

# Special Events

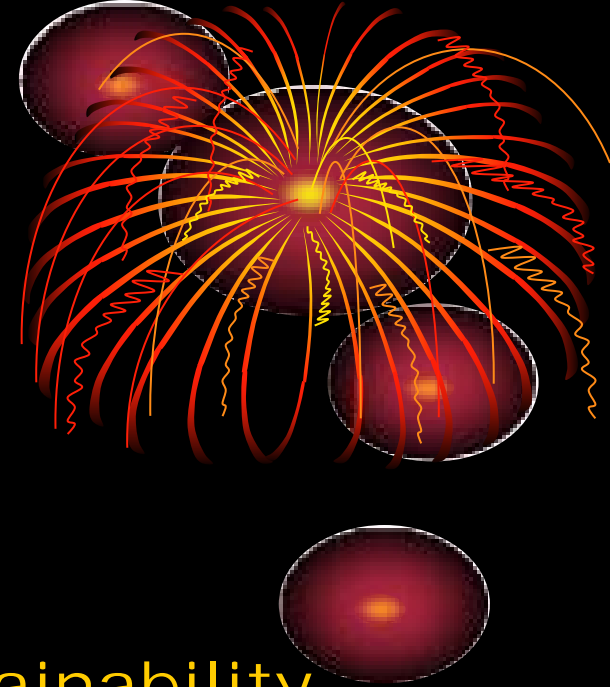
## Composting



Athena Lee Bradley  
Northeast Recycling Council, Inc.  
[www.nerc.org](http://www.nerc.org)

# About NERC

- What is NERC?
  - Non-profit
  - 10 Northeast states
  - Mission: environmental sustainability through solid waste management
- EPA Region 3 Grant: Diverting Special Event Food Waste to Composting
  - Delaware & Pennsylvania



# NERC Special Event Recycling & Composting Webpage

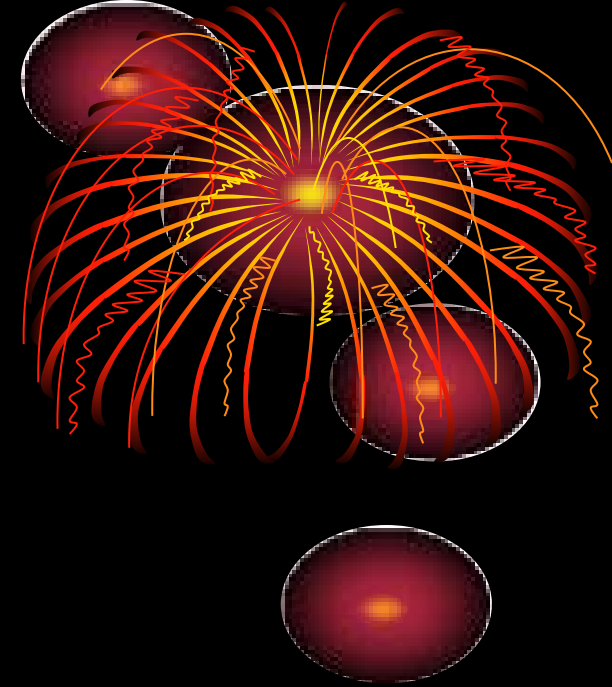
- Guidance for Special Event Food Waste Diversion
- Food Waste Management Plan Template
- Case studies: Coast Day, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Hallsmith Sysco Food Shows, SolarFest, The Sodexo Company Rentschler Field



# Why Compost?

- Half (or more) of the special event waste stream may be compostable.
- Essential component for “going green” & approaching zero waste.
- Great public education tool!





# Getting Started Pre-Event Preparation

# First Steps

- Coordinator or committee
  - Work directly with event manager
  - Must be prepared to be onsite during entire event
- Start at the beginning of the event planning season





Communication,  
cooperation, & planning  
with other event  
coordinators is key!

# Pilot Composting



- Vendor survey & overview
- Food waste management plan
  - Optional small pilot
- Phase-in implementation
  - Important for large events



# Materials

- Food scraps: prep/attendee
- Soiled paper: napkins, service ware
- Compostable plastic service ware
- Waxed Cardboard
- Woodwaste: pallets, wood scraps
- Green waste
- Manure

