Are you ready to become ‘enchanted’ in January?

New Mexico is called the ‘Land of Enchantment’ for many reasons. The magnificent vista, the history and the cultural diversity all add up to create a pretty incredible experience. Add our 14th Annual Conference & Trade Show to this existing mix, and it’s no stretch to suggest that your time there will indeed be ‘enchanting’! We look forward to seeing you in Albuquerque, January, 22 - 25.

Presidents Greeting
Carl Kipp

Greetings, AGAIN! We realize that you have recently received your Fall 2005 copy of the Compost Communicator. Is it too soon for the Winter edition? We think not, but I will be brief in my comments.

The combination of the USCC Conference location change, and the GREAT content planned for next year’s conference, persuaded us to get one more edition completed before the holidays, sort of a ‘gift’ to our membership. Please take a close look at the speakers and educational sessions that are scheduled for our January conference. We have more exhibitors, more equipment demonstrations, more workshops, additional special features AND the beautiful and culturally diverse City of Albuquerque as our host. Could there be a better way to start the New Year? It’s simply the best conference that we have produced so far, and we hope that you’ll agree…and plan to join us in Albuquerque on January 22 - 25, 2006!

Thanks very much for all of your support and for the hard work put in by the many volunteers and staff that make this organization function. I’ve had a great first year as your president and look forward to more progress in 2006. Please accept my best wishes for a very happy holiday season for you and your families, and for a safe and prosperous New Year!

Executive Director’s Message
Stu Buckner

Annual Conference & Trade Show Update

The USCC Conference Program, with it’s suite of Workshops and Training Courses, offers the most comprehensive compost, wood waste and organics recycling program anywhere. We’re offering 5 new workshops, as well as numerous expert speakers on a broad range of industry related topics, to better educate both novice and veteran composters. Three concurrent tracks allow conference attendees to choose from a wide variety of educational and technical presentations. The only problem may be that you’ll need another colleague or two to cover all of the sessions that are of interest to you! The Conference Program includes more than 70 presentations by a number of nationally and internationally renowned speakers – a veritable “Who’s Who” of the Industry. Simply refer to the enclosed Conference Program and the depth of content offered will quickly become apparent.

In addition, the USCC Conference hosts the largest trade show in North America targeted for the composting, wood waste & organics recycling industry. Nowhere else will you have the opportunity to interact with nearly 100 equipment manufacturers, product suppliers and service providers that can meet your current and future needs. There is no better place to learn about new ideas, new products and services to make your job better, more efficient or more profitable AND, there is no better place to interact with your peers from across the nation.

Program Updates - It just keeps getting better!

REGISTRATION ALERT - Early registration rates will be honored until December 30, 2005, as a result of the delay created by relocating the conference from New Orleans to Albuquerque!

The Awards Luncheon will feature a special presentation on the Business & Economics of Composting: Adjusting to Current Market Conditions by Chuck Wilson, CEO, A1 Organics, Eaton, Colorado.

A1 Organics has been in the organic recycling and commercial composting business for three decades. Today, A1 Organics is the
largest organic recycler and producer of quality composts in the Rocky Mountain region. The company has evolved from one location to six major sites along the Front Range. Annually, A1 currently produces in excess of 350,000 cubic yards of high quality compost and soil amendments per year. They are also one of the original participants in the USCC’s Seal of Testing Assurance Program (STA).

A New Session on Federal Policies and Programs has been added to the program with the following presentations:
• The Federal Bio-based Products Preferred Procurement Program - Marvin Duncan, Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, USDA
• Hurricane Katrina Organics/Biomass Summit - Collaboration to Assist Mississippi” - Davy Simonson, US EPA
• US EPA Greenscapes Program Update - Jean Schwab, US EPA

A New Presentation has been added to the session on Biodegradable Plastics: Applications & Case Studies entitled: Advancements in Customized Biodegradable/Compostable Industrial Films - Robert Boyle, Cortec Corporation, Saint Paul, MN

The 2nd Annual “Tools of the Trade” Workshop, will feature demonstrations of laboratory and field equipment for evaluating all aspects of the composting process and product quality including; decomposition, odors, product maturity/stability, product quality, and more...

USCC Committee Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday morning. All attendees are encouraged to attend and provide input to the following meetings: Legislative & Environmental Affairs, Market Development, Professional Credentials, State Relations & ICAW and Standards & Practices.

Equipment Demonstrations and Tours

The USCC Conference hosts the largest “Live” Equipment Demonstration in the U.S. 14 Manufacturers & 16 Pieces of Equipment are already signed up. Equipment Demonstrations will take place at the Albuquerque Municipal Composting Facility on Wednesday, January 25, 2006. The demonstrations will feature NEW products from several manufacturers including: Grinding and shredding Equipment from Peterson Pacific, Morbark, Duratech, Vermeer, and Bandit Industries; Screening equipment from McCloskey International Limited; Mixing Equipment from Supreme International and ROTO-MIX; Compost application and spread-

ing equipment from ROTO-MIX and AGCO/Ag-Chem Application Division; Erosion control products from Filtrexx International; Compost application equipment from Soil Express; Bucket screens and other attachments by ALLU and Colorizing, Chip processing, and Bagging equipment from Rotochopper.

For vendors and equipment manufacturers, this is the ultimate opportunity to demonstrate your equipment to a national audience in one location. Last year, more than 200 conference participants from nearly every state in the U.S. attended the Equipment Demonstrations.

At this time, only 2 spaces for equipment demonstrations remain. Vendors interested in participating should RESERVE EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION SPACE NOW!

Go to www.compostingcouncil.org, and click on the conference menu to reserve both exhibit and demonstration space or call the USCC at 631-737-4931.

