

Composting Materials and Preparation

Transforming Local Organics

Andrew Tuckman V.P. Business Development 510-385-0255

Vision Recycling

- Bay Area Mulch Supplier
- And Compost Producer
- 7 facilities currently
- With Long Term Contracts
 - County of Santa Cruz Public Works
 - Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority
- Own facilities in Newark, Livermore & Benicia
- Local Model
- Prefers Niche Market size capacity



Vision History

- Started by a landscaper
- Need for Organics processing on landscape division of the business
- Bought a tub grinder
- Awarded the SC Contract in '95
- Bio Mass
- Markets Shifted
- Landscape & Gardening material began



Role in the company:

- Drive Sales & move finished product away from sites
- Marketing & Branding
- Website, multi media & promo
- Tradeshows, workshops, Earth Day & outreach
- Advertising
- Safety Training for staff
- Product Development
- Food Waste Program (Back End Mgmt: testing, create markets, input monitoring at generators)
- Legislation & Advocacy
- Expansion seeking new ventures





Organics Source Separation

Pile #'s at facility

- Curbside green bin Compost
- Self-haul brush & trimmings –C&G
- Pallets & lumber C&G
- Redwood only C&G
- Food Waste Compost
- Manure Compost

Buena Vista, Watsonville



Industry Products

- Green Waste Mulch
- Fines Soil Amendment
- Recycled Lumber
- Dyed Mulch & Painted Wood Chip
- Redwood
- Compost





California Organics

- Locally (MC, Green Bin, composting, events)
- State (AB939, AB 341, AB32, AB1826, AB1594)
- Nationally (USCC, Bio Cycle, NY, PA, CO, TX)
- Fortunate to be in the Bay area
- Recycling is available, commercial composting
- Communities
- Backyard composting





Bay Area Commercial Composting

San Francisco-GW/FW
San Jose-GW/FW
Santa Cruz-GW/FW

Others: San Diego-GW/FW
Maryland –GW/FW
Pennsylvania-GW/Manure

Technology

- Open Windrow
- ASP (Aerated Static Pile positive or negative)
 - Covered with tarp or bio filter
- Anerobic Digestion (enclosed system)
 Without the use of Oxygen
- Bunkers or In-Vessel
- Progressive ASP

Open Windrow



Turners





Inputs In The Compost Process

- Food Waste (Pre and Post Consumer)
 - The next frontier
- Yard Trimmings/Green Waste
- Compostables (silverware, plates, cups)
- Water
- Air
- Manure
- Compost
- Bio Solids

Recipe Mixture

- Ingredients
- Compost Chef
- Right %
- Correct turning
- Temp's
- Gotta get it right



Food Waste

- Fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy, fish & shells
- Hauler/generators
- Great Nitrogen source
- Moist/Adds water
- Bulking/add GW

Concerns:

- Collection on the pad
- Contamination (spoons)
- Compostables
- High Salt Sodium
- Leachate
- Pond



Screening



Santa Cruz Food Waste Pilot Program

- Mixed with Green Waste
- Covered Static Pile
- Positive air
- Windrow 90' feet long
- Agg Bag system-dinosaur
- 2K tons annually food waste plus bulking agent









Yard Trimmings

- Small Brush (leaves, grass) curbside
- Great Carbon source
- Self Haul Drop Off
- Compost alone or as a Bulking Agent with FW
- Absorbs water & leachate
- Provide organic matter
- 3/8" vs 2" minus

Concerns:

- Inventory and Storage juggling act and science
- Contamination
- Finished product quality



Screening



Yard Trimmings & Woody Material Handling

- State reg's
- Fire lanes
- Active drop off area
- Temperatures
- Time limit to move material off site



Compostables









Standards for What is Compostable?

- B.P.I. Bio-degradable Products Institute
- ASTM 6400 and ASTM 6868
- Look for the logo





- Compostable in the landfill
- Challenge in the compost pile
- Certifying Organic material
- Retail level

Water

- Moisture is essential
- Microbial activity
- Not too much!
- Not too little
- Incorporate into pile



Air

- Crucial for monitoring Temp's
- Positive or Negative ASP



Manure

- Chicken/Horse/Cow
- Great source of Nitrogen
- Also hay & other Brown
- Concerns:
- Proper PFRP
- Organic certification
- Antibiotics



Compost As An Input Tea







Bio Solids

Composting of Human Waste the movie "The Martian" Matt Damon

- land reclamation
- mine reclamation
- agricultural land fertilization
- forest fertilization
- erosion control
- horticulture
- slope stabilization
- roadside aesthetic improvements

Inputs that cause a Challenge

Palm



- Large Woody Material
- Stumps >5'x5'





Inputs that cause a challenge con't

- Animal feces
- Small plastic bags

Grass Sod





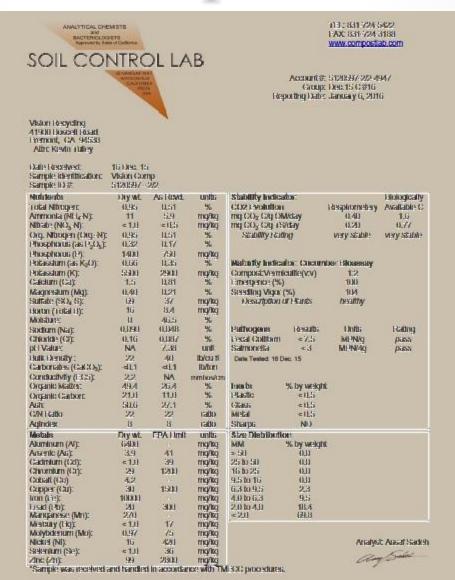
Questions Re: Inputs

Measurements for Success

- Lab Report
- Squeeze Test
- Odor (Smell)
- Color
- Bulk Density
- Certification
- Output

Lab Report

- PFRP
- Pathogens
- C/N
- pH
- OrganicContent
- Sodium
- Ash



Measurements

Squeeze (Moisture)



Odor

Color

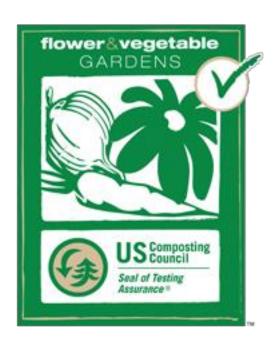


 Bulk Density (Compaction)



Certifications







Government Trade Association Commercial Entity

Output

- How does the product perform?
- Success stories
- Photos
- \$ saved
- Water reduction

Finished Material (Where does it go)

- Landscapers
- Home Gardeners
- Municipalities
- State Cal Trans
- Agriculture
- Vineyards
- Canabis growers
- Bio Mass Plants
- Bio Treatment L.I.D.





Bio Treatment Soil Blend





- Low Impact Development product
- Filtering Storm Water
- Coarse sand to perculate water
- Compost attract contaminants
- Promoting vegetation within the bio swale

Stanford Campus Installation



Bio Mass Crisis

- One other outlet for Organics as a substitute for Coal to create energy
- Central California Power Plants have closed
- Lower cost alternatives to energy
- California has said keep Organics out Landfills
- But, material is going back in the landfill





Conclusion

- Feedstock Management
- So Important for achieving finished product
- What Goes In Dictates What Comes Out
- Cannot make Gold out of Lead
- Compost is Natural Steroids for Soil
- Organics is the next frontier
- For Municipalities it is crucial for long term life of the landfill

Helpful Links

- USCC
 - Compost Operator Training Class
- Bio Cycle Magazine
- Association of Compost Producers
- B.P.I. World (website for compostables)
 - ASTM