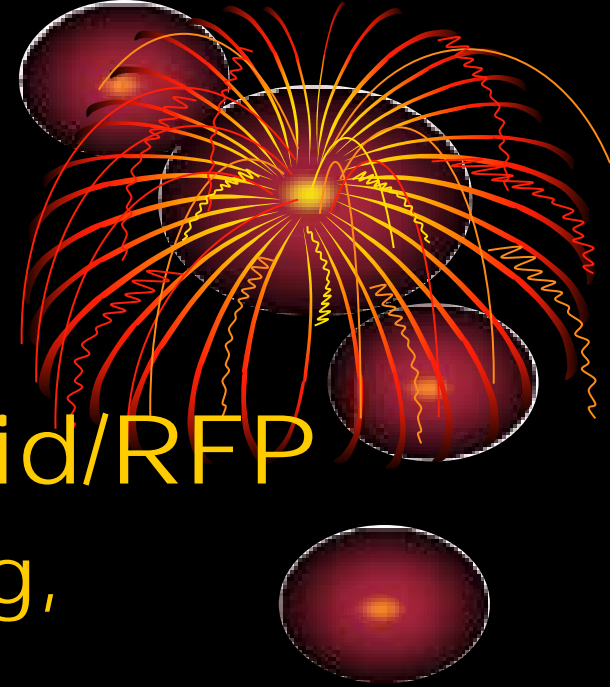


# Collection Planning



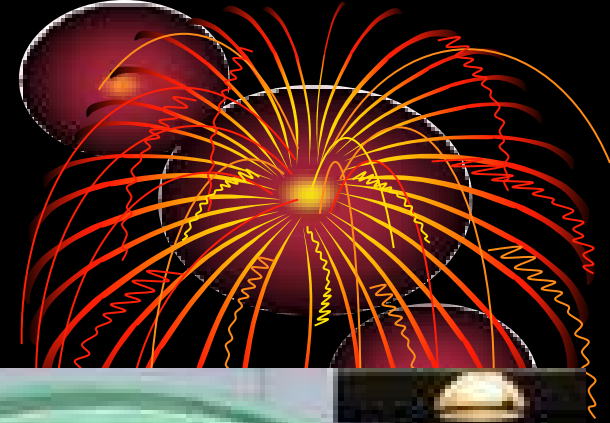
- Consult event garbage/recycling hauler & other haulers
  - Estimate volumes anticipated
  - Compost facility?
  - Costs of hauling/processing
  - Containers? Type? How many?
  - Negotiate sponsorship exchange

# Collection, Cont.



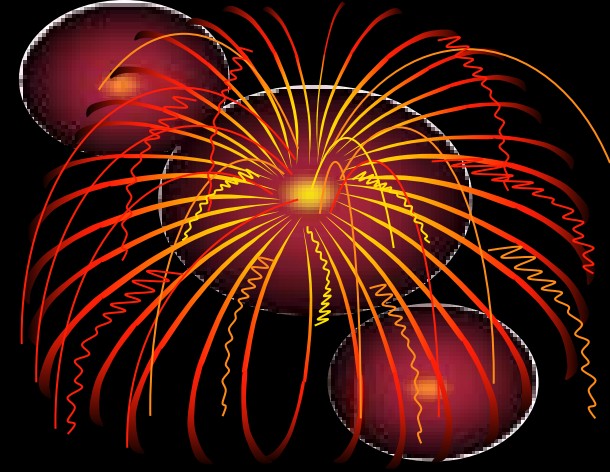
- Consider issuing a bid/RFP
  - Package: SW, recycling, composting
  - May be best option for large events
- Self-haul
  - May be best option for smaller events

# Collection, Cont.



- Parallel system to event recycling & trash collection

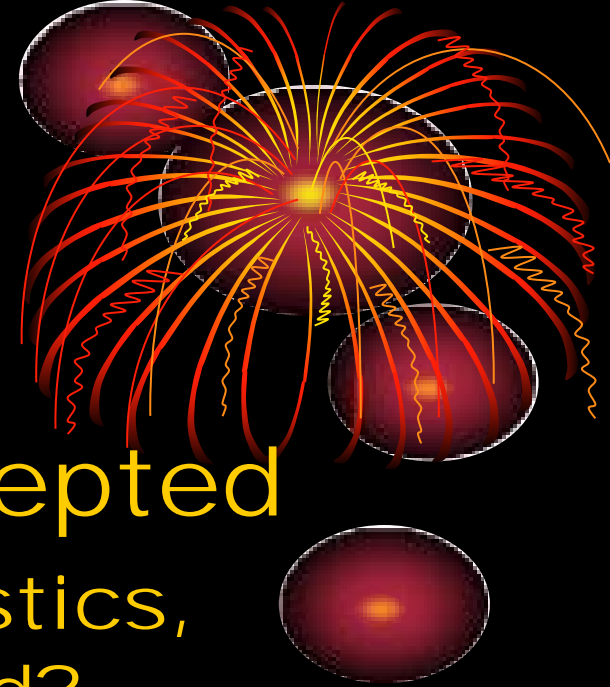




Equal visibility & support  
to composting, recycling,  
& solid waste management

Be Committed!

# Hauler/Processor Specifics



- Verify materials accepted
  - Paper, compostable plastics, liquids, waxed cardboard?
  - Compostable bags?
- Contract?
  - Charges, materials, percent contamination allowed, hauling specifics

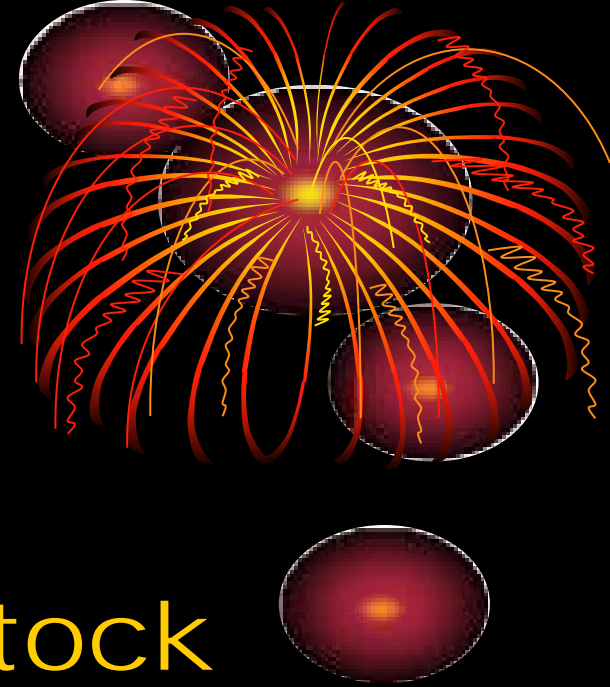
# More Pre-Event Planning



- Food Waste Management Plan
- Coordinator(s) on-site during event
- Sufficient & dedicated volunteers