This is a unique opportunity to observe some of the best and newest equipment in operation in one place, at one time, for any conference attendees who have immediate or future equipment needs. Following the equipment demonstrations at the Albuquerque Municipal Composting Facility, attendees will have the opportunity to tour this unique facility. You will want to visit the 200,000 square feet of enclosed windrow composting and extensive acreage available for grinding and ancillary operations. Tours will continue after lunch.

Workshops & Training Courses

Be sure to sign up for one or more of the following Pre-Conference Workshops for additional training and educational opportunities:

• Environmental, Worker and Public Health Issues Associated with Compost Products and Composting Facilities: Provides an understanding of pathogens, bioaerosols, toxic organics, odors and heavy metals. Participants will learn how to minimize potential impacts to workers, public and the environment.

Course Instructors:
Dr. Rufus Chaney, Senior Research Scientist, Animal Manure and By-Products Laboratory of the USDA-Agricultural Research Service at Beltsville, MD
Dr. William S. Cain, Professor at the Chemosensory Perception Laboratory, Department of Surgery School of Medicine, University of California, San Diego.

• USCC “Fundamentals of Composting” Training Course: This intensive 1 day training will cover the basic concepts, practices and how to of compost production. The course will provide a foundation for novice compost operators, managers and regulators, and will refresh veteran composters on the underlying scientific principles. The information presented will also help prepare composters for the USCC/SWANA Compost Certification exam given on Wednesday.

Course Instructors:
Dr. Robert Rynk is an environmental and agricultural engineer, specializing in composting and waste management. He is the editor of the On-Farm Composting Handbook and formerly technical editor for BioCycle magazine Matthew Cotton, Integrated Waste Mgmt Consulting, teaches SWANA’s Manager of Composting Programs Course

• Public Relations – Establishing and maintaining good relations with your neighboring community: Intense training for compost facility operators and managers on the basics of public communication and involvement. This workshop will build a foundation for appreciating the importance of effective communication with the public and will assist in maintaining those relationships.

Course Instructors:
Elizabeth Ostoiich, Esq, Project Developer for Synagro; Jan Allen, Senior Technologist, CH2M HILL

• Green Industry Basics: This course provides composters and compost marketers with a basic technical understanding of soil and plant functions and other aspects of the ‘green industry’ essential to the successful marketing of compost.

Course Instructor:
Ron Alexander, an American horticulturist and veteran compost salesman and sales/marketing manager

• Compost Use in Agriculture, Horticulture and Landscaping: Workshop participants will learn proper compost use for specific crops and other applications.

Course Instructors:
Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton, Research Associate at the University of Florida/SWFREC
Craig Coker, Vice-President, Graceful Greenery
& past President of Carolinas Composting Council

- Compost Tea Workshop: Attendees will learn the basics of compost tea microbiology, production, quality assessment and applications.

Course Instructors:
- Cindy Salter, Growing Solutions & the Compost Tea Industry Association; Lynn Rogers, Microbial Matrix Systems & Dan Matsch, Ecocycle

For Workshop Agendas & Additional Information on the Training Courses, visit www.compostingcouncil.org

**Note** that CEU’s will be offered by SWANA for attending the USCC Conference and for attending any of the workshops.

Special Events

Detailed conference information has been mailed to you, is listed on the USCC website and is contained in other parts of this newsletter. Here are just some of the special events that help make the USCC Conference a complete experience.

Monday Night Exhibitor’s Reception - January 23
Monday & Tuesday Breakfasts, mid-morning and afternoon refreshment breaks - Jan 23 & 24
NEW in 2006 - Visit the “Consultant’s Corner” – reserve a complimentary ‘one on one’ problem solving meeting with leading experts in the field.

Tuesday Awards Luncheon-January 24
In addition to the special presentation by Chuck Wilson, the recipients of the USCC’s Professional Achievement Awards will be announced.

USCC/SWANA Compost Certification Exam- Wednesday, January 25
“Raising the Bar” for the Composting industry. Become certified as a Manager of Compost Programs.

Conference Location & Registration - Business AND Pleasure?!

The Conference has been relocated to beautiful Albuquerque, New Mexico. For a glimpse of the area, just observe the photos of the skyline and hot air balloons over the Rio Grande. The airport is serviced by major airlines and is an easy & inexpensive trip from most areas of the country. The Conference is being held in the Hyatt Regency hotel. The conference rate is $99/night, which is a fantastic price for a 4 Diamond, AAA rated property. Please contact the USCC office for overflow room arrangements with nearby hotels if the room block is sold out before you read this message. **Early registration rates will be honored until December 30, 2005**, due to the delay resulting from relocating the conference from New Orleans to Albuquerque.

What to do while in the Albuquerque area?

You can fly…Anderson Abruzzo International Balloon Museum (505) 880-0500 www.balloonmuseum.com or www.cabq.gov/balloon
- Imagine exploring Albuquerque from a hot air balloon while attending the USCC Conference (photo: Ron Behrmann)

You can learn…

The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is located in Albuquerque. The 19 pueblos are represented through displays of weaving, pottery, jewelry, clothing and photography. When placed side by side, the variations between the pueblos can be striking, and the impact of climate and terrain is more obvious. (505) 843-7270 (www.indianpueblo.org).

- Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway & Ski Area. The Sandia Peak Tram travels 2.7 miles from the base of the foothills northeast of Albuquerque to the top of the 10,400-foot Sandia Peak, for relatively close by skiing, or, take a 2 hour ride north to try the slopes at the world class Taos Ski area (one of your editor’s favorites!).

