



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Release: Immediate
Date: Dec. 2, 1999

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Distribution: Statewide

N.C. DENR AWARDS \$180,237 TO ORGANIC SOLID WASTE REDUCTION PROJECTS

RALEIGH – The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will award \$180,237 in state grants to support projects that reduce organic (biodegradable) solid wastes that go to landfills. Grants will support eight public or private sector projects that meet one or both of two goals: projects that result in a sustainable, well-documented diversion of organic wastes from the waste stream and projects that stimulate market demand for composts and other recycled organic wastes.

DENR's Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance (DPPEA), which administers the grants, selected recipients from 19 proposals submitted by local governments and businesses statewide. Proposals were seeking funds totaling \$449,937.

“Organic solid wastes are a significant portion of North Carolina's solid wastes,” said Gary Hunt, DPPEA director. “Diverting these wastes from landfills will help sustain the state's healthy environment.”

DENR funding for organic solid waste reduction projects totals \$363,780 since the program's inception in 1998. These projects will divert at least 23,000 tons of organic wastes from North Carolina landfills.

Projects selected for funding are:

- “Food Waste Diversion for Central North Carolina” – a project to continue development of the first source-separated commercial organics collection/composting effort in North Carolina. Contact: Dean Brooks, Brooks Contractor, (919) 837-5914
- “Institutional Food Waste Composting Pilot Project” – a project by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC) to divert pre-consumer food wastes from one of the campus dining halls to an on-site in-vessel composting system. Contact: Gail Thomas, recycling coordinator, UNCC, (704) 547-2137.
- “Manufacturing High Value Products from Residential & Commercial Food Waste” – expansion of an existing on-farm composting system to include source-separated grocery store food wastes in the Asheville

area. Contact: Jon Nilsson, East Coast Compost, (828) 628-4340.

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- “An Assessment of the Economic Impact of Compost on Open Ground Vegetable Production” – a project to examine the economics of compost utilization in large-scale conventional agriculture in Eastern North Carolina. Contact: Lynn Lucas, McGill Environmental Systems of North Carolina, (910) 532-2539.
- “North Carolina Compost Promotional Initiative” – development of statewide compost market development and educational activities designed to stimulate demand for compost products. Contact: Ron Alexander, R. Alexander & Associates, (919) 380-9939.
- “Backyard Composting Demonstrations in Cherokee County” – a project to construct five composting demonstration sites in Cherokee County. Contact: Katherine O’Brien, N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, (828) 837-2210.
- “Aerated Floor Development and Testing Project” – a continuation of a previous grant-funded project to develop an alternative aerated compost bin system design. Contact: Keith Warren, Mountain Organic Materials, (828) 665-9899.
- “Evaluation of Commercial Food Waste as a Raw Substrate for Co-Compost Products” – an examination of the feasibility of using thermophilic anaerobic digestion for source-separated food wastes. Contact: Lisa Matthews, Rondeli Corp., (919) 734-6107.

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