# Alternatives

- On-farm composting
- Pig farm, other livestock
- On-site composting, if event has livestock
- Food recovery
  - Food shows, catered events



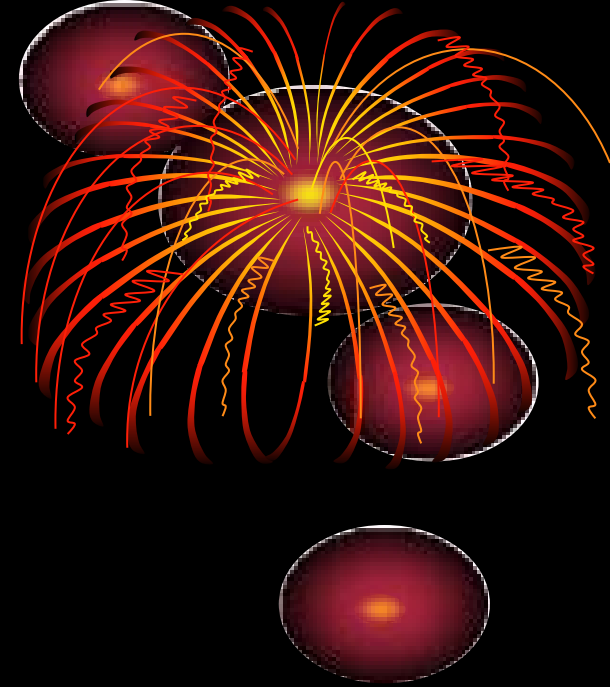




BIODEGRADABLE

**Sodexo is proud to  
offer 100%  
Biodegradable  
Plates and  
Napkins during  
your event.**

*sodexo*  
SPORTS & LEISURE



**Vendors/Concessionaires**

# Vendor Communication

- Communicate early & often
  - What is expected of vendors
- Suggest “no waste” food service options
- Ask or require use of ASTM/BPI compostable service ware



# Communication, cont.

- Prohibit Styrofoam & other nonrecyclable plastics
- Required part of vendor contract
- Phase in—
  - Discount if use compostable service ware or extra fee for those who don't



# Communication, cont.

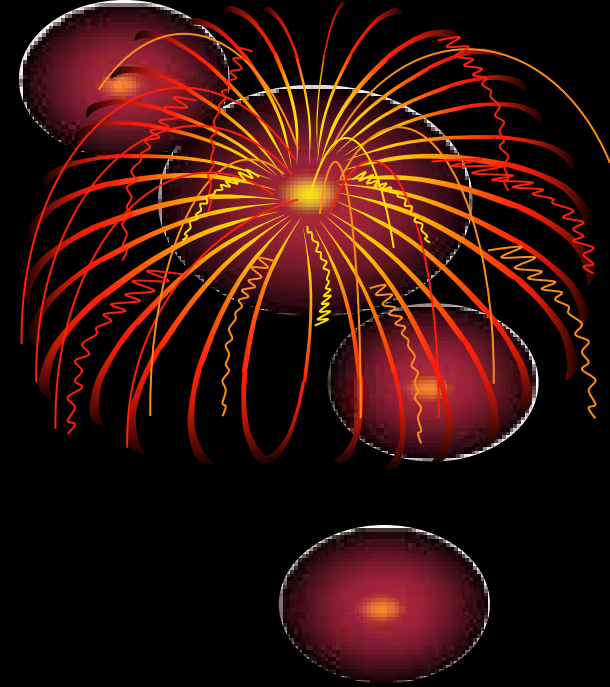
- Bulk condiment dispensers
- Monitor vendor compliance
- Vendor recognition
  - “Green Vendor” booth signage
  - Website promotion



# Vendor Composting

- Containers/collection
  - Small buckets
  - Work with Board of Health officials/inspectors
- Convenient disposal location
- Require vendors to haul their own trash
  - Recycle and compost onsite





Containers, Equipment,  
& Logistics

# Collection Containers

- Wheeled carts
- Regular trash receptacles
  - Retrofitted cover with hole
  - Decorate
- Buckets
- Different shape or color than trash



# Green Stations

- Construction of inexpensive “stations”
- Railing over the top, with a sign or banner—“Green Station”
- Separate sign for each bin







**PROJECT COW ZERO**



**WASTE STATION**  
**BRING IT ALL HERE!**

compostables trash recyclables

WSWMD

**TRIPLE**

254-5388

<b>Compostables</b>	<b>Trash</b>	<b>Recyclables</b>
		
<p><b>All Food</b></p> <p><b>NO:</b> Straws Plastic</p>	<p><b>Plastic:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Straws</li> <li>•Bubble Beer</li> <li>•Big Soda</li> <li>•Styrofoam</li> <li>•Sport containers</li> </ul> <p><b>And:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Aluminum: Fall</li> <li>•Drink Soda</li> <li>•Styrofoam</li> </ul>	<p><b>All Bottles</b></p> <p><b>All Cans</b></p>



# Green Stations

- Compost, Recycle, & Trash

- Eliminate trash cans not in Stations
- ZW: trash cans near portapotties/restrooms