You can recreate…

Golf - The Albuquerque area offers 14 public and private courses in varying levels of difficulty, several of which are on Native American land. Ski - Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway & Ski Area. The Sandia Peak Tram travels 2.7 miles from the base of the foothills northeast of Albuquerque to the top of the 10,400-foot Sandia Peak, for relatively close by skiing, or, take a 2 hour ride north to try the slopes at the world class Taos Ski area (one of your editor’s favorites!).

You can eat and drink…

Downtown Albuquerque is home to a wide variety of restaurants with something that is sure to suit everyone’s palette. There are several wineries and vineyards in the Albuquerque area. The high desert climate and soil are ideal conditions for New Mexico’s award winning favorites

You can shop, tour, visit, sightsee and explore this great city. Contact the ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU at 800-733-9918 - 505-842-9918 (www.itsatrip.org) for even more information about all that there is to do while in Albuquerque. Just be sure to set some time aside for the USCC conference!

OR, you can just relax and dream…

The magnificent Albuquerque Skyline silhouetted by the Sandia Mountains (photo: marblestreetstudio.com)
New Members

Ed Goedhart, Ponderosa Dairy, Amargosa Valley, NV
Ashley Steely, Landscapers Pride, New Waverly, TX
Ron Richardson, Poly-America, L.P., Grand Prairie, TX
Shashi S. Rajbanshi, Nepal
Susan Flores, Alamogordo, NM
Kevin Yard, Bedford, TX
Dave Paul, Indaco Manufacturing Ltd., Scarborough, Canada
Jim Alderden, Resourceful Bag & Tag, Inc, Palos Heights, IL
David Weindorf, TSU/TAES Compost Analysis Laboratory, Stephenville, TX
Jim Cowart, Overland Park, KS
Marshall de Leon, Vision Recycling, Fremont, CA

Member Profiles

Miller/Ag-Bag Composting Systems

Ag-Bag, the company that pioneered the “quality cattle feed in a bag” storage system, has become part of the Miller-St. Nazianz, Inc. family of brands, and is now known as Miller/Ag-Bag Composting Systems. Miller/Ag-Bag provides an effective composting system for the following waste materials and more:

1) Biosolids,
2) Lawn & leaf debris
3) Wood & demolition waste
4) Food waste
5) Manure
6) Poultry, hog, cattle mortalities
7) Slaughter plant & butcher waste
8) Fish waste

The Miller/Ag-Bag composting system encapsulates waste materials to be composted into EcoPODs®; controlling odor, leachate and insects. The system introduces oxygen into an enclosed environment to effectively break down the material through the heating process. The machine used to fill the POD (bag) is motorized and remote controlled, providing one person operation. As the machine is filled, a ram is activated pushing the waste material into the EcoPOD (bag), and simultaneously laying aeration tubing inside the POD under the material to be composted. A timed blower is applied to provide fast, efficient composting after the EcoPOD is filled and closed. Miller/Ag-Bag’s EcoPODs are available in 5 ft. or 10 ft. diameter X 200 ft. long, composting up to 5,500 cubic yards per acre at one time. Four machine choices are available, two (Ct-5 & Ct-10) fill Compost PODS only, and two (C-7000 & CG-610) fill compost PODS and/or Ag-Bags for cattle feed storage.

Call 1.800.268.3768
Web www.coverall.net

Building Composting Operations With Cover-All

Like New Era Technologies, thousands of waste recycling customers are choosing Cover-all as an integral part of their operations. Why Cover-All? Because Cover-All offers lower maintenance costs, improving bottom line profits. Because Cover-All’s unique DuraWeave® membrane cover will never rust, even under the harshest conditions. Because Cover-All’s clear-span space provides plenty of room for composting operations. Because Cover-All® buildings are the right job.

Client: New Era Technologies
Building Series: 72’ wide x 440’ long Arch®, 90’ wide x 220’ long TITAN®
Customer Comments: “Cover-All buildings offer a long life and low maintenance costs which always means more profit. Cover-All’s fabric cover is not affected by corrosive gases, which is devastating to a steel building.”
Gerald Tibbo - CEO

Legend Series: 18’ – 82’ wide
TITAN® Series: 40’ – 160’ wide

Cover-All® buildings are manufactured at our ISO 9001:2000 certified manufacturing facility
We take care of your needs.

**Bio Tuf Performance**

- Bio Tuf can liners are tested in our state-of-the-art laboratory for superior performance. The Heritage Laboratory is the best testing facility in the institutional can liner industry.

**Tough on Trash, Easy on the Environment**

- Engineered for the Environment:
  - Meets ASTM D6400 specifications
  - Photodegrades if left by roadside

- Engineered to Perform:
  - Superior strength makes Bio Tuf an excellent choice for:
    - Municipal curbside yard waste collection
    - Pre- and post-consumer organic waste collection programs
  - Excellent puncture and tear resistance
  - Proven lifting strength and load capacity

**New!** Compostable Trash Bags from Heritage.

- 100% GMO FREE!
- **Proud Member of US Composting Council**

Visit us online at www.heritage-bag.com or call 800-527-2247.
The composting process is accelerated in the enclosed EcoPOD aerated system. The average composting process takes 8 to 10 weeks and is unaffected by changing temperatures and weather seasons. Thereafter, a 2 to 4 week curing process is suggested depending on the application for the finished compost. The system’s composting efficiency provides for 3 to 5 compost harvests per year.

