



**US** Composting  
Council

## Organics *In the News*

The Electronic Newsletter of the US Composting Council - July 10, 2010

[www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)

The USCC is pleased to introduce a monthly electronic newsletter as a new member benefit. We have gleaned the following articles from the many news services that we subscribe to and consolidated them in one, easy to read 'e-news' for our members.

### In This Issue

#### Breaking News

- **New USCC Part Time Staff Position - Legislative Coordinator**  
The USCC is seeking a Legislative Coordinator to work on the Council's legislative and environmental affairs. Responsibilities include advocacy on behalf of the Council and the composting and organics industry. The position requires an environmental and public policy or legislative background as well as good communications and computer skills. [Position Application](#)
- **New EPA food waste calculator!** The EPA has developed a Food Waste Management Calculator that helps to estimate the cost competitiveness of alternatives to food waste disposal, including source reduction, donation, **composting** and recycling of yellow grease. [Click here to download](#)
- **The Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act Introduced in the Senate!**  
Senators Tom Udall (NM) and Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) have introduced S 3561 the Senate Companion to HR 4202 The Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act. Please seize on the momentum this introduction has created and take a moment to ask your Senators (and member of Congress) to become a co-sponsor of HR 4202 and S 3561! [Learn more](#)
- **USGA sustainability initiative!** Anyone watching the last day of the US Open golf tournament might have also heard an exciting proclamation by their new President, Jim Hyler, Jr. regarding the new focus that organization is taking towards golf course maintenance - **sustainable landscape practices**. The USCC has seized this opportunity to develop a new strategic alliance the USGA. [Read the full story here](#)

#### USCC News

- **Compost Operators Training Course - Learn from the Best!** - The course is being held at the State University of New York at Cobleskill on August 2 - 6. What does it take to run a successful composting facility? The US Composting Council, working with experts from programs across the country, has put together this new one-week course focusing on knowledge and skills you need to do just that. [Register online](#)
- **The USCC 19th Annual Conference and Trade Show - getting closer!** The 19th Annual Conference will be held from January 23-26 at the Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara, CA. It is THE premier event of the Composting and Organics Recycling industries, providing industry professionals with educational, networking and career advancement opportunities. **Make sure to register NOW to reserve your place at this once a year industry event!** [Conference Details](#)

#### Industry News

- **Report paints positive picture for future of compostable packaging** - A study conducted by the SPC of a range of U.S. composting facilities finds a positive attitude toward handling packaging, but some challenges need to be overcome. [Report](#)

- **Compostable Packaging Increases Overall Rates** - A survey by the Sustainable Packaging Coalition found that the use of compostable materials in packaging has the corollary effect of increasing the rate of food composting. [Click here](#)
- **Rapidly Biodegradable Plastic Announced by Tamarisk Technologies** - Tamarisk Technologies has developed a new plastic that is biodegradable in about 60 days. Tests conducted by both Tamarisk Technologies and Intertek Labs, an independent third party laboratory, have shown that this plastic technology may be the answer to the world's need for a biodegradable and compostable plastic. [Read more](#)
- **Metropolitan Market unveils compostable meat trays** - In response to a new city ordinance, the Metropolitan Market chain has introduced a compostable meat tray made from 100 percent corn in its four Seattle stores. USCC member and **STA participant Cedar Grove Composting** will compost the waste. [Read More](#)
- **Organic farm in Lebanon turns Walmart waste into compost** - The owner of Marvin's Organic Gardens in Lebanon won a contract from the world's largest retailer to compost food waste from as many as 160 of its stores in Ohio. It's a major feat for the organic farmer, who founded the 75-acre operation in 1999 with a plan to dedicate one third of his land to composting. [Full story](#)
- **Sustainable Packaging: Future of Eco-Labels Debated at Sustainable Foods Summit** - Practical sustainability initiatives adopted by food companies and the future role of eco-labels were extensively debated at the Sustainable Foods Summit. The executive summit brought together 140 executives from various sectors of the food industry, in Amsterdam on June 10-11th. [Read more](#)
- **City celebrates 20 'green' years with recycling and free compost** - During the same year that Rochester celebrates 20 years of curbside recycling, the city is offering larger, wheeled recycling bins at a discounted price and free compost. [Read more](#)
- **The city of St. Paul, MN is going green in a big way.** They want to be a zero waste city by 2020. [Read more](#)
- **Growth is in the bag for composting company** - A Canadian company develops waste composting solutions for businesses. [Read more](#)
- **Composting Worth Boasting about!** - Composting isn't necessarily the sexiest part of landscaping, but there are definite economic and environmental advantages to doing it, said Texas AgriLife Extension Service and other experts. [Full story](#)

### Anaerobic Digestion & Other Alternatives

- **Waste Not – Want Not: Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Opportunities Create New Revenue Streams and Increase Sustainable Practices** - Is it economically viable to create energy from waste at your location? For dairy farmers and others, the answer is increasingly 'yes'. [Full story](#)
- **Will Biogas Power Your Car in the Future?** - Biogas is the non-fossil fuel made from the anaerobic digestion of organic matter. It is produced in many landfill sites where organic matter such as garden waste and food are present. It can also be made from manure, sewage, and green waste. [Read more](#)
- **USDA issues call for applications for REAP funding** - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it is accepting applications for Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grants and loan guarantees. REAP (Section 9007 of the 2008 Farm Bill) provides incentives for the development/construction of rural renewable energy projects, such as anaerobic digester projects. [Read more](#)
- **Growing Demand of Global Biological Waste to Energy Plants** - The commercialization of innovative and modern biological waste to energy systems and technologies is promoting a new wave of growth in the green energy sector globally. [Report](#)
- **Anaerobic digestion – the UK's new energy solution** - The UK coalition government's support of biomass projects using anaerobic digestion has attracted considerable attention coupled with mild surprise in some quarters. [Read more](#)

## Legislative Update

### Energy and Climate Legislation

Federal attention has been primarily directed to the events happening in the Gulf, with little focus elsewhere. President Obama recently delivered his first Oval Office speech largely about the Gulf Coast oil spill. He also used the occasion to call for comprehensive energy legislation that would reduce the nation's use of fossil fuels and increase production of renewable energy. The President also summoned a bipartisan group of Senators to the White House on June 23 in the hope of jump-starting action on an energy bill vote. **One thing that is becoming increasingly clear - it is unlikely that a bill will have the votes this year to pass a measure that sets a price on carbon.**

Senator Jay Rockefeller continues, however, to push for a separate floor vote on his bill (S. 3072) to bar the EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources for two years. He believes that the Senate needs the time to consider climate policy before the federal government begins direct regulation of GHGs, and Majority Leader Reid has assured him that the bill will be brought to the floor sometime soon.

### Bipartisan Groups Seeks Biomass GHG Regulation Details

On June 16, a bipartisan group of 63 House members sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson seeking details on how the agency will consider a decision to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from biomass combustion. Two days prior, the EPA said that it would solicit public comment on its decision to include biomass combustion in its regulations of stationary source greenhouse gas emissions. **Will more waste be available for composting if these plants are more regulated? How might this possibly impact AD facilities (see next article)?**

- **House Introduces Bill to Provide Biogas Tax Incentives** - Representative Kind (D-WI) introduced a bill (HR 5581) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for qualified biogas property. The amendments would make biogas digesters eligible for an energy credit and permit new clean renewable energy bonds to finance qualified biogas property. [Read more](#)