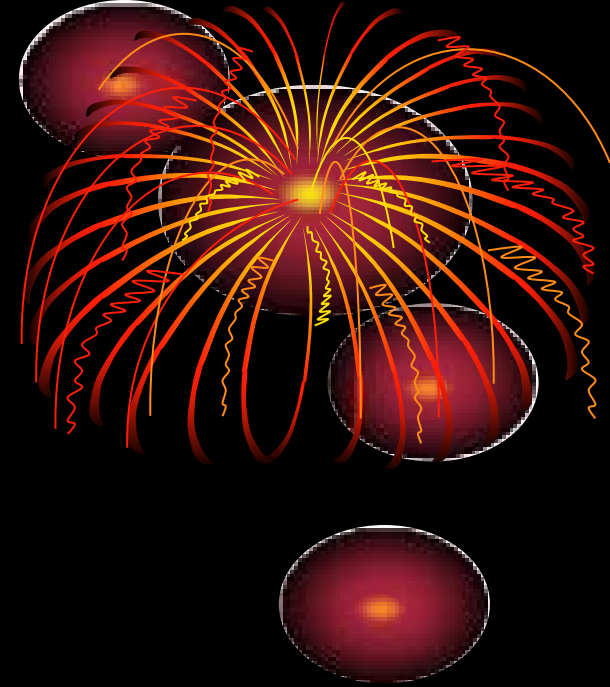
- Convenient! Visible!

- Vendor & concession areas
- High traffic areas



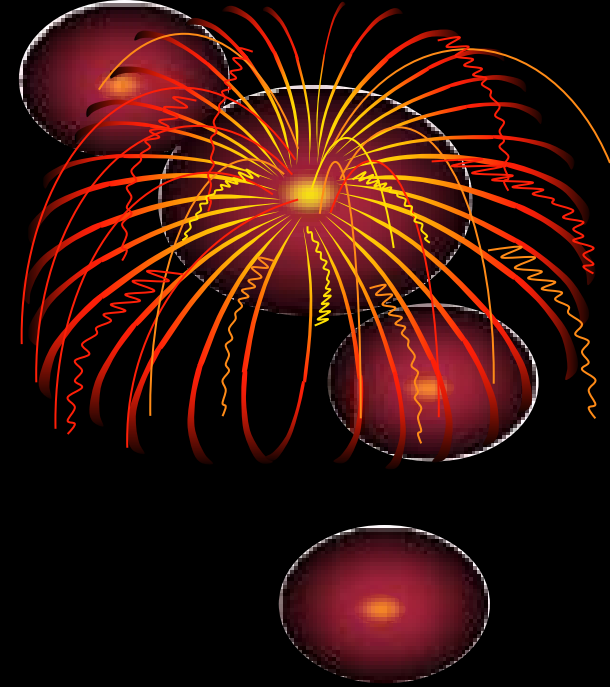
# Equipment

- Compostable bags
- Litter pick-up sticks
- Disposable gloves
- Hand washing area, sanitizing solution, or wipes
- Wheeled cart, golf cart, etc. for hauling collected materials



# Signage

- Big, bright, easy-to-read
- Overhead or eye level
- Top and sides of bins
- Simple & Consistent—  
“Food Waste & Paper”
- Solicit sponsors for signage
- Banners or flags
- Samples on bins



# Staging Areas

- Store full bags or carts until removed/emptied
- Located Behind—
  - Vendor booths, trees, portapotties, other out-of-the way location(s)



# Service Area

- Location of compost collection dumpster or truck
- Pre-arrange with hauler
- Accessible for easy dumping of materials





Staffing/Volunteers



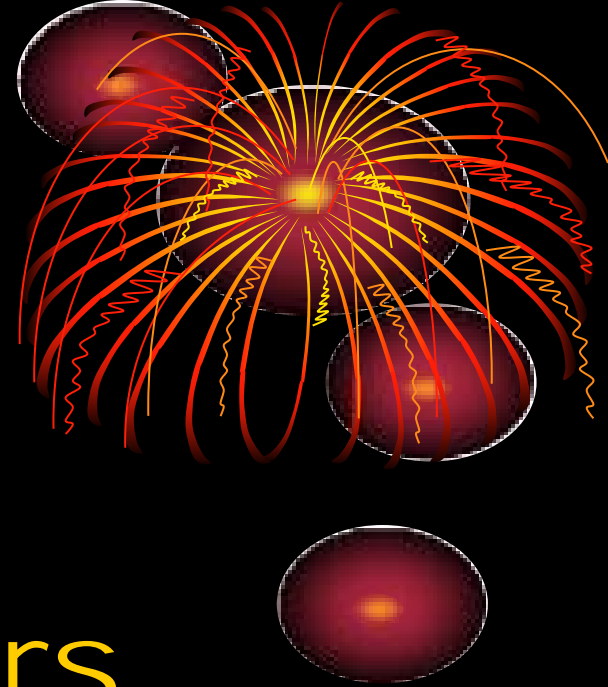
# Coordinator Duties

- Set-up
- Train & assist monitors
- Break monitors
- Help move materials
  - To Staging or Service Area
- Troubleshoot



# Set-Up

- Stations in place
- Bags in containers
- Signs & banners
- Samples on carts
- Vendors



# Volunteer Training



- Overview of composting to all volunteers/staff
- Logistics/safety training for compost volunteers
- Coordinator should remind monitors/floaters of tasks at beginning of each shift