The Miller/Ag-Bag composting system provides the ability to resolve waste problems with solutions such as:

- Export phosphorus and nitrates by composting separated manure solids
- Sealing putrescible waste materials and concealing odors inside the POD
- Divert organic based waste streams from land filling through composting
- Convert slaughter and offal waste from butcher plants into soil amendments
- Transfer pre & post consumer food waste into a valuable organic material
- Reduce greenhouse gas production through in-vessel composting
- Achieve effective pathogen and weed seed destruction through composting
- Bioremediation of oil & hydrocarbon contaminated soil

For more information on the Miller/Ag-Bag composting system, visit the website at www.ag-bag.com, call the company at (800) 334-7432, or contact Dale Mickle at (410) 804-8484.

Filtrexx International – The Certified Standard in Erosion Control
Filtrexx International commercially distributes products used for erosion control and storm water management. Filtrexx also trains and certifies local and regional installers on the correct installation, maintenance and product selection for composted materials used in storm water applications. Filtrexx has developed an ‘Organic BMP Toolbox’, which utilizes compost and composted mulch in photodegradable and biodegradable containment systems. These can then be used in a variety of applications including; site perimeter control of sediment, stream bank stabilization, ditch checks, storm inlet protection and rip rap replacement. Filtrexx International has completed over 7000 projects, with 85 certified installers, in 45 states and 5 countries.

Filtrexx International provides its certified installers with; 24 hour technical support, environmental technical assistance, new materials acquisition, testing and research of compost products, research and development of new products and design tools, marketing support, equipment selection and sales, annual training and local/regional training as needed.

Filtrexx International has begun a compost product certification program for its certified installers to help insure consistent positive product performance in
field applications. Certification parameters include; particle size distribution, nutrient content and product maturity and quality standards. These product standards have evolved into performance standards so that Filtrexx and its installers can guarantee high quality, consistent performance to its customers, erosion and sediment control plan writers, and the regulatory community.

Filtrexx International tests and certifies two types of compost - Filtrexx Filter Media™ and Filtrexx Growing Media™. Filter Media™ is designed for high stormwater runoff flow rates, high sediment removal efficiency and soluble pollutant removal efficiency. Applications include; silt fence replacement, inlet protection, ditch checks and slope interruption devices. Growing Media™ is specifically designed for; moisture retention, erosion control, runoff rate reduction and vegetation establishment and growth. Applications include; compost erosion control blankets, stream bank stabilization, non-weight bearing vegetated walls, vegetated filter strips, vegetated channels and rip rap replacement.

Filtrexx has developed an extensive research and development program, as an outgrowth of the product certification program. This continues to be a dynamic process between; private lab testing at the US Composting Council’s ‘Seal of Testing Assurance Program’ certified Soil Control Lab in Watsonville, CA, research at the USDA ARS in Beltsville, MD, Ohio State University in Columbus, OH and a collaborative field research project with Auburn University and the University of Georgia.

Research and development goals at these labs include the following: test and certify Filter Media™ for all 85 installers; test and evaluate Filter Media™ for removal of a wide variety of environmental pollutants; test, correlate, evaluate, and improve specs; research and develop new products using Filter Media™ and Growing Media™ for environmental applications; and, develop coefficients, values and calculation tools based on scientific research to assist engineers, architects, SWPPP designers in specifying Filtrexx products.
In The News

ICAW: The Possibilities are Endless … Compost!

International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) celebrations will be taking place nationwide from May 7-13, 2006. Communities and public agencies, companies and members of the composting industry are all joining in this multimedia, educational initiative to showcase compost production and to demonstrate the benefits of compost.

The momentum grows as national awareness of composting increases. Designed to promote the benefits of composting and compost utilization, ICAW provides an opportunity for companies, communities and facilities to engage customers and the public in activities that will encourage composting and compost utilization. Don’t forget to refer to the ‘How To Celebrate Compost Awareness Week Manual’ on the USCC web site for useful tools such as sample press releases, proclamations and successful promotions in past years that will help communities plan ICAW campaigns for 2006.

ICAW activities around the United States and globally, serve the important role of bringing the Compost! message to the marketplace. This year’s poster, using the theme, “The Possibilities are Endless … Compost!” is the centerpiece of the USCC campaign and is a great way to get the message out. Week long activities are designed to turn the spotlight on composting and create enthusiasm for recycling organic materials, and to increase demand for compost and mulch products.

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor of the 2006 National Poster Campaign, please contact the USCC office at 631-737-4931 or uscc@compostingcouncil.org

Endotoxin and Composting Operations

Eliot Epstein, Ph.D.

One of the public health issues involved in composting is the emission of bioaerosols. The bioaerosols of greatest concern in composting operations are *Aspergillus fumigatus* and endotoxin. Most of the attention has been given to *A. fumigatus*.

There have been several investigations in composting and recycling facilities in Europe indicating that endotoxin, as a component of organic dust, may have resulted in worker health problems. In 1995 the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reported that organic dust toxic syndrome (ODTS) resulted in respiratory illness among agricultural workers following the inhalation of organic dust (NIOSH, 1995). Several of the cases involved shoveling of wood chips. Endotoxin is a component of organic dust.

What is Endotoxin? Endotoxin is a lipopolysaccharide (LPS) that is part of the cell wall of gram negative bacteria. Rylander and Jacobs (1994) indicate that endotoxins are made up of complex LPS compound, which consists of polysaccharide chains connected by core oligosaccharide to a lipid part.
Endotoxins are relatively heat stable. They are released into the environment during cell growth and after the cell dies, when the integrity of the cell wall is ruptured.

Endotoxin is ubiquitous. They are found in organic dust resulting from the processing of cotton, poultry, municipal solid waste, biosolids, bagasse, hemp, hay, grain and vegetable dust. Endotoxin has been found in dust in homes. House dust endotoxin was associated with animals in the home and air conditioning. Endotoxins are common in house dust and homes with pets, especially cats. Infants and children with allergies or asthma are at risk of endotoxin inflammation.

