



Renewable News

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Summer 2005

Organics Workshop & Other RFT Conference Highlights



An exciting feature of this year's conference was a very successful workshop titled "Texas DOT Compost Utilization: A Blueprint for Florida Success?" sponsored by the Organics Committee and FORCE.

Approximately 20 public and private sector attendees heard Don Legacy, of JV Environmental, detail his company's efforts with others in Texas to develop the compost market with the Texas Department of Transportation. Most importantly, Don emphasized how the Texas DOT has become the largest procurer of compost in the Country.

The Organics Committee is interested in working with JV Environmental to develop a similar success story in Florida! Florida and Texas have many similarities that affect the DOT market (size of state, multiple district offices, difficult growing situations, erosion problems, etc.). Hopefully we can utilize Don Legacy's Texas DOT compost utilization experience to benefit the Florida organics industry and the quality of Florida DOT projects.

Please join us at the next Organics Committee meeting and tour where we will further discuss how to expand the use of organics in Florida DOT projects.

“Florida and Texas have many similarities that affect the DOT market.”

RFT was also fortunate this year to work in partnership with the Florida Pollution Prevention Roundtable (FLPPR) -- and we look forward to an ongoing relationship with them. FLPPR helped coordinate panels on greening hospitals, alternative fuels and Environmentally Preferable Purchasing.

It's not too soon to start thinking about next year. If you're interested in being on the Conference Committee, or if you just have suggestions for topics, please e-mail us at info@recyclefloridatoday.org. We look forward to seeing you next June at the Tradewinds in St. Pete Beach! ▲



Chris Snow receives the George Kirkpatrick Sustained Commitment Award



Victor Storelli is honored as Recycler of the Year



RECYCLE FLORIDA TODAY Award Winners

Recycler of the Year:

- Victor Storelli

George Kirkpatrick Sustained Commitment Award:

- Chris Snow

Outstanding Institutional/Business:

- Orange County Convention Center
- Miami Herald Publishing Company

Outstanding County or City Program (Urban):

- City of Tallahassee

Outstanding Partnership:

- Student Environmental Action Society & Escambia County

Outstanding Recycled Product

(Florida made and/or with Florida product):

- CDS Manufacturing, Inc.

Paul Oprey Student Scholarship:

- Georgia Hinkley

No nominations were received for the Outstanding County, City Program (Rural), or Outstanding Department of Defense awards.



2005-06 RFT Leadership

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cpuglisi@seminolecountyfl.gov

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Conference TBD

Education Colleen Puglisi

Legislative Sally Palmi

Membership TBD

Nominations Victor Storelli

Organics Monica Ozores-Hampton

Sponsorship Clayton Sembler

Recycle Florida Today, Inc.

P. O. Box 15889
Tallahassee, FL 32317
877-867-4RFT (4738) Toll Free
Fax: 850-386-4321
Email: rft@recyclefloridatoday.org
www.recyclefloridatoday.org

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Letter from the Chair



Colleen Puglisi

Being my inaugural column as Chair of RFT, I want to start by thanking those members for re-electing me and the Board for nominating me to the position.

My main goal this year is to increase the value of RFT to the membership. I believe this can be accomplished by working with the Board to actively seek better ways to serve the membership: by strengthening our committees; developing stronger conference and issue forum agendas; and attracting more members.

At the Annual Conference this year, one speaker pointed out something very significant - how few young members we have in RFT. He asked, "Where is the youth? Where is the spirit?"

How have we changed over time? Organizations and Associations across the nation are experiencing downward trends in membership, energy, and enthusiasm. Many are merging conferences, with competing factions now partnering in order to stay afloat.

How can RFT thrive, gain momentum and grow in the face of downward trends? Is merging the answer? How can we start our own trend and start looking upward and growing with renewed enthusiasm?

How do we attract new members to RFT? Whether they are young in age or young in their positions, what do we offer them? What can we do to offer them real value in membership?

These questions are NOT rhetorical. I am looking for answers. Send them to me at cpuglisi@seminolecountyfl.gov.

I am honored to serve and look to the members to help lead this organization into a strong and successful future! ▲

recycle

Mark Your Calendars

August 25, 2005

RFT Organics Committee Meeting
9:30am-Noon
Mulberry, Florida (tentative)
Contact Chris Snow at
813-276-8408

September 27-29, 2005

SWANA WasteCon 2005
Austin, Texas
1-800-467-9262
www.WASTECON.org

August 28-31, 2005

National Recycling Coalition 24th Annual Congress & Exposition
Minneapolis, Minnesota
202-347-0450
www.nrc-recycle.org

November 7-8, 2005

Building Materials Reuse & Recycling Decon 2005 Conference
Atlanta, Georgia
Contact Brad Guy at
352-514-7502



▶▶▶ STEEL RECYCLING HITS 25-YEAR HIGH IN THE UNITED STATES

According to the Steel Recycling Institute (SRI), the recycling rate for steel remained at 70.7 percent in 2004; however, total tons of steel recycled increased by over 7.2 million tons. This increase, driven by an expanding market for steel, continues to position steel as a leader when it comes to recycling.



