertilizer as a nitrogen source for composting (perhaps urea or other low cost nitrogen fertilizers)? I have come across a producer that composts urea and yard waste (in 30 days!). Does this make sense? I've never heard of anyone doing this before. Anyone know what the benefit of doing this is? Is there anything that I should watch out for in products made like this? I also noticed that there was absolutely no odor from his process. Perhaps fewer volatile organic acids come from chemicals, versus those from organic nitrogen sources? Could Ammonia volatilization become a problem?



Responses

1) I have commercially made compost out of pure pine sawdust procured from a nearby sawmill for 14 years. I used cheap urea supplied by a fertilizer company as the nitrogen source. It was especially cheap because it was spilled and dirty material (e.g. from broken bags, the overs from storage facilities and



lumpy bits from consignments that had got damp). I also added rock phosphate (to contribute P and Ca), potash (for K), dolomite (for Mg and Ca) and a hydroponic micronutrient mix. Everything was added and mixed prior to the composting taking place in windrows. The decomposition got going very rapidly but I found it still took at least six months before I got a useable product. As for quantities, I no longer have any of my records, but the amount of urea was calculated to contribute nitrogen so that the mix had around 40 parts sawdust [Carbon] by weight, to 1 part N (Urea being 46% N). There was probably some N loss due to volatilization as ammonia under these conditions, but this was never

measured and was not evident as a problem. The quality of the end product was excellent and was used most successfully to make potting mixes.

2) High carbon feeds are provided to cattle, along with urea (N), to allow their rumen microflora to grow and convert the high carbon feed into useful proteins, etc. In the same way, some composts of high C materials produce better compost products, and mature more rapidly, when enough N is present for the composting microflora to grow, metabolize and become a useful slow release N fertilizer. Unfortunately, some compost feedstocks can become deficient in P if N is added.



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Frank Gouin (Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland) made a discovery that after urea was added to expedite composting, the compost matured very slowly. They examined other nutrients and found that after N was added, P was no longer sufficient for rapid composting, and maturation was substantially shortened. This proves the law of the minimum -- the most limiting nutrient controls all metabolism of plants and animals. One should examine N, P, and S when composting high C feedstocks. There may even be some other limiting nutrients for particular feedstocks. One of the special benefits of manure or biosolids in mixed feedstocks, is that they provide all of the nutrients required by composting microbes.

MORE New Member Benefits - Coming Soon!!

Looking to sell or purchase a used piece of composting equipment? Need to hire an experienced composting professional? Look no further! The Compost Communicator will offer FREE listings to USCC members that are in the market for used composting equipment (to buy or sell), AND 'help wanted' postings for composting positions of any kind (operations, marketing, etc.) to USCC members. Send your needs, with contact information, to Al Rattie at: AARconsulting@aol.com, and we'll post them in the next newsletter. This offer is for USCC members ONLY!

IN THE NEWS

Items of interest to our composting community

USCC/STA Member participates in EPA funded study

—Wayne King, Erth Products

ERTH Environmental Partners and ERTH Products, LLC of Peachtree City, GA. recently learned that they would be playing a major role as one of the lead cooperative partners in a grant funded by EPA Region IV. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs in Atlanta will be the recipient of \$57,656 to fund a project entitled "Use of Engineered Soils and Landscape Systems (ES&LS) to Meet Storm Water Runoff Quality and Quantity Management Requirements." The water quality and quantity benefits of compost-containing engineered soils will be examined in both a controlled setting at the University of Georgia Griffin Campus and on a functional landscape system at Georgia Tech. Findings will be used by an innovative group of project partners to educate developers, landscape architects, stormwater professionals and other interested parties and to encourage this use of recycled materials to treat storm water runoff in urban environments. This project is innovative in its use of ES&LS as a "GreenScapes" model in storm water management and land planning. It compliments and expands on the Low Impact Development (LID) model currently being used to retain and treat storm water on site. This model is also a component of the U.S. EPA Resource Conservation Challenge program, and the proposed model will be used in a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certification program. In addition, the project is

an innovative partnership of; a state agency, two universities, environmental and architectural design firms, a commercial compost producer, a green industry group, a stormwater managers association and an urban land use nonprofit organization. A 30-minute informational videotape/DVD will be created on some important initial aspects of the project, including a demonstration of an engineered soils/rainfall simulator device already constructed by EARTH Environmental Partners. These initiatives will encourage "green" business decisions related to new and retrofit installation of functional landscapes and stormwater control measures utilizing engineered soils in site designs.