Environmental measurements of endotoxin are expressed as either Endotoxin units (EU) per m$^3$, a measurement based on biological activity, or as ng/m$^3$, a measure of chemical activity.

**What are the Health Effects?** Endotoxin can be toxic to humans and animals. Endotoxin can cause fever and malaise (influenza-like symptoms). Inhaled endotoxin increases the activity of macro-
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SUNDAY | JAN 22

PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING COURSES & WORKSHOPS
5 NEW TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2006:
LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS!
• Environmental, Worker & Public Health Issues Associated with Compost Products & Composting Facilities • USCC “Fundamentals of Composting” Training Course • Public Relations—Establishing & maintaining good relations with your neighboring community • Green Industry Basics • Compost Use in Agriculture, Horticulture & Landscaping • Compost Tea Workshop

• USCC Annual Membership Meeting • Registration & Exhibitor set up

MONDAY | JAN 23

PLENARY SESSION: EMERGING ISSUES • Compost & the Fight Against Global Warming Dr. Sally Brown, UW • The Significance of Heavy Metals, Trace elements & Toxic Organic Compounds in Compost Products Dr. Rufus Chaney, USDA-Agricultural Research Service

TRACK 1. COMPOST FACILITY DESIGN, PROCESS MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

COMPOST FACILITY PLANNING & DESIGN/BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS OF SUCCESSFUL COMPOSTING • Compost Facility Design & Installation: City of Los Angeles Lopez Canyon Landfill 300-Ton per Day Compost Facility • Planning, Designing, Constructing & Start Up of an Indoor “Mega” Biosolids Composting Facility in an Urban Area • Compost System Design & New Technologies • Fort Bend County Texas Considers Organics Diversion

IMPROVING COMPOSTING PROCESS & FACILITY MANAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE OPTIMUM EFFICIENCY, ODOR CONTROL & PRODUCT QUALITY • Composting Process Management to Minimize Cost & Odor • Perception & Reality of Odors • Control of Malodorous Compound Emissions from Composting Facilities

ODOR IMPACT MINIMIZATION PLANS FOR REGULATORS & COMPOSTERS
Forum will discuss Odor Impact Minimization Plans & regulations for composting facilities developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board & compare the regulatory guidance documents with approaches used in other states

TRACK 2. ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS USING COMPOST: HEALTHY SOILS, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

COMPOST IN SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVES & LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT
• Construction & Maintenance Considerations in Building Green Roofs & Rain Gardens • Enhancing the Pre-development Hydrologic Regime of Urban & Developing Water Sheds using Low Impact Development • United States Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Certification Program

MANAGING SOIL ORGANIC MATTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
• Soil Quality by Design—Understanding Fundamentals • Compost use for Beneficial Ecosystem Functions • Soil Carbon Sequestration & Carbon Credits

TRACK 3. FOOD RESIDUALS RECOVERY & ORGANICS COLLECTION PROGRAMS

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL FOOD RECOVERY—BARRIERS & POTENTIAL
• Supporting Food Waste Recovery • Food Loss in the American Food System; Potential for Biomass Recovery • Barriers to Increased use of Compostable Plastic

FOOD RESIDUALS RECOVERY PROGRAMS • A Review of 12 Food Residuals Collection Programs in Ontario • Food Waste recycling from Restaurants in the City of Los Angeles • Biodegradable Beer Cups at the Oakland Coliseum

OPTIMIZING ORGANICS COLLECTION; USE OF BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS

HOTEL INFORMATION

$ 99 s/d/night

Hyatt Regency Hotel | CALL 1-800-233-1234
Ask for the USCC Conference rate

Room block is will be released

REGISTER TODAY

CONFERENCE PROGRAM, WORKSHOP AGENDAS & INSTRUCTORS, EXHIBITOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT T

www.compostingcouncil.org OR CALL THE USCC AT 631-737-49
Program Highlights Include:

Over 70 interactive presentations and workshops on every aspect of composting & the benefits of compost use; 6 training courses; ~100 exhibitors; the 2nd annual “Tools of the Trade” workshop; the 3rd annual Showcase of compost products; the 1st annual “consultant’s corner”; certification exams & CEU’s; raffles and giveaways of thousands of $’s worth of USCC publications & much more… Be there, for the composting & organics recycling event of 2006!

TUESDAY | JAN 24

TRACK 1. MARKETS, MARKETING & REGULATIONS

EFFECTIVE COMPOST MARKETING This session will share insight & success stories from individuals that direct leading compost marketing programs in the United States with a look at expanding compost markets through communicating the value/benefit relationship as a key factor in capturing & retaining compost markets. Communicating Value | Making the Pie Bigger | What’s Sam Doing for Your Company Today?

EVALUATING & IMPROVING COMPOST QUALITY • Production Guidelines for High Quality & Value-Added Compost Products • Compost Analysis Quality: Expectations, Perception & Reality • Stability Test Methods for Characterization of Compost

REGULATING COMPOST SALES & DISTRIBUTION The session will provide insight into regulations related to the sale & distribution of compost. State & federal regulations, as well as those related to state department of agriculture will be reviewed. A facilitated discussion will focus on ‘Identifying the best options for regulating the sale & distribution of compost’, & which options the USCC should encourage to expand compost usage

INCREASING COMPOST USE IN AGRICULTURE, SILVICULTURE, & ROADSIDE APPLICATIONS • Using Organic Amendments in Citrus Production • Compost Filter Media Research & Development Shows Storm Water Pollution Prevention Potential • Increasing Compost Use by Caltrans

EVALUATING & IMPROVING COMPOST QUALITY • Production Guidelines for High Quality & Value-Added Compost Products • Compost Analysis Quality: Expectations, Perception & Reality • Stability Test Methods for Characterization of Compost