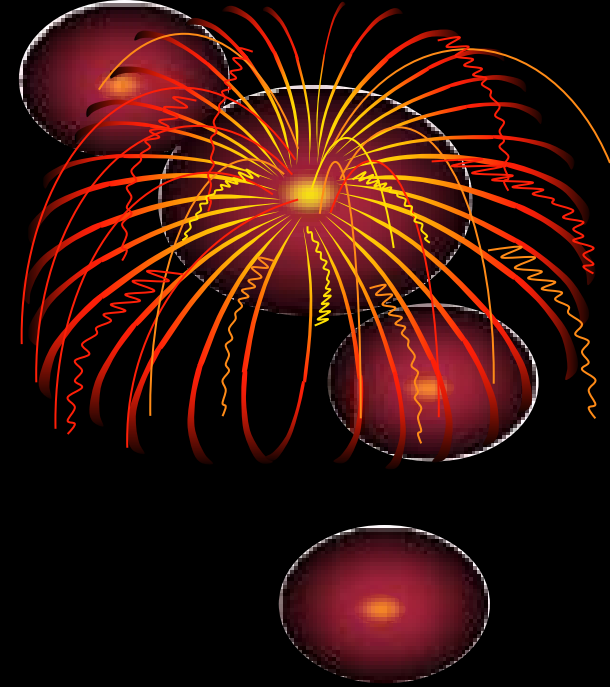
# Station Monitoring

- One monitor per station
  - Attendees are educated, not frustrated!
  - Eliminates contamination of collected materials
  - Eliminates the need to sort collected materials



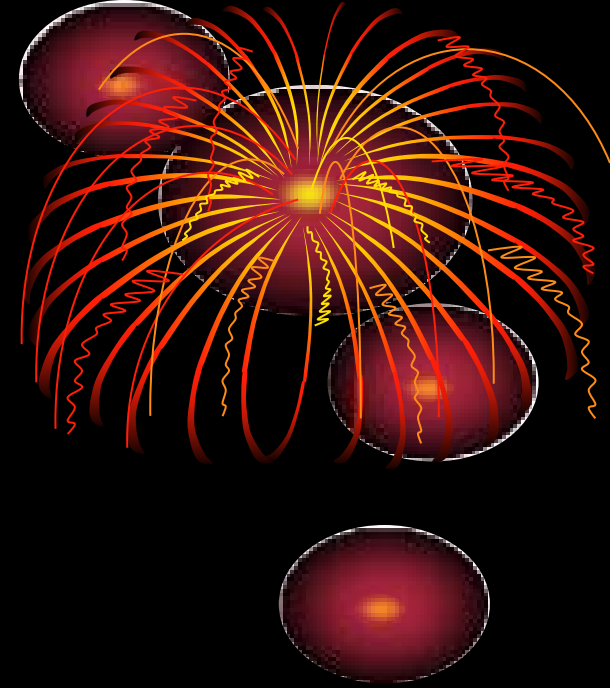
# Monitor Duties

- Compost Talk
- Monitor the stations
- Remove full bags/empty full carts
- Keep clean and neat
- Signage/samples in place



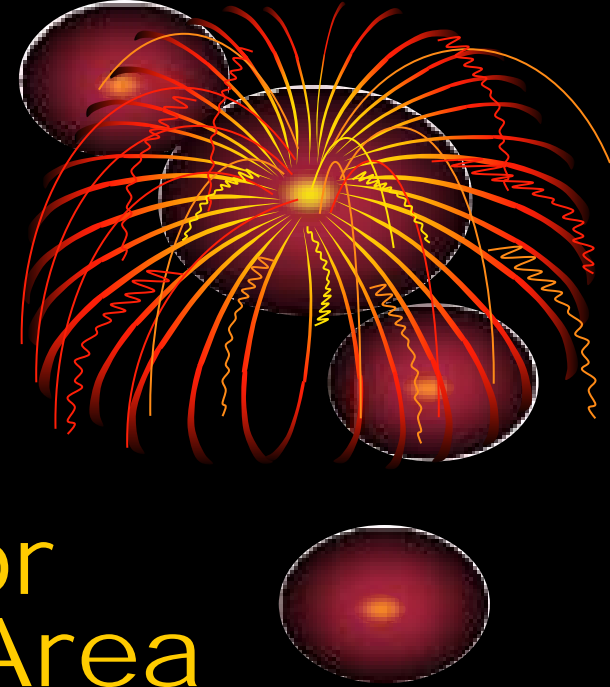
# “Floater”

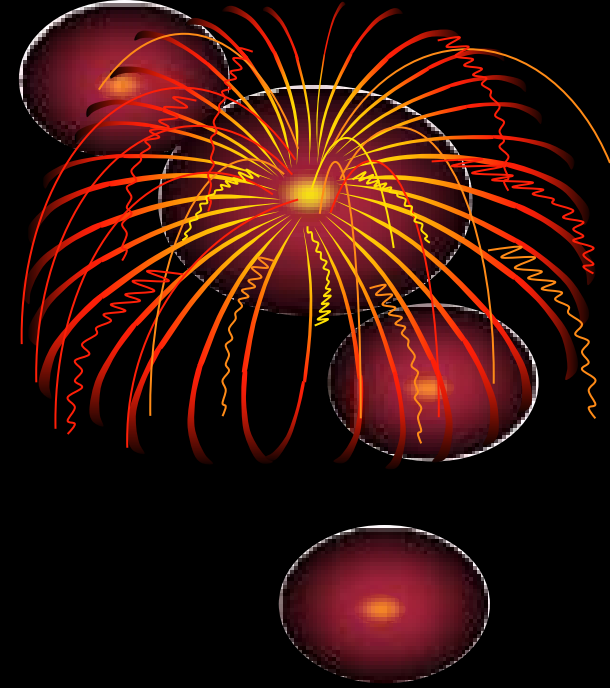
- Provide breaks for monitors
- Assist in emptying containers
- Move full bags or carts to staging or service area