The project is scheduled to start in October 2004, with an information and education phase, and will be followed with the field application and evaluation phases scheduled to be completed in 2006. Measurable results include; comparison of organic matter content of engineered soils as it relates to nutrient loading and volume reduction, phosphorus and nitrogen removal capability of engineered soils and analysis of storm water volume as it relates to the ability of a site to meet storm water quality treatment standards. The project will also promote links between environmental benefits and waste minimization and recycling activities. Additional measures include the number of people reached through distribution of an informational videotape, publication of journal articles, distribution of brochures and fact sheets, and workshop presentations.

You can learn more about this project from Wayne King during a session on *Innovative Uses & Applications for Compost* at the USCC Annual Conference in San Antonio.

EKO Strikes Gold!

EKO Compost is pleased to announce that it's Maui composting facility has been awarded the Gold 2004 Composting Excellence Award by the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). EKO was publicly honored at the Excellence Award luncheon at WASTECON 2004, SWANA's 42nd Annual Exposition in Phoenix, Arizona on September 23rd. EKO was nominated for the award by John Harder, Solid

Waste Division Chief, County of Maui. Mr. Harder and Maui EKO Systems have worked together from the inception of operations in July 1995. Today, nearly 50 percent of Maui's landfill diversion is the direct result of the efforts by EKO and it's sister company, Pacific Biodiesel. Together, they recycle five major waste streams -- biosolids, wood wastes, paper wastes, grease trap waste, and cooking oil. They produce four beneficial products -- compost, mulch, biodiesel, and bunker fuel. These products are used throughout the Islands by gardeners, landscapers, resorts, golf courses, farmers, public parks, highways, and even Maui's power generating plant. The USCC is pleased to offer our congratulations to this member for a job well done!

USCC Initiatives on Compost Marketing Regulations

—Scott Subler, Restoration Soil & Research and USCC Board member

The US Composting Council and the USDA recently co-sponsored a workshop concerned with regulations affecting the marketing of compost, and other bio-based plant nutrient and soil fertility products. Remarkably, this was the first meeting of its kind to bring together representatives from our industry and others, including; horticulture, conventional and organic agriculture, a diverse group of academics, state and federal regulators and others, to try and sort out the issues related to the rational regulation of the marketing of compost and related bio-fertility products. The workshop was very well attended, underscoring the high priority given to this issue, and was considered by many as a successful starting point for a national dialogue and proactive action on this issue.

Why is the regulation of compost marketing such an important issue in the first place? Aren't we already selling our compost? Is this really such a big deal? It sure is, for those composters who try to emphasize *compost quality* as a way to differentiate our products from the unstable, phytotoxic and only partially decomposed organic residues. Those composters who don't care about the additional revenues they could obtain from marketing good quality compost may not view this as a significant issue, although I haven't run into too many lately with this mindset.

The marketing of fertilizers and soil amendments (compost often fits uncomfortably somewhere in between these two categories) is regulated on a state by state basis, with a different set of rules for each state. The existing regulatory frameworks in many states are antiquated and, quite frankly, inadequate to deal with the changing realities of modern agriculture and soil fertility management using bio-based products. If you're lucky, you're already in a state with up-to-date rules and can market your compost locally. Many of us, however, must deal with multiple, often contradictory and intractable regulations in several different states, as we develop and expand our compost marketing programs.

Compost marketers are, as a result, often prohibited from using language on their product labels, bids, literature, advertisements and web sites,



AWARD: SWANA 2004 Gold Excellence Award in Composting goes to EKO Systems Inc., presented September 23rd, 2004, Phoenix, Arizona.

From left to right: Mike Hegedus, Vice President, and Thomas Pawlish, President, EKO Systems, Inc. - John Harder, (former) Chief, DPW & Environmental Management, County of Maui, Hawaii Rubens Fonseca, Plant Manager, Maui EKO Systems, Inc.