TRACK 2. COMPOSTING SPECIFIC FEEDSTOCKS & RESEARCH IN COMPOSTING

ANIMAL MORTALITY COMPOSTING • Animal Mortality Composting—Evolution, Success, Expansion, Caution & Continued Evolution • Ohio’s Farm Mortality Composting Program—A Decade of Success • Composting of Road Kill & Meat Processing Residuals

BIOSOLIDS COMPOSTING, PRODUCT QUALITY & COMPOST USE • The Future of Biosolids Compost Use in the United States • Thinking Outside the Box—New Feedstock Evaluation Results in Improved Compost Quality • From Concept to Equivalency: The 503 Regulations & the Pathogen Equivalency Committee • Composting Biosolids & Yard Debris in Spotsylvania County, Virginia

EMERGING ISSUES & PRACTICAL RESEARCH IN COMPOSTING • Mad Cow Disease, Creutzfeldt—Jakob Disease, other TSEs, as Related to the Use of Composts: Fallacies, & Misconceptions • Compost Benefits for Short Rotation Woody Crops • Composting Municipal Solid Waste with Probiotic Cultures

TRACK 3. PROCESS MONITORING; CONTROLLING AIR EMISSIONS; BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS

AIR QUALITY, EMISSIONS & COMPOSTING • Carbon Credits for Composting & Anaerobic Digestion • Estimating Air Pollution Potential-to-emit from Enclosed Aerated Static Pile Composting • BMP’s for Composting to Meet New Air Emission Regulations

“TOOLS OF THE TRADE” WORKSHOP Session dedicated to hands on discussion & demonstration of field & laboratory equipment for monitoring the composting process, odors, product maturity/stability, product quality, & more...

BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS: APPLICATIONS & CASE STUDIES • Agroflex Packaging, a Fully Biodegradable & Compostable Package: How Does It Benefit USA Consumers • High-Performance Compostable Bags & Can Liners for Organic Waste Diversion • Ecoflex™ Meets Renewable Materials

FEDERAL POLICIES & PROGRAMS • The Federal Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program • Hurricane Katrina Organics/Biomass Summit—Collaboration to Assist Mississippi • US EPA Resource Conservation Challenge Update • US EPA Greenscapes Program Update

USCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS (TUESDAY MORNING)

EXHIBITORS RECEPTION (MONDAY EVENING)

USCC AWARDS LUNCHEON (TUESDAY) Presentation on the Business & Economics of Composting: Adjusting to Current Market Conditions. Chuck Wilson, A-1 Organics, CO

WEDNESDAY | JAN 25

OPTION 1: “Live” Demonstrations at the Albuquerque Municipal Composting Facility, Luncheon & Tours

OPTION 2: USCC/SWANA Certification Exam for Manager of Compost Programs

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phages, which lead to a series of inflammatory conditions. These result in inflammation, toxic pneumonitis and systemic symptoms.

Endotoxins present in organic dust have been implicated in toxic pneumonitis or organic dust toxic syndrome (ODTS). Inhalation of endotoxin can also result in a decrease in lung function and inflammatory responses. Recently it has been indicated that exposure to organic dust containing endotoxin may decrease the risk for atopic sensitization among children and lung cancer among workers. In the past, endotoxin health effects have been primarily associated with inducing airflow obstruction and aggravating asthma and allergies.

Other research indicates that the occupational exposure to endotoxin may result in reduced lung cancer. This reduced lung cancer has been identified in textile, agriculture, and other workers.

Are There any Exposure Limits or Regulations?
There are no regulations in the United States or Europe. There are suggested guidelines. The only guidance is from the International Commission on Occupational Health, which has published levels of endotoxin exposure that produce acute effects:
- 20–50 ng/m$^3$ – mucous membrane irritation.
- 100–200 ng/m$^3$ – acute broncho constriction.
- 1000–2000 ng/m$^3$ – organic dust toxic syndrome

In an enclosed composting facility we found that endotoxin levels ranged from 11 to 462 ng/m$^3$. The range was 236 to 374 ng/m$^3$ during the compost screening process.

There has not been any medical or scientific evidence of either ODTS or endotoxin health effects in the over 4,200 composting facilities in the United States. Several precautions for workers, however, are recommended. These include:

- Minimize the production of dust
- Moisture control by avoiding over drying during pile/windrow teardown
- Moisture control during screening (screen at approximately 40%)
- Dust mask for workers involved in dusty operations
- Filters or air conditioning in cabs of front-end loaders and other equipment involved in dusty operations.

This article, complete with all references, is available on the USCC website at: www.compostingcouncil.org ('articles' section)

USCC Compost Showcase III - Albuquerque 2006

The USCC is excited to announce our Third annual Compost Showcase, which will provide you with an opportunity to promote your compost products in a national setting. Over 100 compost products were previously on display in the 1st and 2nd Compost Showcases. The Showcase has allowed composters from across the country (in fact, the world) to share ideas and compare notes on producing and marketing their compost products. We will continue our success from last year and provide the opportunity for Showcase entrants to participate in a Poster Session, showing their composting process, product and success stories. This is an educational opportunity for all!

The following sponsors will be providing prizes valued at over $3000 available to Showcase participants. We thank them in advance for helping make Compost Showcase a success:

- A&L Great Lakes Laboratories
- BioCycle Magazine
- Green Mountain Technologies
- REOTEMP Instruments
- Soil Control Lab
- Woods End Research Laboratory

Compost Showcase guidelines and registration material will be available in the near future. For additional information, or if you are a company that would like to sponsor a prize for the drawing, please contact:
George Peregrim, 317-842-1145, glm2p@earthlink.net

Just in case you misplaced the last edition of the Compost Communicator...