# Clean Up

- Assign volunteers
- Remove bags/carts for transport to Service Area
  - Or, leave in designated locations for collection
- Pick-up litter
- Set-up for next day or breakdown Stations
- Count bags/bins



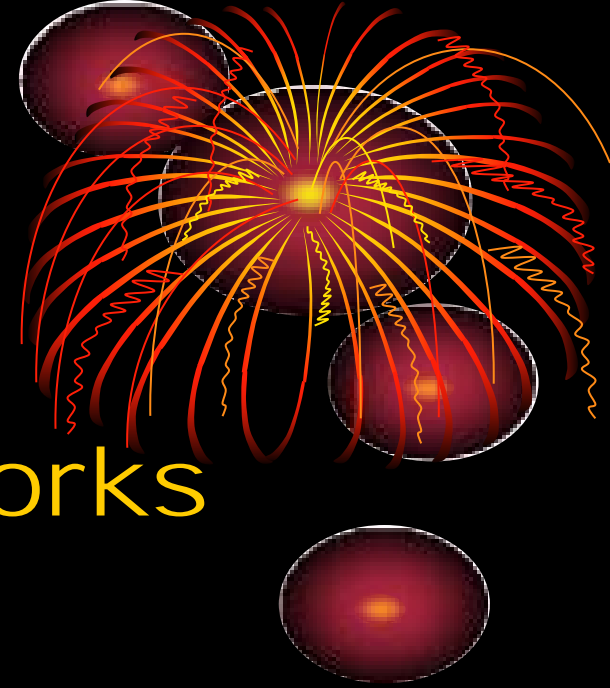


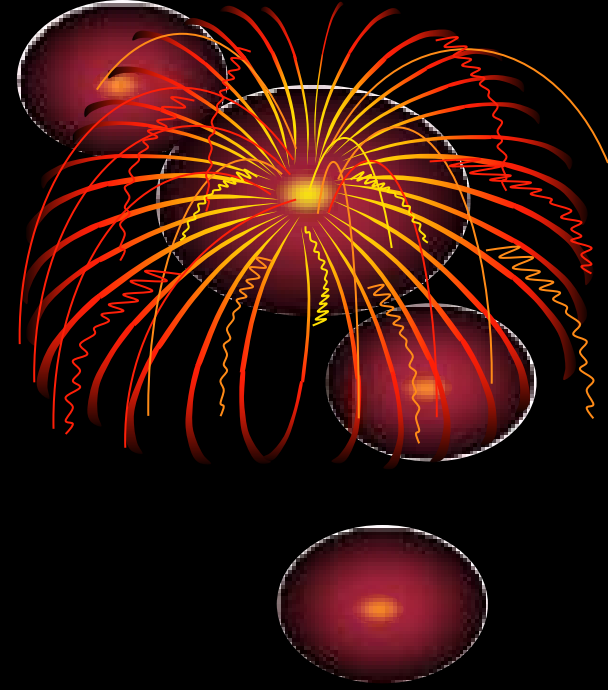
Promotion



# Promotion

- Website/social networks
- Press releases
- Signage
- Fliers/Posters
- Green Station logo on maps
- Stage announcements





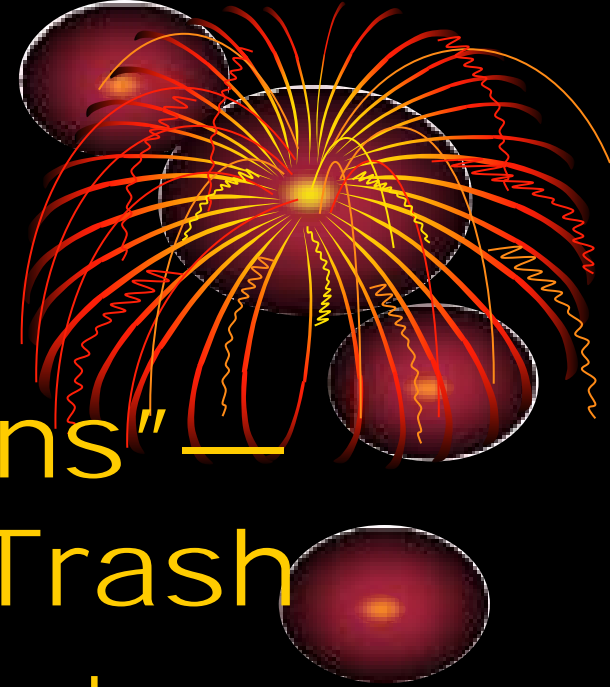
# Pilot Events

# Coast Day

- 80 pounds (ten bags)
- Hauler: University of Delaware staff
- Processor: Blue Hen Organics in Frankford, Delaware
- 8,000 participants
- 21 food vendors at the event



