

**Florida Organics Recycling Center for Excellence (FORCE) – SW204  
YEAR 5 QUARTERLY REPORT  
For the Period Ending March 31, 2006**

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**1.0 DESIGN**

*1.1 Engineering, Planning, Construction, and Inspection: \$ 411.78*

All necessary engineering work is continually reviewed by County and FORCE staff as well as Kessler Consulting, Inc. (KCI) to ensure proper planning and inspection of the FORCE site and relevant equipment as required by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP)'s Southwest office. Any appropriate charges for this task are reflected here.

*1.2 Plan Certification and Permitting: \$545.00*

The following regulatory documents are continually reviewed to meet the local DEP permit requirements and deadlines to operate the digester purchased through FORCE. KCI is currently responsible for overseeing Sumter County Solid Waste staff, PBS&J, The Colinas Group, and Test America to meet deadlines and maintain proper communication with the DEP Tampa office.

1. Composting Permit
2. MRF Permit
3. Model Consent Order

A letter was sent to the local and Tallahassee DEP offices regarding the status of the facility.

Any appropriate charges for this task are reflected here.

**2.0 CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE**

*2.1 Modular Office Space (trailer): \$ 0*

No activity to report during this period.

*2.2 Demonstration Farm Site Preparation and Maintenance: \$ 0*

County staff continues to mow and maintain the farm site as needed each quarter. No charges listed here signify that the lawn was not mowed.

*UF/Dr. Rockwood's Forestry Project:*

Work continues on the FORCE Demonstration site. See Section: 4.3 – UF/Rockwood project update, which is occurring on the FORCE 40-acre farm.

*2.3 Installation and Maintenance of Digester: \$ 0*

The last batch of testing in Year 5 was completed in the digester in late February. In between digester run- and down-time, County staff continues to maintain the digester by turning it on 10 minutes per week to keep the gears lubricated.

#### *2.4 Laboratory: \$ 0*

No activity to report during this period.

#### *2.5 Irrigation System and Maintenance: \$ 0*

No activity to report during this period.

### **3.0 OPERATION**

#### *3.1 Process Technology Procurement and Testing: \$5,916.27*

##### *Wright Environmental System:*

Due to the period in which the County received the contract back from UF and the end of Year 5, the project titled *Addition of Aerobic Composting Equipment to Anaerobic Digestion Facility at the University of Florida* utilizing the Wright Environmental System, it will be a year 6 project. It is anticipated this project will be underway in the upcoming quarter.

##### *Earth Tub:*

In January, the Earth Tub project began being utilized for research and demonstration activities with the loading into the unit of horse manure and oak leaves. The compost made will be unloaded in early April and will be utilized by the Master Gardeners' program. On February 22, 2006, 23 new Sumter County Master Gardener trainees received 1.5 hours of training on composting including a tour of the Earth Tub project at the Sumter County Youth Center. Photographs were provided at the TAG meeting held in March and are attached. A copy of the quarterly report is also attached.

##### *Demonstration Event:*

On January 16th, sixteen (16) yards of compost was delivered to the new Agricultural Center for the *Sumter County Water Conservation & Pollution Prevention* project. Florida's native plants were planted. Cisterns' are being used to capture rainfall for irrigation. This project is funded by both FORCE and a grant from the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority. Photographs were provided at the TAG meeting held in March and are attached.

#### *3.2 Feedstock Procurement/Processing: \$ 0*

The second activator the team decided to utilize for comparative purposes was conducted in January and February. The applications used were:

- Ortec Activator, Biosolids, MSW, no Inoculant
- Ortec Activator, Biosolids, MSW, with Inoculant
- Ortec Activator, Citrus Sludge, MSW, with Inoculant

The draft report is being finalized and clarifications are being requested from Test America and scientific support is being provided by Rufus Chaney. A final report will be provided in the upcoming quarter. A list of all trials tested to-date is attached.

### **3.3 Administrative Costs – Supplies and Travel: \$ 8,838.73**

Various administrative office supplies and costs are charged to this line item, such as telephone services, satellite-internet access, utilities, etc. Most travel expenses are reported and billed in task 4.4.

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

The following provides an update on the website, outreach and education material developed, 1-800-#, USCC listserv, and industry articles and publications featuring FORCE activities.