"Over 76 million tons of scrap steel recycled in 2004 was the most scrap recycled in the United States in over 25 years," said Bill Heenan, SRI president. "But, more importantly, the composition of the tons recycled in 2004 contained almost 35 percent more obsolete scrap than in 1980. That's because as the steel industry has become a more efficient user of raw materials, it has increased the demand for post-consumer scrap, and the scrap industry continues to deliver end-of-life steel-dominated products back to the steel mills to be reborn into new products."

SRI reported that the recycling infrastructure throughout the United States benefited dramatically from the increased demand for "The New Steel" that automotive, appliance, container, and construction customers are demanding in their 21st century products. As a result of this demand, the steel industry continues to require steel scrap, and the scrap industry continues to provide this vital ingredient to making steel.

SRI is an industry association that promotes and sustains the recycling of all steel products. For more news about steel and its applications, view AISI's web site at www.steel.org, or for recycling information, visit SRI's web site at www.recycle-steel.org. ▲

City and County Connection

Palm Beach County Launches "Jump on the Bin Wagon" Campaign

*by Susan Chapman, Special Projects Manager,
Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County*

In April 2005, the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County launched a mass media campaign asking residents to "Jump on the Bin Wagon" by calling the newly established (866) NEW-BINS toll free number to have recycling bins delivered to their homes.

The campaign featured paid advertising on radio, newspaper and television that promoted this message. The campaign was unique for the Authority because, traditionally, residents who reside within a municipality in Palm Beach County contact their municipality directly to request recycling bins. Through this toll free phone number, the Authority accepted requests on behalf of the municipality and unincorporated areas of the county to get the bins delivered to the residents.

To date, more than 14,500 blue and yellow recycling bins have found new homes in Palm Beach County. The impact of the campaign cannot be fully evaluated as of yet because the campaign is still ongoing; however, the Authority is anticipating an increase in the recovered tonnages of recyclable items as a result of the campaign.



2005 Sponsors

RFT would like to acknowledge and thank our 2005 Sponsors.

Environmental Partners

Recycle America Alliance
Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County

Recycling Sustainers

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Creative Recycling Systems, Inc.
Pinellas County Utilities
Publix Supermarkets, Inc.
Southern Waste Information eXchange
SP Recycling Corporation

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Glass Packaging Institute
Highlands County Board of County Commissioners

Supporters

Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE)
JV Environmental Services, Inc.
Global Investment Recovery, Inc.
Direct Access International, Inc.
Florida Green Building Coalition, Inc.
Florida Pollution Prevention Roundtable

▶▶▶ **Deerfield Beach Recycling Programs Honored by Five Awards**

*by Cheryl Miller,
City of Deerfield Recycling Specialist*

With a fervent commitment to the collection of recyclables outside the home, Deerfield Beach has received five awards within the last few months. The City established long-range goals to collect recyclables at non-typical collection locations throughout the city.

The City provides recycling receptacles at sites like the beach, convenience stores, parks and special events, where large volumes of materials were being tossed out because recycling bins were not available. Our vision is for our residents and visitors to see recycling opportunities everywhere they go in Deerfield Beach, and to empower them with waste reduction information and a place to put their recyclables.

"Out of the Home Collection" of recyclables is only one of the many reasons that Deerfield Beach was chosen for Broward County's Environmental Protection Emerald Award. Other components of the winning program include:

- Residential "Special Waste" drop-off site
- Collecting mixed paper at the curb
- Extensive Commercial Recycling Program
- Extensive Buy Recycled Program, which won the Eco-soft Green Seal award for purchasing all recycled paper items
- Beach litter prevention utilizing Butt Bag Receptacles
- Waste Age Magazine National Recycling Truck Design Award
- Composting Workshops

Broward County was also honored as the Most Outstanding Recycling Program in the County and Cheryl Miller, City of Deerfield Beach Recycling Specialist, was named Broward County Recycler of the Year!



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Your Environmental Solution

The Artist As An Environmental Advocate

by Casey Eckels, City of Fort Lauderdale Recycling Coordinator

The City of Fort Lauderdale Recycling Program organized a month-long community awareness campaign for Earth Day 2005 entitled "The Artist As An Environmental Advocate" with activities centered on the challenges of Styrofoam. The campaign included a City Hall exhibit of artwork created by local artists from post-consumer Styrofoam and an exhibit of "Styrogami" by artist J. Jules Vitali at New River Fine Art Gallery. City of Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle expressed city-wide support for the City's recycling mission and the global significance of Earth Day.