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that disclose nutrient contents or make other claims about compost benefits that we would all find relatively commonplace, and that help us to differentiate our *quality compost products* from those of inferior quality. Making nutrient claims or even reporting nutrient content in most states (often necessary to comply with state nutrient management rules as well as with the USCC STA program) requires registration of compost products as 'fertilizers'. Registration as a 'fertilizer', however, in many of these same states makes it difficult or impossible to also make several 'soil amendment' claims typical for composts. Soil amendment products are considered a separate regulatory category.

Furthermore, terms like "beneficial microorganisms", "humic acids", "stability" and "plant health", although entirely familiar to most of us and clearly well-accepted by the scientific community as common aspects of good compost, are often difficult or 'illegal' to use on product labels in several states. The term "organic", for example, which achieved uniform definition and application in organic food production under the National Organic Program (NOP), is often quite problematic. Several states appear to prefer definitions derived from old biochemistry textbooks, which conform neither to current popular usage nor to the NOP approach. Ironically, many state departments of agriculture actively promote the beneficial use of compost, making many valid claims in their extension and promotional materials about compost benefits. These same claims, however, are prohibited from appearing on our product labels by those same departments!

There is a long laundry list of other issues regarding compost marketing that simply haven't been addressed yet, largely because compost's role in agriculture and other markets has only risen to prominence again in the past few decades. We're only now fully confronting fertilizer laws that have been on the books for the past 50 years, when synthetic fertilizers became dominant and the role of organics in agriculture was marginalized.

The good news is that the USCC and others have been actively involved in efforts to bring compost marketing regulations into the 21st century. One group in particular that has been struggling for decades to provide some semblance of clarity and consistency in fertilizer regulations across state lines is the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) [www.aapfco.org]. AAPFCO is comprised largely of the state fertilizer control officials, and produces guidance documents for the uniform interpretation and enforcement of state fertilizer laws. The ultimate interpretation of any state law, however, rests with each state's judiciary, and not with an independent national association.

The USCC has been "at the table" during AAPFCO's discussions of compost regulations, sending a liaison (Ron Alexander) to their annual and semi-annual meetings for over five years, as well as reviewing and proposing modifications to sections of AAPFCO's guidelines. AAPFCO is, however, only one of several channels through which positive change can be made.

Other initiatives of the USCC such as: the development of both informational and position papers on compost marketing regulations; a legal review of existing regulations and how they are applied in certain states; working in



partnership with several state and federal agencies to develop compost quality and utilization standards; forming strategic alliances with other concerned associations such as the Biobased Manufacturers Association; supporting possible legislative actions at both state and federal levels to develop new rules or guidelines; and many others, are currently under discussion or being implemented by the USCC Board of Directors and the Council's Marketing and Legislative Affairs committees

So, if we're serious about the economic, environmental, and social benefits of producing and using *quality composts*, how can we clearly and effectively communicate these benefits to customers and others if we can't make appropriate claims or tell the "whole story"? The answer is that we can't in most states, under current regulations. Not only is our industry's marketing capability currently constrained, but so are efforts to promote customer and consumer awareness of the many benefits of compost. It's clear that the process of improving regulations for compost marketing will be an important issue in our industry for many years to come.

Baltimore City Composting Facility - ORGRO® biosolids compost used on White House grounds

—David Hill, Veolia Water,


Baltimore City Composting Facility The first of approximately 90 truckloads (1,500 cubic yards) of compost started rolling out the door on Thursday, April 15, 2004, for delivery to The White House, or as it's known to the National Park Service, "Presidential Park". The

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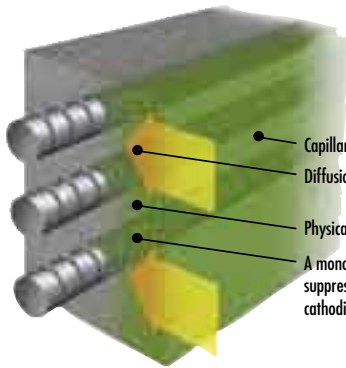
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project in which ORGRO is being used is for the conversion of Pennsylvania Avenue, in front of the White House, into a pedestrian park.

