

**Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE) – SW204**  
**YEAR 3 QUARTERLY REPORT**  
**For the Period Ending March 31, 2004**

---

***1.0 DESIGN***

*1.1 Engineering, Planning, Construction, and Inspection:*

The County has been working diligently with the DEP district office, Springstead Engineering and Kessler Consulting to obtain the information for the RAI and MCO for the necessary permits and consent orders for the Facility.

*1.2 Plan Certification and Permitting:*

On March 21st the digester came on-line after the County and the DEP signed a Model Consent Order. The older, original digester has remained off-line since November 2003. Municipal Solid Waste continued to be transferred and hauled out-of-county during this quarter.

***2.0 CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE***

*2.1 Modular Office Space (trailer):*

The modular office continues to be occupied by the new FORCE Superintendent. Utilities and office equipment for the trailer and laboratory are charged to the overhead category on the Reimbursement Request.

*2.2 Demonstration Farm Site Preparation and Maintenance:*

*Sumter County Compost for Forest Crops R&D Project (UF/IFAS – Rockwood):*

The FORCE site has had compost delivered and rototilled into the soil. To date more than 600 trees have been planted. The County/SCI inmate program (Sumter in-kind contribution) assisted in the planting of these trees. Currently low volume irrigation is being installed to accommodate the new plantings. During the month of March 1498 cottonwood cuttings were planted in the demonstration area. Cuttings of Pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) and Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) were planted in three single rows. Cottonwood cuttings (*Populus deltoides*) were planted in 11 double rows. The cypress represent 19 different clones and the cottonwood represent 50 different clones. Each row is divided into three replications. Drip irrigation was installed for all the new plantings. The treatments for these plantings are compost, fertilizer, and control.

*2.3 Installation and Maintenance of Digester:*

Sumter County staff continued to maintain the new FORCE digester in preparation for operation by the occasional turning of the empty digester to keep proper lubrication and by monitoring fluid levels. Additionally, and because it was not in operation for over two years, A/C Equipment Services has provided technical support and assistance. The new digester is now in constant operation. A Model Consent Order allows the County to operate the new digester.

#### *2.4 Laboratory:*

No activity to report this period.

#### *2.5 Irrigation System and Maintenance:*

Minor adjustments were made to the irrigation system this quarter - broken PVC piping was replaced.

### **3.0 OPERATION**

#### *3.1 Process Technology Procurement and Testing:*

Meetings or correspondence occurred with Advanced Reduction Technologies and Waste Reduction Technologies regarding their R&D projects. Since their projects include technology along with research, these projects will require a minor modification to Sumter County's permit. Until the County's permits are obtained (anticipated for May 2004) the County's paperwork process will not begin. In the meantime, both ART and WRT have been asked to provide all documentation to the County, as requested by the DEP in the December 2003 meeting, so that when permits are issued the process can begin.

#### *3.2 Feedstock Procurement/Processing:*

##### *Sumter County Compost for Forest Crops R&D Project (UF/IFAS – Rockwood) – Phase II:*

At no charge (Sumter in-kind contribution) to the user for the Sumter County organics product, and in partnership with the FORCE R&D project funded, a "sister" R&D Project is underway at the Withlatchoochee State Forest by Don Rockwood. More than 290 yards of Sumter County compost was delivered to the Withlatchoochee site. Beds were prepared and compost was rototilled into the five-acre site. With the assistance of the inmate program, cypress trees were planted at the Withlatchoochee site.

#### *3.3 Administrative Costs – Supplies and Travel:*

Organics conference or workshop attendance hours are billed to this section by Kessler Consulting, Inc. when applicable and attendance occurs. An Internet satellite was purchased from Earthlink.

#### **4.0 MARKET DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING**

##### *4.1 Educational Analysis and Outreach, Website*

###### Superintendent Activities:

During the months of February and March the Superintendent held meetings and telephone conferences with TAG members and industry representatives to assist in long-range program planning.