Some of the featured speakers at the USCC 2006 conference include:

Dr. Rufus Chaney -
Dr. Chaney works in the Animal Manure and By-Products Laboratory of the USDA-ARS at Beltsville, MD, where he conducts research on the fate, food-chain transfer, and potential effects of soil micro-elements including: plant uptake of metals, bioavailability of lead and other metals in soils, biosolids and composts directly ingested by animals, regulatory approaches to protect food safety and soil fertility and a variety of other related projects. Dr. Chaney will be presenting a Workshop on Environmental, Worker and Public Health Issues Associated with Compost Products and Composting Facilities. He will also be presenting in the Plenary session on The Significance of Heavy Metals, Trace elements and toxic organic compounds in compost products

Dr. Sally Brown -
Dr. Brown, is an Associate Professor at the University of Washington. Her research has focused on using residuals to reduce metal availability and restore ecosystem function in drastically contaminated soils. She is also working in partnership with local farmers to set up a biodiesel industry which integrates municipal biosolids into the biodiesel production process. Dr. Brown will present in the Plenary session on Compost and the Fight Against Global Warming

Dr. William S. Cain -
Dr. Cain is a professor of surgery (otolaryngology) at the University of California. His research focuses on the human sense of smell and the irritation sense. His work has had application to indoor air quality, use of odors to warn of hazards, aging and the perception of food, and the evaluation of olfactory functioning in patients. Dr. Cain has served as head of the Association for Chemoreception Sciences and as president of the New York Academy of Sciences. He will co-present the workshop on Environmental, Worker and Public Health Issues Associated with Compost Products and Composting Facilities and will also present on the Perception and Reality of Odors

Dr. Harry Hoitink -
Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology at The Ohio State University. He studied the fate of plant pathogens and of their natural biological control agents during composting. He was awarded two US Patents for this process. More recently, his group identified microorganisms in composts that activate disease resistance genes in plants. Dr. Hoitink is the author of numerous publications and has co-authored three books. Dr. Hoitink will be speaking about Production Guidelines for High Quality and Value-Added Compost Products - Learn how science and marketing mesh from a leading compost use researcher

Dr. Robert Rynk -
is an environmental and agricultural engineer, specializing in composting and waste management. He is the editor of the On-Farm Composting Handbook and formerly technical editor for BioCycle magazine. Dr. Rynk will conduct the USCC “Fundamentals of Composting” Training Course

Dr. Harold M. Keener, Ph.D.-
Professor in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering,
The Ohio State University - Dr. Keener is a bio-systems analyst focusing on animal housing, manure management and composting since the late 1980's. His research includes the design and management of composting systems, the design and evaluation of new concepts in animal housing and manure management. He has written over 300 publications including over 80 articles on composting. Dr. Keener will present *Composting Process Management to Minimize Cost and Odor* and will co-present *Ohio's Farm Mortality Composting Program - A Decade of Success*.

**Dr. Eliot Epstein** - President and Chief Scientist at E&A Environmental Consultants, Inc. and Adjunct Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health At Boston University School of Medicine - Dr. Epstein is an internationally recognized expert in the field of organic waste material utilization and has directed numerous waste management projects for government and industry, including the development of the Aerated Static Pile Compost System, otherwise known as “The Beltsville Process”, for the United States Department of Agriculture. Dr. Epstein has authored over 150 papers related to composting and biosolids utilization issues as well as the book, *The Science of Composting*, published in 1997. Elliot will teach in the pre-conference training course *Environmental, Worker and Public Health Issues Associated with Compost Products and Composting Facilities* and will also be presenting, *Mad Cow Disease, Creutzfeldt - Jakob disease, other TSEs, As Related to The Use of Composts: Fallacies, and Misconceptions*.

**Luis F. Diaz** - CalRecovery, Inc. - Dr. Diaz has authored more than 250 publications and has co-authored 11 books in the field of waste management. He has also conducted training courses around the world. He will co-present *Implications of Stricter Control of Gaseous Emissions from Composting Facilities*.

**Richard Stehouwer** - Associate Professor of Environmental Soil Science, in the Crop and Soil Science Department at Penn State University - Dr. Stehouwer has been at Penn State University since 1997, and is the state extension specialist in environmental soil science. His extension program covers soil based recycling of municipal, industrial, and agricultural by-products, compost production and utilization, production and use of manufactured topsoil, reclamation of drastically disturbed lands, and remediation of contaminated soils and brownfields. Rick is author or co-author of 29 refereed scientific journal articles, numerous conference proceedings papers and extension publications. He will present *Soil Quality by Design - Understanding Fundamentals*.

**Bob Miller** - Colorado State University - Bob is the lead scientist for the Compost Analysis Proficiency Program (CAP), which is an integral component of the USCC STA program. Bob is also responsible for coordinating additional lab proficiency programs throughout the U.S. Bob will present *Compost Analysis Quality: Expectations, Perception and Reality*.

**William F. Brinton, Ph.D.** - Woods End Research Laboratory Dr. Brinton holds degrees in agronomy, soil and plant science and environmental science. He is the founder of Woods End Research Laboratory and has written more than 30 scientific papers on compost and horticultural products. He will present *Stability Test Methods for Characterization of Composting and Compost Products*.

**Robert G. O’Dette, P.E., DEE** - Vice President, Government Relations, Compliance and Technical Services for Synagro Technologies, Inc. - Bob has over 35 years of experience in wastewater treatment and residuals management (over 20 years as a state regulator with the State of Tennessee). He is a Registered Professional Engineer in five states and a Diplomat to the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. Bob will present *The Future of Biosolids Compost Use in the United States*.