Artist's Concept

The plan to redesign this portion of Pennsylvania Avenue is one of the first projects being undertaken in conjunction with Washington's extensive urban design and security plan.

The Baltimore City Composting Facility (BCCF) is operated by Veolia Water North America Operating Services, LLC under contract with the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority. It processes approximately 45,000 tons per year of EQ biosolids for the City of Baltimore and produces approximately 75,000 cubic yards per year of compost.

The sales process for ORGRO began in November of 2003, when the Federal Highway Administration (FHA), the agency with oversight responsibility for the project, contacted the US Composting Council. The FHA compiled a list of participating STA compost producers in

order to compare STA test data and determine suitability of the various composts to meet engineering specifications for the manufactured soil end-product. These names, along with end-product performance specifications, were forwarded to the project's General Contractor, who conducted the review and selection process. ORGRO® High Organic Compost, from the BCCF was one of the products that was identified, and ultimately selected by the project management team. It should be noted that the BCCF was not the closest geographical compost producer to the project location.

Security at the White House has been of paramount concern. Terrorist alerts from the Homeland Security Agency have shifted from Code Orange to Code Red and back again several times, during the course of construction. All persons entering the site must have security clearance. All trucks and deliveries are thoroughly searched, using a team of inspectors with an array of detection equipment and bomb-sniffing dogs. This has a tremendous impact on coordinating deliveries to the site.

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The construction project has continued over the course of the summer and will continue through the fall, but must be finished in time for the Presidential Inauguration in January. You can track progress of the project on-line (and see additional Video, Plans and Photos) at www.whitehouse.gov/pennproject/index.html

Novamont Buys Eastman's Eastar Bio Technology

—*Andrea Di Stefano, Novamont S.p.A. and Nancy Ledford, Eastman Chemical Company*

NOVARA, Italy, and KINGSPORT, Tenn., U.S.A., Sept. 8, 2004 – Novamont S.p.A. and Eastman Chemical Company have announced the sale of Eastman's *Eastar Bio* copolyester business and technology platform to Novamont, a producer of biodegradable materials. "The acquisition of Eastman's *Eastar Bio* copolyester technology, including the excellent manufacturing skills and an extensive patent portfolio, represents an important strategic breakthrough for Novamont," said Catia Bastioli, managing director of Novamont S.p.A. "The acquisition will permit us to widen the range of Novamont's proprietary products and speed up the internal development of polyesters from renewable resources"

Novamont S.p.A. started its activity as a research center in 1989 and today is a market leader in the sector of bioplastics. Novamont offers a family of competitive materials based on renewable agricultural origin under the *Mater-Bi* trademark. Industrial applications covered by *Mater-Bi* are very broad ranging, from separate collection of organic waste and composting to

agriculture, hygiene, packaging, food service ware and additives for rubber.

"The emerging biodegradable industry is experiencing exciting market development activities. Only limited synergies exist, however, with markets currently served by Eastman," said Phil Griswold, vice president and general manager for Eastman's specialty plastics business. "As such, we believe that Novamont is a better natural owner of this innovative technology. We're pleased that Novamont, a recognized world leader in producing biodegradable polymers, will be using the technology and manufacturing skills that Eastman has developed to further this very important market."

Eastar Bio copolyester is used commercially in food service ware markets for cutlery and single-use disposable packaging, protective packaging, compost bags and organic waste bin liners. Eastman also had biodegradable development efforts in agricultural plastics, packaging and sporting goods. Eastman's specialty plastics business is part of the company's Eastman Division. Both companies are working closely to promote a smooth transition of the business and technology.

Novamont has invested more than \$90 million in the project "Living Chemistry for Quality of Life. This has enabled the creation of dynamic partnerships with research institutes, public bodies, companies, associations and communities, whose objectives are products and solutions for sustainable development. This commitment was honored with the Sustainable Development Partnerships Award at the United Nations summit of 2002. For more information about



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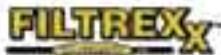
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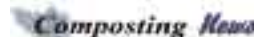
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