



## Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 3258

Date: April 8, 2011

**See composting photo:** <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/newsimages/envmanagement.htm>

## Charleston County Wins Award for Outstanding Composting Program

*Environmental Management Department received the 2011 Outstanding Composting or Organics Recycling Program Award*

[Charleston County's Environmental Management Department](#) received the 2011 *Outstanding Composting or Organics Recycling Program Award* during the [Carolina Recycling Association's \(CRA\) 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Trade Show and Conference](#).

The *2011 Outstanding Composting or Organics Recycling Program Award* recognizes a business, government agency, school, organization or large-scale facility that designed and implemented a composting or organics-recycling program that has been in operation for one year.

The award selection criteria included:

- Demonstrated and measurable waste reduction
- Education component
- In full compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulators
- Documented end-use of compost should be accompanied by laboratory analysis of components

"We are very proud to have been named the *2011 Outstanding Composting Program* in the Carolina's. This is just the beginning of a fantastic program" said Charleston County Attorney, Joe Dawson, who [Charleston County Council](#) directed to oversee the County's Environmental Management Department. "We continue to strive toward the 40% recycling goal for the County and are happy to be recognized for what we have accomplished thus far."

[Charleston County Government](#) hosted the CRA conference on March 29 - April 1 in North Charleston. Each year, the CRA presents awards to individuals, municipalities, educational institutions and legislative representatives in both North and South Carolina. The annual CRA conference brings together recycling professionals and companies providing recycling equipment, products and services for a week of education, networking and recognition.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to host the CRA event, which attracts solid waste professionals from around the country, here in Charleston County. It gave us the ability to showcase Charleston County's programs' successes with presentations and facility tours," said [Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., Charleston County Council Chairman](#).

The 40% recycling goal was adopted by Council after Charleston County's Environmental Management Department completed a comprehensive assessment of its integrated solid waste management program in 2009. The assessment identified the yard waste composting program as a key element in achieving that goal. The study found that the composting facility was processing on average 20,300 tons per year, or approximately 28% of the total yard waste generated in the County.

Environmental Management developed and initiated a plan to maximize productivity, expand the operations and materials, and enhance the end product quality of the compost program.

Actions taken by the department resulted in doubling the County's recycling rate in less than a year.

After a three-month trial period, the department obtained approval from the [S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control \(SCDHEC\)](#) to become the first landfill in South Carolina to use compost as an alternative daily cover in the landfill. Also, on September 1, 2010, SCDHEC approved the department's request to implement a six-month Food Waste Composting Pilot Demonstration, the first such project in the state.

Visit the Charleston County Web site at [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org) for more information on Charleston County's recycling and the composting programs, and for news, services and up-to-date information relating to Charleston County Government.

- Follow "ChasCountyGov" ([www.twitter.com/ChasCountyGov](http://www.twitter.com/ChasCountyGov)) on Twitter! -