February 2004 calls and meetings included the following:

Andy Rose	Citrus – Extension Service	Feb 17
Wendel Martinkovic	Horticulture Ext. Service	Feb 17
Nancy Roe	Vegetable Growers	Feb 20
Chuck Smith	Poultry Federation	Feb 24
Josh Boan	FDOT	Feb 24
Mark Brown	SWFWMD	Feb 25
Tom Lehmann	Municipal Mulch Program	Feb 26
Chris Snow	County Mulch Program	Feb 26
Jeff Roger	RFT	Feb 26
Ronnie Barron	Cattle Project	Feb 26
Rose Koenig	Center of Organic Ag	Feb

The Superintendent prepared a draft educational plan, which is currently under review by the FORCE Directors. Educational programs for commercial generators, industry representative and end-users will be based on the outcome of the needs assessment. The resulting educational programs will be training workshops, distance learning programs, research and conservation plots, conferences, equipment demonstrations, newsletters, seminars, video tapes, professional journals, fact sheets, printed manuals, field trips, tours of demonstration site, computer used in training, Web based internet information and facility tours throughout the State.

###### Website:

The FORCE website, [www.floridaforce.org](http://www.floridaforce.org), is in the process of being updated. The website has been reviewed for changes, and updates are anticipated to be made in the next quarter. Changes to the actual website will occur after a new host for the website has been located. Currently FORCE is seeking a host that will accommodate spur of the moment changes and monthly updates at a reasonable price. In March 2004, the Technology Database was added to the FORCE website.

###### R&D Projects:

In response to the RFP that was issued last quarter FORCE awarded proposals for Research, Demonstration, Education, Marketing, and Outreach. Three of the grantee contracts with the County were approved and signed by the Board of County Commissioners this quarter. Some of the topics include: the current forest project, a steam sterilization project, odor control, commercial food waste into animal feed project, an organic

matter reduction catalyst, and an education and outreach project.

*Training in Utilization of Compost for Florida – UF/IFAS (Ozores-Hampton):*

A meeting was held on Friday, February 2004 with principal investigators Monica Ozores-Hampton and Nancy Roe to begin the planning phase of the training program. A draft program agenda, tentative meeting dates, locations and publications were formulated. A steering committee of industry representatives has been formulated and will review draft. In addition, a steering committee meeting was held in Immokalee on Monday, March 15th to review the three proposed training programs. Suggestions and recommendations were made by the committee. Tentative training dates are scheduled for: May 5, 2004, Immokalee, Florida; June 23, 2004, Tallahassee, Florida; and Septembers 22, 2004, Sumter County, Florida.

*Double S Ranch Food Organics Recovery Project - Organic Matters (Stevens/Barron):*

Communications have been made with Ronnie Barron and they are currently working on setting up the project site. Land clearing is underway at the site to accommodate fencing that is to be installed soon. Double S. has obtained a feed trailer and Ronnie has asked that the money that was allocated for the purchase of a feed trailer be allocated instead for a fencing enclosure for the cattle. I have asked that their request be put in writing with an inclusion of the cost of the fencing enclosure and forwarded to FORCE. In addition, Organic Matters Inc is currently developing a business plan for the project.

Toll-free 1-800-#:

The FORCE toll-free telephone line and website e-mail link continue to be monitored by KCI. Inquiries are answered or referred to appropriate individuals.

USCC National Organics Updates:

The USCC listserv is monitored by KCI regularly for items of relevance to the project. Additionally, industry journals and the Florida Clipping Services are monitored for articles of relevance to the project and appropriate articles are distributed to the TAG members.

*4.2 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Committee Meetings & Updates:*

FORCE will hold its next TAG meeting in late June or early July 2004. The notice in the Florida Administrative Weekly has been written and will be published once the date is finalized. Correspondence is transmitted to TAG members regarding state or national organics information throughout the quarter as appropriate.