### **4.1 Education, Outreach, and Website: \$ 3,641.79**

#### **Website:**

During this quarter, FORCE has worked to update the website on all accounts including adding 250+ vendors to the technology database. Approximately 30 articles have been added to the bibliography database. Various Florida organics reports are being converted to PDF files and have and will continue to be uploaded on the FORCE website. The Calendar of Events is updated regularly to reflect the latest in organics recycling news.

To date the website has received approximately 7,402 hits. The email address on the website, [info@floridaforce.org](mailto:info@floridaforce.org), receives approximately ½ dozen emails per month regarding assistance on organics information. Inquiries are met with research information to the party requesting the organics information.

#### **Local IFAS Extension Office:**

The local Sumter County IFAS extension office has added the FORCE Website link onto its website. FORCE staff appreciates this partnership and exposure - <http://sumter.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

#### **Outreach Material:**

#### **Newsletter:**

In an attempt to enhance communications and better serve Florida's organics recycling industry, FORCE will continue to offer a periodic E-newsletter. This newsletter provides updates on upcoming events throughout the state, the status of FORCE grant projects and grant opportunities, website updates and pertinent organics recycling information. The goal is to provide timely, relevant and useful information as well as to solicit feedback from readers. Should the DEP like to include information in this newsletter, please contact Stacie Stokes or Kessler Consulting, Inc.

A newsletter is in development for the upcoming quarter.

**FORCE Brochure:**

On March 11, 2006, County staff participated in the Sumter County Fair. FORCE provided 100 copies of the new FORCE brochures as well as 100 copies of the article from *Biocycle* magazine to provide information and promotion of the FORCE program and activities.

**FORCE 1-800 Number:**

The FORCE toll-free line is being monitored by Stacie Stokes, FORCE Specialist. Calls continually come in and staff provides answers, solutions, and/or direction as appropriate. On average, this toll-free number receives about ½ dozen calls per month.

**USCC Listserv:**

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

**Industry Articles and Publications:**

The FORCE specialist submitted an article to Recycle Florida Today for inclusion in the next association newsletter (Winter 2006) regarding the December workshop. FORCE staff continues to monitor the local and regional newspapers to identify any articles that may have been written about the project. The newspapers being reviewed include the Sumter County Times, The Villages Daily Sun, The Ocala Star Banner, and the Lake County Daily Commercial.

**Research Education Project:**

**UF/Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton Organics Training Project:**

This project is complete. The final report has been uploaded on the website.

**4.2 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Committee Meetings & Updates: \$ 3,204.60**

The TAG meeting was held on March 9th. FORCE staff prepared all agendas, handouts, and logistics of this meeting. TAG members were invited and confirmation calls were made to increase

attendance. FORCE staff placed a notice of public meeting announcement in the Florida Administrative Weekly in accordance with State rules. FORCE staff organized a tour of the Facility for on March 8th with the TAG meeting to follow. In addition to regular TAG members, industry guests included members of the Tallahassee DEP office (Charles Goddard, Richard Tedder, Jan Rae Clark) and private sector representatives from Bio Resource, Advanced Technologies, Environmental Stewards, Inc., and JV Environmental Services. Meeting Notes from the March 9 TAG meeting are attached.

#### **4.3 Market Development: \$ 7,400.14**

##### ***State Organics Regulatory Research Report:***

The Florida Composting Regulatory Report is in its final stages of closure to include industry review and feedback. Feedback from DEP staff was incorporated into the report and a meeting had been scheduled for April 13, 2006 to discuss the Report, however it was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts with key industry representative attendance. This meeting, rescheduled for sometime in May, will serve as a peer review of the report prior to its finalization. A copy of the report for Year 5 is attached.

##### ***Research, Demonstration, Education, Marketing, and Outreach Projects (Grant Projects):***

##### ***UF/Dr. Rockwood's Forestry Project:***

Dr. Rockwood continues to monitor the growth and effectiveness of tree responses using Sumter County Compost. Dr. Rockwood has also requested, in writing, an extension through March 21, 2007 as well as additional funding. This is pending the fully executed copy of the FORCE year 6 approval. The full quarterly report submitted by Dr. Rockwood is attached.