The Recycling Program's strategy to employ the creative energies of artists to create original art forms from 'recycled' post-consumer Styrofoam was an idea that attracted the interest of students, professional artists and the media. The campaign also showcased various biodegradable products such as cold beverage cups and serving plates made of corn - environmentally friendly alternatives to polystyrene made from renewable resources.

Through a dedicated community outreach effort, the Recycling Program was able to obtain financial support from the City's curbside contractor, Choice Environmental Services, Inc., and other businesses. The City of Fort Lauderdale Recycling Corps staffed the downtown event.

The environmentally conscious crowd generated by the 2005 Earth Day Celebration was impressive. Similar campaigns hopefully can help reshape the thinking of the "throw-away society."

Promotional posters (22"x33") are still available by contacting Casey Eckels at CEckels@fortlauderdale.gov.

Keep Charlotte Beautiful Shows Off Earth Week

by Barbara Kula

Keep Charlotte Beautiful Inc. (KCB) celebrated Earth Week in style - fashion style that is! KCB sponsored their 2nd annual fundraising event at the Charlotte Campus of Edison College on April 23rd. The EnviroFashion Extravaganza was held in celebration of Earth Week and promoted the awareness of recycling and reusing. The event featured fashions designed and created by County officials, local citizens and students using recyclable or reusable materials. When was the last time you saw your County Commissioner dressed like this?

"Fonz" from "Happy Days" was Commissioner D'Aprile, Charlotte County Board of County Commission. The Commissioner's vest was designed out of motorcycle inner tubes adorned with recycled bottle caps. His old jeans are decorated with used bottle caps, and his "doo rag" head gear is made from a used Harley Davidson plastic bag.



Dr. Patricia Lands, President of Edison at Charlotte Campus, made her runway debut in the "Rag" gown. The campus team collected old schedule booklets, book marks, silver torches and outdated business cards.

Other designs included Elvis Presley's cape from candy wrappers and the "Bubbly Bridal Party" made of bubble wrap of course. KCB volunteers are starting

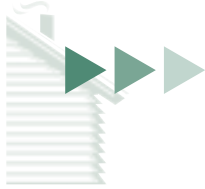
now to collect items for next year's show. Review this year's fashions at <http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/EnvironmentalServices/solidwaste/KeepCB/> or give us a call at 941-764-4390 for more information.

Celebrating Mother Earth

by Odette Reza-Brown, Broward County Waste and Recycling Services

This year Broward County Waste and Recycling Services (WRS) celebrated "April is Earth Month" by hosting a myriad of events -- from Wonderful World of Waste! presentations and native plant sales to the highlights: Scholastic's Traveling Magic School Bus and a Special Electronics Recycling Event at a local Best Buy store.

Scholastic's Traveling Magic School Bus delighted kids of all ages during the week of April 19-23 as it made stops at schools and libraries throughout the County. More than 2,500 participants visited the magical bus where they learned all about helping the Earth through recycling. Other county residents got involved by recycling their unwanted electronics during a Special Electronics Recycling Collection at a local Best Buy store. The event, a cooperative effort between WRS and Best Buy, brought out more than 125 residents who recycled almost 8,000 pounds of electronics, making it Broward County's most successful electronics collection event to date!



Green Trends 2005: Growth Needs Green to Build a Sustainable Florida

by Pat Freed, Pinellas County Utilities

Those who attended Green Trends 2005, the 2nd Annual Florida Statewide Green Building Conference, got a breath of fresh air - they heard, saw, and touched the latest trends, techniques, technologies and standards in green building and sustainable development.

There are lots of interconnected pieces of the green building pie including energy efficiency in buildings, appliances, water use, site considerations, healthy construction, waste reduction, material selection durability and disaster mitigation.

A highlight of Green Trends was builder Brian Bishop's innovative and effective approach to Florida home

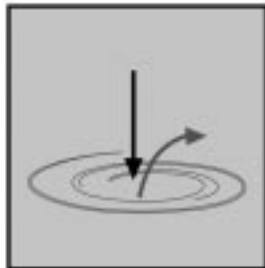
building. As President of Home Front, Inc., Brian set aside traditional home building paradigms to design a unique panelized home construction system: stronger, less expensive, more environmentally friendly, quicker to build and easier to maintain than a frame or block home. Three of his homes, built for the Homeless Coalition of Charlotte County, were directly in the path of Hurricane Charley, but were largely undamaged.

One hot conference topic was Green Certification - how to progress from three different certification programs to one that is national in scope but also meets the needs of different geographic locations. A panel of lead-

ers from the Florida Home Builders Association, the Florida Green Building Coalition, Inc., the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the US Green Building Council, and Audubon International all committed to working together toward one comprehensive green certification program.