**Dr. Scott Subler** - Environmental Credit Corp. - Dr. Subler holds a PhD in Agricultural Ecology from Pennsylvania State University and is co-founder and President of Environmental Credit Corp., a leading supplier of environmental credits from agriculture and organic waste management to global financial markets. He is also involved in businesses that produce and market compost and vermicompost products. Dr. Subler will present *Carbon credits for composting and anaerobic digestion: who’s buying?*

**Ron Alexander** - President of R. Alexander Associates - Ron is internationally recognized as a compost marketing expert, with over 20 years of experience in compost marketing and end use. He is the author of, “The Practical Guide to Compost Marketing and Sales”. Ron will teach the pre-conference training course *Green Industry Basics* and will also present *Making the Pie Bigger and Regulating Compost Sales and Distribution* in other conference sessions.

**Matthew Cotton** - Integrated Waste Management Consulting - Matt teaches SWANA’s Manager of Composting Programs Course and has over 15 years experience in composting. He will co-present the USCC “Fundamentals of Composting” Training Course and will also present *Barriers to Increased use of Compostable Plastic* in a different session.

**Dr. Leslie Cooperband** - Extension Specialist in Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Illinois - Dr. Cooperband’s programs include; on-farm composting, community-scale issues related to organics recycling and regionally based food systems (and dealing with the organic wastes associated with locally based food systems). Her research and Extension programs included evaluating the composting process, compost quality and compost use in a variety of applications. She will present *Compost use for Beneficial Ecosystem Functions*.

**Jeff Gage** - Swanson Bark and Wood Products - Jeff Gage is considered one of the Northwest’s top composting experts. Jeff combines years of practical experience in operating compost systems with extensive scientific expertise focused on the improvement, development, and advancement of the practice of composting. Jeff will present *BMP’s for Composting to Meet New Air Emission Regulations*.

**Tom Kelley** - Director of Product Sales & Marketing, Synagro Composting Company of California, Inc. - Synagro is the nation’s largest producer and distributor of bulk compost attributes.
They believe that their strategy of “Communicating the Value/Benefit Relationship to Consumers”, is the simplest way to capture their attention and business. Tom will be presenting in a Session on Compost Marketing, Markets & Regulations.

Elizabeth Ostoich - Esq, Project Developer for Synagro
Elizabeth will co-present a workshop on Public Relations – Establishing and maintaining good relations with your neighboring community

Jan Allen - Senior Technologist, CH2M HILL - Jan has 25 years of experience in public works design, construction and operation of recycling and composting plants. He is a past Arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association and holds 4 patents related to composting and biofilters. Jan will co-present the workshop on Public Relations – Establishing and maintaining good relations with your neighboring community

Jean Schwab - Jean is the Program Manager for EPA’s GreenScapes program as well as the Team Leader for the EPA Headquarters Resource Conservation Challenge - Organic Materials Waste Reduction Initiative. She will be presenting an update on the US EPA Greenscapes Program

**COMPOST COMMUNICATOR**
edited by Stu Buckner and Al Rattie

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14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TRADESHOW
JANUARY 22-25 2006

DUE TO THE RECENT HURRICANE DAMAGE IN NEW ORLEANS, the US Composting Council is relocating its 2006 annual conference. Check the web site www.compostingcouncil.org for the latest information

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING & WORKSHOPS | JAN 22 | LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS!
- USCC Compost Training Course
- Environmental & Public Health Issues Associated with Compost Products & Compost Facilities
- Public Relations – Establishing & maintaining good relations with your neighboring community
- Compost Use in Agriculture, Horticulture and Landscaping
- Green Industry Basics - essential to the successful marketing of compost
- Compost Tea production, quality assessment and applications

OUTSTANDING CONFERENCE PROGRAM | JAN 23-24
- Improving Composting Process & Facility Management to Achieve Optimum Efficiency, Odor Control and Product Quality
- Compost Facility Planning, Design and System Selection
- Effective Compost Marketing - Maximizing Sales & Profits
- Evaluating & improving Compost Quality
- Regulating Compost Sales & Distribution | Composting & Organics Recycling for Regulators
- Business & Regulatory Aspects of Successful Composting
- Compost Use in Agriculture, Horticulture, Silviculture & Roadside Applications
- Air Quality, Emissions & Composting | State and National Issues & Activities
- Optimizing Organics Collection; Use of Biodegradable Plastics
- Commercial and Residential Food Residues Recovery Programs
- Emerging Issues & Research Developments
- Compost Applications for Environmental Solutions
  ➤ Green Building Initiatives & Low Impact Development
  ➤ Compost in Sustainable Landscapes & Stormwater Management
  ➤ Role of Compost in Bioremediation and Phytoremediation Projects
  ➤ Managing Soil Organic Matter for Environmental Quality
  ➤ Compost use for Beneficial Ecosystem Functions
  ➤ Soil Carbon Sequestration & Carbon Credits

NETWORKING & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES | JAN 23-25
- Meet with Equipment Vendors and Service Providers at the Largest Industry Trade Show in North America Featuring the Newest & Most Effective Composting Equipment & Technologies
- Meet with an outstanding lineup of speakers. Discuss issues important to you with Leading Experts in the field
- Exhibitor’s Reception and Awards Luncheon
- Compost Showcase & “Tools of the Trade” Workshop
- The “Consultant’s Corner” – one on one problem solving meetings with leading experts
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Conference Registration Forms, Workshop Agendas, Exhibitor Information and Sponsorship Opportunities are available at the USCC Web Site: www.compostingcouncil.org or call the USCC at 631-737-4931

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