##### ***Ronnie Barron and Jim Stevens, Organic Matters (OM) – Food Waste to Animal Feed Project:***

The final report that was submitted last quarter was not considered an acceptable deliverable. The additional information Organic Matters agreed to provide was in data tables. A copy of all information provided was sent to DEP for information purposes. FORCE management staff has agreed that the general intent of a final report has been met by Organic Matters and final payment will be authorized. FORCE staff did make some formatting edits to the final report. It will be uploaded onto the FORCE Website. A copy of the final report is attached.

##### ***Robert Broom, RKB Enterprises, GOC – Vapor and Odor Control at FORCE Sumter County, FL:***

The project is complete. The final report was completed in 2005 by Bob Broom. FORCE staff edited the document to more directly reflect staff's operational feedback regarding the odor control equipment and odor product. The final report is intended to be placed on the FORCE website. A copy of the report is attached.

#### **4.4. Conferences and Meetings: \$ 1,433.35**

Jackey Jackson, the new FORCE Superintendent, attended the USCC Composting Council conference in January 2006. Mr. Jackson learned new and innovative ways to produce a better quality and marketable product.

*4.5 Demonstration Farm Operations: \$ 0*

See section: 4.3 – UF/Rockwood project update, which is occurring on the FORCE 40-acre farm.

**5.0 EVALUATION, MONITORING, AND TESTING**

*5.1 SAC Protocol Development: \$ 0*

No activity to report during this period.

*5.2 Feedstock and Products Testing: \$ 7,386.00*

Research continues on the final report which will compare the result so of the completed feedstock test. All results have been delivered and are currently under review by Kessler Consulting, Inc staff.

All charges relative to the work described in this task are billed in this line-item.

*5.3 Environmental Monitoring: \$ 0*

The environmental monitoring is ongoing and relates to the information reported in Section 5.2. The environmental tests required at the facility, as well as those requested by the DEP, in addition to the SAC protocol, are a part of the testing being performed by Test America of Orlando, FL for both Sections 5.2 and 5.3. FORCE staff has had to meet with Test America to review their calculation methods due to some discrepancies found by the Technical Consultant. These issues are currently being researched and clarified.

All charges relative to the work described in this task are billed in this line-item.

**6.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

In Year 5, the FORCE digester, when used, will continue to operate primarily for FORCE related R&D projects. In preparing for the possible retrofit and now that all biosolids on site at the facility have been utilized, no MSW will be composted on site until after the BOCC evaluates various economic options.

It is the County's assertion that an extension has been granted by the DEP to continue the FORCE program through Year 6 and the extension was signed, on March 28, 2006, by the Sumter Board of County Commissioners.

**6.1 Personnel: \$ 18,654.69**

The County feels that at this time, the FORCE project team has the goals and management of the FORCE objectives on track with a working combination of team players that understand the County's commitment to organics and its commitment to the requirements of the DEP contract and project objectives for the State.

The FORCE project is currently being managed on site, by Jackey Jackson, FORCE Superintendent. The FORCE office is currently being operated and various FORCE activities being coordinated by the FORCE specialist, Ms. Stokes. She will continue to develop the FORCE office into a statewide composting education and resource center. She will continue to be trained by, managed, and utilize Peter Engel and Miriam Zimms of KCI. Mr. Wise as the FORCE digester specialist is working with Stacie Stokes, DEP, KCI and Test America Laboratory staff to perform the feedstock testing presented in the operating plan for this year. Approximately 80% of Ms. Stokes' time and 35% of Mr. Wise's time is dedicated and being billed to FORCE. Any adjustments to this will be made accordingly by Sumter FORCE staff and reflected in the G&L and Reimbursement Request.

All charges relative to the work described in this task are billed in this line-item.

**6.2 Administrative Fees – Indirect Costs: \$ 0**

No activity to report this period.

**6.3 Quarterly Reports, Annual Work Plans and Budgets: \$ 4,261.78**

During the end of this quarter, the FORCE staff worked to complete the quarterly report for the period ending 3/31/06.

**6.4 Project Coordination and Administration: \$ 10,705.56**

The FORCE project team meets or communicates approximately one time per month either by telephone conferencing or physical meetings at the FORCE modular office. It is the goal of the project team to continue to pursue additional legislative, public and private sector funding. And to beginning planning for some form of FORCE continuation after Year 5. Avenues of funding continue to be investigated, including state funds, the potential for additional legislative funds, and other Federal grants in the areas of solid waste, energy, water, and agriculture.

**Total Reimbursement Requested: \$ 72,399.69**