Those who are making history usually don't realize it at the time, but the "greening of our built environment" has begun. The Green Trends conference helped focus the light for those who are committed to green building and sustainable development.

For more information, visit www.floridagreenbuilding.org. ▲



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▶▶▶ **FORCE - New Searchable Organics Website Now Online!**

by Stacie Stokes, FORCE Specialist, and Miriam Zimms, Kessler Consulting, Inc.

The Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE) invites you to visit its newly revised web site located at www.floridaforce.org. The site has been completely overhauled to make it the most comprehensive and user-friendly Florida organics recycling site on the net. The purpose of the website is to provide up-to-date information to the private and public sector organics industry, regulators, and the agricultural community (not home composting programs). Below is a sampling of the items you will find on the site:



- **Organics Recycling Technology Database**
Information on more than 200 state, national and international organics vendors selling composting equipment, ancillary items and additives.
- **Searchable Organics Bibliography**
More than 300 organics-related articles, available through web links or from FORCE.
- **Research & Demonstration Grant Projects**
Updates on past and current R&D projects.
- **Searchable Organics Directories**
Contact information for State Organics End-users

and Organics Processing Facilities.

- **Comprehensive List of Florida Compost Regulations**

One-stop-shop for identifying and obtaining State rules and regulations on organic waste management, production and usage.

- **Quality Assurance Compost Laboratories**

Labs that can provide testing and analytical information regarding your organic product.

- **FORCE Annual Reports and Operating Plans**

- **Education and Outreach**

Organics educational information, including past FORCE e-newsletters.

- **Other Resources**

Includes online surveys for each of the three target sectors, a comprehensive organics links page, and state and national news of upcoming events in the organics industry.

Please take a moment to view the new website and be sure to check back monthly for new information. **We also ask for your assistance** - provide the website address to your local agricultural community and other relevant industries, including farming, horticultural, ranchers, citrus, dairy, thoroughbred, golfing, local extension and local regulators. ▲

▶▶▶ **Organics Committee Meeting Announcement**

The Organics Committee will be holding its next meeting on Thursday, August 25th. We had planned on meeting in Mulberry and touring JV Environmental's use of organics on gypsum stacks but we are running into an access issue for a group this size with Mosaic. If this cannot be resolved we will pick a new location and let everyone know. No matter the location, we will meet from 9:30 a.m. to noon, to discuss the Organics Committee's future efforts to develop Florida DOT organics usage and receive an update on FORCE activities. In the afternoon we will tour a facility or project of interest to the organics industry. Please contact Chris Snow at (813) 276-8408 if you have any questions and to RSVP.

RECYCLE FLORIDA TODAY *Sponsors Welcomed!*

To become an RFT Sponsor and support our work to further recycling and waste reduction in Florida, **please call 877-867-4738 and ask for a Sponsor Packet.** Depending on sponsorship level, packages feature recognition in RFT's newsletter, reduced advertising fees, individual memberships, free conference booth space, free registration at annual conference or issues forums and much more. Most importantly, RFT provides numerous opportunities to network with Florida's recycling and waste reduction leaders.

RECYCLE FLORIDA TODAY



Want to Avoid Spending so Much Money on Disposal ?

The Southern Waste Information eXchange, Inc. (SWIX), a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, can help save you money. SWIX conducts waste audits as a means of assisting industry with the identification of recyclables, minimizing waste and managing disposal costs.

What is a Waste Audit?

Billions of dollars are spent each year by industry complying with solid and hazardous waste management. As a result, industry is turning to waste auditing not only as a means of environmental compliance determination but also as a business decision making tool to control costs and to increase profits.

The SWIX Waste Audit is a process of gathering data concerning a facilities operation and solid (non-hazardous) waste generation and then comparing this information to applicable industrial waste management practices.

Elements of the SWIX Waste Audit:

- Onsite Reconnaissance of areas such as:
 - Assembly Lines
 - Receiving Area
 - Lounge
 - Stock Rooms
 - Cafeteria, Kitchen & Lunch Room
 - Offices
 - Copy, Fax, and Printing
 - Shipping
- Waste Identification and Characterization:
 - Type of Waste Stream
 - Quantity of Waste Stream
 - Quality of Waste Stream
- Review of Waste Operations
- Interviewing Facility Personnel
- Reporting Findings and Recommendations

For additional information on the SWIX Waste Audit please contact Gene Jones or Ray Moreau at:

Southern Waste Information eXchange, Inc. (SWIX)
Post Office Box 960
Tallahassee, FL 32302
Telephone (800) 441-7949
Fax: (850) 386-4321
Email: info@swix.ws
Web Site: www.wastexchange.org



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