# Coast Day, cont.



- Five "Green Stations" —  
Compost/Recycle/Trash
  - Three in the Food Court
  - Seafood Chowder Challenge
  - Food vendor area across from the main event

# Staff/Volunteers

- Upward Bound Math and Science Center High School
  - Monitors & Clean-up
- University Green Team
- University Maintenance staff
  - Emptied full containers





Energy solutions  
for your business

**NRG**  
Energy Services

FRENCH FRIES





Deposit  
**Compostable**  
Material Here



Deposit  
**RECYCLE**  
Material Here

- paper
- glass
- plastic bottles

**All  
Other  
TRASH**







Crab Cakes

Crab Cakes

Crab Cakes

WITH TOPPING

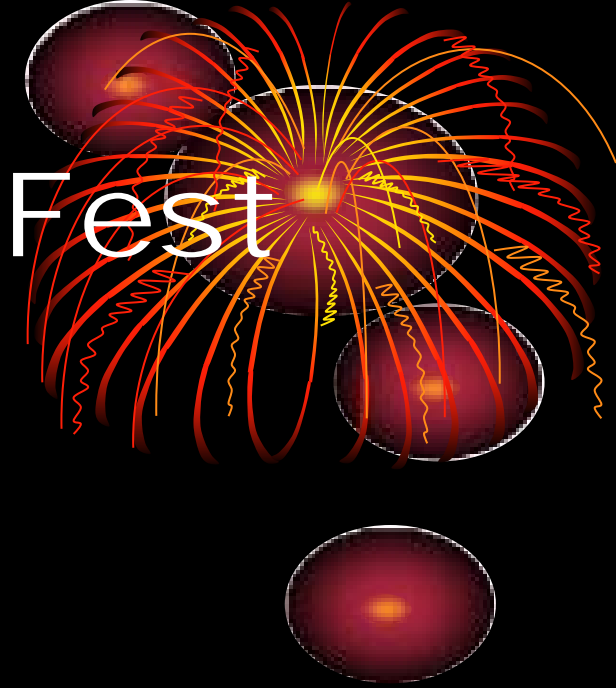
STE

Deposit Compostable Material Here

- food scraps
- napkins
- paper plates
- compostable plastic utensils & cups

Deposit RECYCLE Material Here

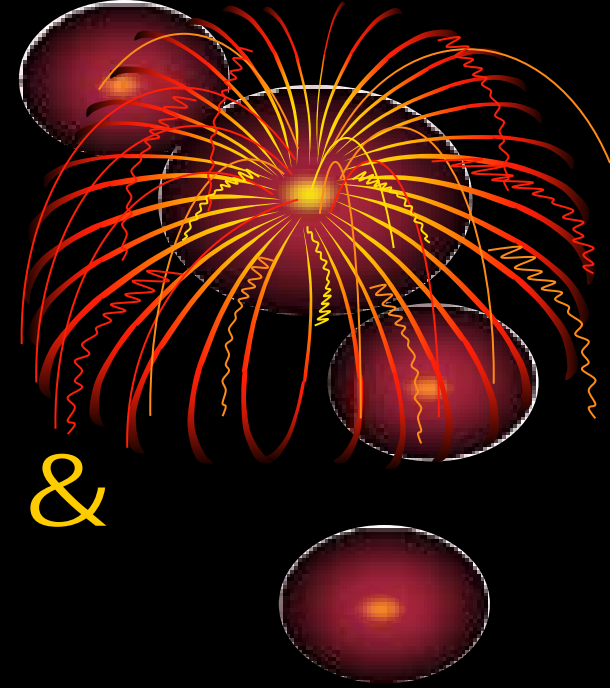
# Philadelphia Folk Fest



- One ton collected
- Hauler: Waste Management
- Processor: Wilmington Organics Recycling Center
- 40,000 attendees

# Pilot

- Volunteer Kitchen & Dining Tent
  - 3,000 meals for 2,500+ Festival volunteers
- VIP Tent
  - Performers and sponsors



# Pilot, cont.

- Volunteers integral to the success of the Festival.
  - Valuable educational strategy
- VIP Tent—visibility & an opportunity to gain support for composting







**COMPOST HERE**

Plates, utensils,  
food scraps



Compost

- Food scraps
- Utensils, plates
- Other clean, non-toxic
- Compostable items & materials





## Compostable Items

- Food Waste
- Paper Cups
- Napkins
- Stirrers
- Food Trays
- Utensils, cups & plates



All other items go in  
the trash.

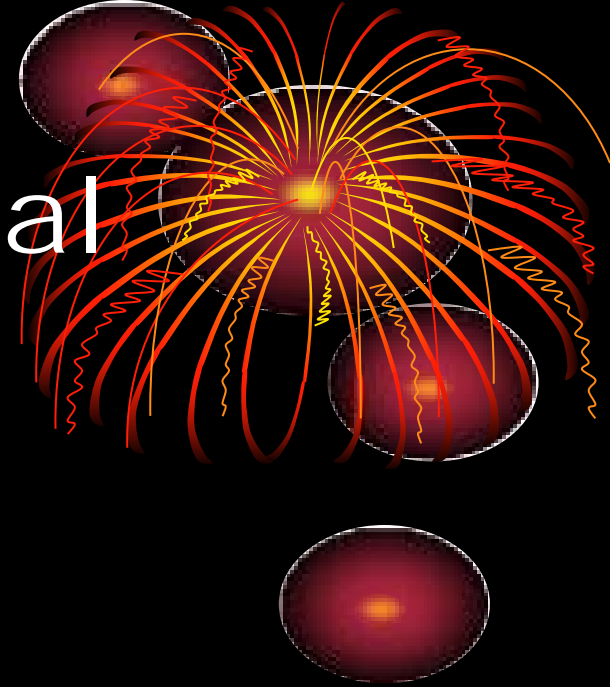






# Garlic & Arts Festival

- 2-day event
- 12,000 attendees
- ZeroWaste
- Vendors required to use compostable or recyclable
- 115 bags compost/Two bags of garbage
- Solar power