*4.3 Market Development:*

An important goal of FORCE is to serve as a unified voice of the Florida Organic Recycling industry and to promote statewide organics recycling in Florida through the enhancement of organics processing, research, marketing, education and utilization. A key marketing strategy will be to seek industry awareness regarding services offered by FORCE, develop the customer base for organics producer, processors and end users and to work toward building industry loyalty.

A series of directories of Florida vegetable, fruit, sod and landscape companies will be generated as a tool for generators to link up with possible end users of recycled organic product. During the month of March, work focused on identifying potential end users of compost/mulch products in the fruit, vegetable, sod and landscape industries. An extensive internet search was undertaken. More than 1,000 companies were identified and directories are being developed for Fruit & Vegetable and Sod & Landscapers. The next phase of the project will be identifying golf courses throughout Florida.

Additionally, during the month of March, the Superintendent's work focused on identifying potential end users of compost/mulch products in the fruit, vegetable, sod and landscape industries. An extensive internet search was undertaken. More than 1,000 companies were identified and directories are being developed for Fruit & Vegetable and Sod & Landscapers.

The FORCE Superintendent held meetings with the following industry folks to help develop organics marketing in Florida. They included the following:

March 3: Hydrologic Meeting—Odor Control with George Bennett

March 11: Equine BMP Meeting with Horse Breeders

March 12: A tour of the facility occurred with guests from Columbia, Nepal and Ireland

March 26: Annual Poultry Federations Meeting— Orlando, Florida

#### *4.4. Conferences and Meetings:*

Travel expenses for the marketing endeavors and conferences listed in Section 4.0 where not charged to FORCE by KCI or Sumter County.

#### *4.5 Demonstration Farm Operations*

Six projects were approved for funding by FORCE this quarter and many of the contracts should be awarded during the next quarter.

### **5.0 EVALUATION, MONITORING, AND TESTING**

#### *5.1 SAC Protocol Development:*

No activity to report this period.

#### *5.2 Feedstock and Products Testing:*

No activity to report this period.

### 5.3 Environmental Monitoring

No activity to report this period.

## 6.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

### 6.1 Personnel:

The Superintendent continues to be housed at the FORCE office. All salary and benefits are charged to the FORCE project.

### 6.2 Administrative Fees – Indirect Costs:

No activity to report this period.

### 6.3 Quarterly Reports, Annual Work Plans and Budgets:

Quarterly reporting document preparation began in this quarter. Additionally, the Year 4 Project Operating Plan & Budget were transferred to the DEP with TAG approval in the next quarter. Ongoing evaluation and revision of the FORCE Year 4 Budget continues as progress continues on the project. The County is expected to provide a proposed revised task allocation for the Year 4 budget (shifting money within tasks only) to the DEP in the next quarter.

Additionally, the County is in the process of preparing all outstanding reporting documents and questions/comments from the DEP.

### 6.4 Project Coordination and Administration:

This quarter contains expenditures for personnel and related expenditures for Dr. Joan Bradshaw, FORCE Superintendent, and is reflected in the appropriate areas of the budget tracking sheet and County G&L History report for the quarter.

FORCE continues to pursue potential legislative and private sector funding. This is one of the primary functions of Dr. Joan Bradshaw. Other avenues of funding being vigorously investigated include, but are not limited to, state funds and other Federal grants in the area of solid waste, energy, water, and agricultural. In an attempt to augment current funds, a plan was developed which included a review of current program funding, regional and statewide funding opportunities, linkages and partnership development, potential funding opportunities, and protocol for submitting grant proposals through the County.

In addition, Kessler Consulting, Inc. forwards any leads for potential funding to the Superintendent as well as work with the County's Administrator, Commissioner and lobbyist to obtain additional legislative funding.

Dr. Bradshaw prepared a draft funding plan of action, a draft educational and marketing plan and a draft

program plan. These documents are currently under review by the FORCE Directors. When the documents are final and have been approved by the Directors they will be sent to the DEP.

Kessler Consulting, Inc. continues as the project consultant for all management areas of the project and currently reports to the County Administrator on all FORCE.