

# Florida Organic Recycling Center of Excellence

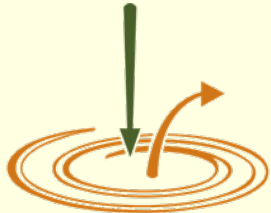
---

SWIX/DEP

Food Recycling and Composting Workshop  
December 9, 2009



Miriam Zimms  
Kessler Consulting, Inc.



**kessler consulting inc.**  
innovative waste solutions

# Who is FORCE?

---

## Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence

- A Project established in 2001
- A legislatively funded project to provide a framework to promote organics recycling, education, marketing, and research in Florida  
[www.floridaforce.org](http://www.floridaforce.org)
- Cooperative effort involving various public and private sector organics and agricultural representatives
- Hosted by Sumter County, Florida



# FORCE Objectives

---

- Objective 1: To conduct environmental research related to organic feedstocks, products, applications, and facility operations;
- Objective 2: To conduct problem-solving research, demonstrate practical applications of organics recycling solutions, and provide assistance to the organics industry;
- Objective 3: To provide recommendations through research for the development of standardized processing methods for recycled organics products;

# FORCE Objectives (cont)

---

- Objective 4: To facilitate the integration of technologies and feedstocks;
- Objective 5: To replace a “disposal” approach to organics processing with a “recycling/marketing” approach; and
- Objective 6: To generate and disseminate information to the public and private sectors concerning the practical application and field implementation of organics recycling technologies and products

# Work Plan Overview

---

- Research and demonstration projects
  - Pre-consumer foodwaste composting demo
  - On-farm composting demo
- FORCE website
- Education and Training
  - Ch. 62-709 rule revisions
  - Compost training course
  - E-Newsletter (3 issues/year)
- Marketing Outreach
  - Conferences and associations
  - Fact sheets and compost facility profiles



# Pre-Consumer Food Waste Composting Demonstration

---

- Composting demo for source-separated food waste (vegetative waste and animal by-products) from supermarkets
- Demonstrate proper design and operations in accordance with recently revised Chapter 62-709
- Data regarding operational procedures, best practices, feedstock and compost quality, and economics will be gathered and shared

# On-farm Composting Demonstration

---

- Demonstrate proper design and operational procedures for on-farm composting in accordance with revised Chapter 62-709
  - Use of on-farm vegetative waste to optimize composting of yard trash or manure generated on the farm, or
  - Use of off-farm yard trash as part of manure management operations regulations
- Data regarding operational procedures, best practices, feedstock and compost quality, and economics will be gathered and shared

# Website

---

- FORCE currently maintains the State's primary website devoted entirely to organics [www.floridaforce.org](http://www.floridaforce.org)
  - approved compost testing laboratories;
  - directories of organics generators-processors-end users;
  - updates on R&D projects;
  - bibliography of organic related articles;
  - database of companies in the organics industry;
  - educational materials and relevant links;
  - list of nationwide organics training courses;
  - comprehensive list of organics regulations;
  - completed FORCE reports;
  - calendar of upcoming events; and
  - link to DEP regulatory information and forms



# Education and Training

---

- FORCE further promotes organics recycling in Florida by creating and distributing new outreach and educational materials
- Distribution of periodic e-newsletter, ***FORCEmatters***, to membership (also available on website)
- Participation in 2-3 conference and workshops each year
- Design and implement a compost training course



# Compost Training Course

---

- Florida-specific training program for compost facility operators (public, private, farmers, grocers) in accordance with newly revised regulations
- 3 locations: Panhandle, central, and south Florida
- Major topics:
  - definitions
  - composition
  - regulations
  - economics
  - site design
  - feedstock characteristics and selection
  - pre-processing
  - active composting
  - post-processing
  - monitoring and testing
  - odor control
  - diagnosis and solutions for optimal composting
  - compost marketing
  - community relations

# Marketing Outreach

---

- Work with State and national associations
  - RFT, SWANA, USCC, and FDOT
- Maintain and update FORCE membership list
- Promote and publicize Florida organics activities, relevant news and important information
- Develop and distribute fact sheets and compost facility profiles
- Market results gathered from FORCE projects

# Next Steps

---

- Understanding the rule change
- Roundtable / focus groups to develop Florida's organics education/training needs
- Execute work plan



# For More Information Contact:

---

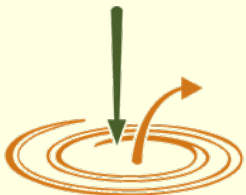
Miriam Zimms

FORCE Project Manager

Kessler Consulting, Inc.

813.971.8333

[mzimms@kesconsult.com](mailto:mzimms@kesconsult.com)



**kessler consulting inc.**  
innovative waste solutions