COMPOST

RECYCLE

DIRTY



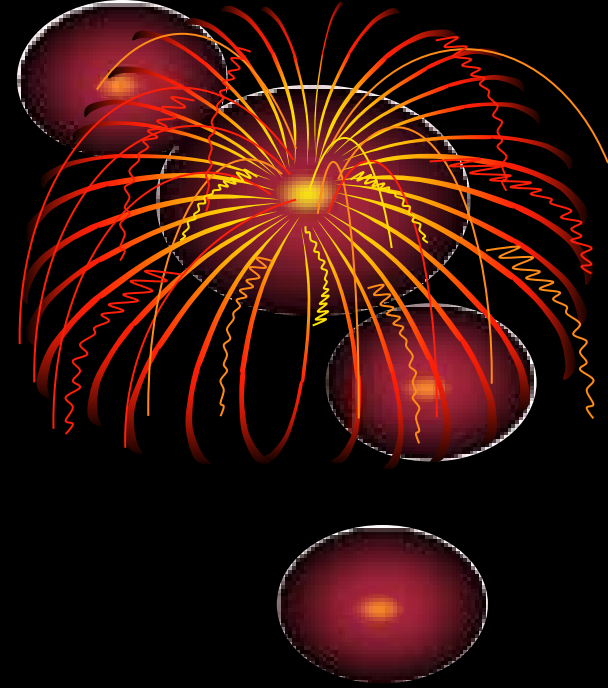
COMPOST COMPOST COMPOST  
ALL THIS STUFF HERE RECYCLE

COMPOST COMPOST RECYCLE

**TRASH  
FREE  
FESTIVAL**

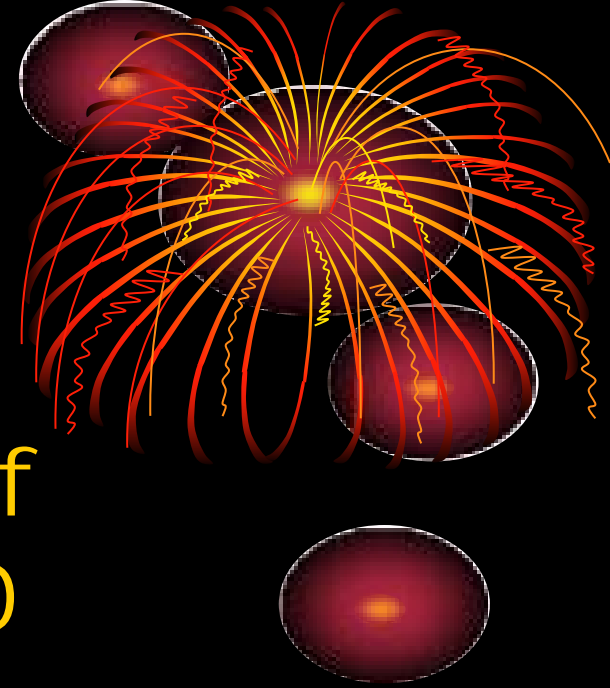
# SolarFest

- Three-day event
- 5000+ people
- Zero Waste
- Vendors required to use compostable or recyclable
- Solar power



# SolarFest, cont.

- 20, 65 gallon carts of compostables (1,400 pounds)
- 800 pounds of recyclables







# ZERO-WASTE STATION

- COMPOST
- FOOD SCRAPS
- NAPKINS, PLATES
- OTHER PAPER, NEWSPAPER
- COMPOSTABLE FORKS & SPOONS

LOVE

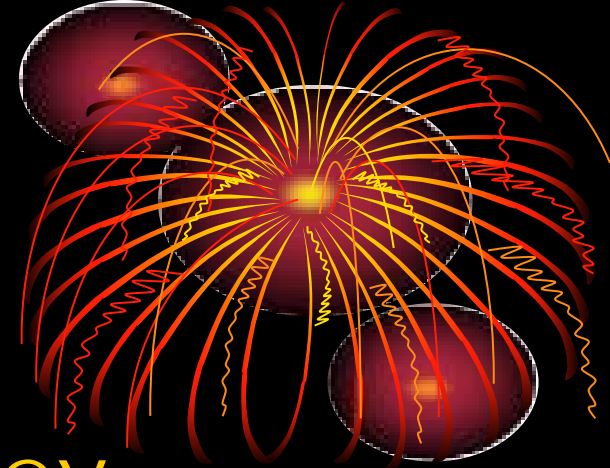


# Sodexo – Rentschler Field



- Club Area: 675 people
- 38 Luxury Suites (Skyboxes): each holding up to 20 people
- Corporate Tents: Each game has 2 - 10 large tents sponsored by corporations or Alumni
  - Tents open 2 hours before the game and close when the game starts
- Press and Media Boxes





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