

ROU UPDATE

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On-site composting systems

A technical report entitled, *On-Site Composting: Technology options and process control strategies* has been release by the Recycled Organics Unit (ROU) based at The University of New South Wales.

The report has been produced in response to considerable interest in New South Wales regarding technologies that can effectively treat compostable organics (food, garden, wood and timber) on-site, thereby avoiding costs and environmental impacts associated with collecting, transporting and processing these materials.

The report outlines: technology options available in Australia and overseas; evaluates the performance of various technologies; reviews steps that are essential to maintain process control; and site licensing requirements for these technologies (in New South Wales).

Information contained in this easy-to-read report has been peer reviewed by a panel of authorities in this area, with information on technologies being sourced from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, United States and North America. Updates to the on-line docu-



ment will be made regularly.

The report is freely available on-line the ROU Information Centre at www.recycledorganics.com under "Publications".



Producing Quality Compost

Another major project undertaken by the ROU has been the development of *Producing Quality Compost*, a practical guide to assist compost manufacturers to produce quality composts and value added products containing recycled organics.

Dr Mark Jackson, author of the guide and ROU Technical Specialist said "The guide has been written and produced to assist the composting industry manufacture quality products with a view to realising better returns and consumer satisfaction from their products. Increased product quality and consumer confidence are key to realising new market opportunities and diverting more organic resources from landfill."

The guide contains a number of simple testing procedures that can be used in the field at a composting site to maintain process control, product consistency and product quality.

The guide complements EcoRecycle Victoria's *Guide to Best Practice: Composting Green Organics*.

Producing Quality Compost contains simple and easy-to-read information on a range of Australian Standards that define a range of RO products. Quality management and Australian Standard certification for products are reviewed.

This guide is freely available on-line from the ROU Information Centre at www.recycledorganics.com under "Publications".

An associated skills based training program will be available towards the end of this year.



RO Library launch

Launched at the NSW Waste Boards annual conference in June, the Recycled Organics Library is set to revolutionise the RO sector through unprecedented access to quality information.

The RO Library is an online catalogue of information on organic resource management and recycled organics products.

"The catalogue will provide immediate access to quality resources from a large number of organisations — university, industry and government. The catalogue features pin-point searching and direct downloading of retrieved resources," said Julian Lee of the ROU.

It combines the advantages of a highly specific CD-ROM search by allowing searches by particular fields — title, publisher, date etc — with the benefits of being able to retrieve the information immediately.

"The information available is quality information and there will be a review process to ensure the documents catalogued are relevant and meet minimum standards," said Julian.

Currently resources from the NSW Waste Boards, NSW Ag Organic Waste Recycling Unit and the Recycled Organics Unit, can be searched and downloaded from the library.

The ROU is increasing the number of resources the library contains and is looking for more organisations to provide quality resources. Please contact Julian on 9385 6885 or compost@unsw.edu.au if you are interested.

Get listed in the RO Directory

This month the ROU is opening up the Recycled Organics Web Site Directory to all RO-related organisations with web sites.

The directory is a list of RO web sites in Australia and will enable anybody to quickly find the most relevant and important web sites on RO.

"The RO web site directory will decrease the frustration people have when trying to find web sites on a topic they are interested in," said Julian. "It is also a fantastic opportunity for organisations with web sites to advertise their presence, much like an advertisement in the Yellow Pages."

Registering for the directory is a simple process. Interested organisations fill in a small form then add a link to their home page. Once done they are automatically added to the directory.

If you would like to find out more about the directory, please contact Julian Lee on 9385 6885 or compost@unsw.edu.au or visit our web site at www.recycledorganics.com.

The Recycled Organics Unit (ROU) is a partnership between the NSW Waste Boards and the University of New South Wales to develop the NSW centre for organics resource management, information, research & development, demonstration and training.

RO Dictionary/Thesaurus

The RO Dictionary/thesaurus developed by the ROU has recently been endorsed by the NSW Waste Boards.

The dictionary/thesaurus contains standard terms used in the RO sector, their definition, and many of the common synonyms that are used.

Where possible these definitions have been drawn from Australian Standards and official sources.

"The dictionary thesaurus has been developed in response to studies that identify inconsistent terminology as a barrier to industry and market development," said Julian.

Terms from the dictionary/thesaurus can be inserted into NSW Waste Boards, council and consultants reports as a glossary to aid reader comprehension.

The document is available for free at www.rolibrary.com

Info Update

The ROU Information Centre is rapidly filling with much needed resources for the RO industry.

The aim is for a single point of access for information on organic resource management and recycled organic products.

"The ROU Information Centre is a reliable place to get relevant and quality information," said Angus Cambell of the ROU.

With continued NSW Waste Board support, the site will become the most immediate source for quality information relevant to the management of organics in NSW.

www.recycledorganics.com