



Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive



**Department of  
Environmental  
Resources**

Adam Ortiz  
Director

# Prince George's County

Yard Waste Composting Facility  
6601 S.E. Crain Highway  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

# Overview

- ▶ For more than 23 years Prince George's County has owned and managed the Western Branch Composting Facility
- ▶ Operated under contract by Maryland Environmental Services (MES)
- ▶ Yard waste including grass clippings, leaves, brush, small branches and Christmas trees



- ▶ Private and County contractors deliver yard waste to the facility
- ▶ Approximately 165,000 households receive yard waste curbside collection by County contracted haulers
- ▶ Nearly 60,000 tons of yard waste is processed annually



# Yard Waste Composting Process– Open Windrows

- ▶ Incoming yard waste is processed through a horizontal grinder and placed into windrows
- ▶ Windrows are turned using a Scarab and watered as needed
- ▶ Compost is spread out on the pad for drying until ready to be screened
- ▶ Final compost is marketed as Leafgro®
- ▶ The process takes roughly 6 to 9 months

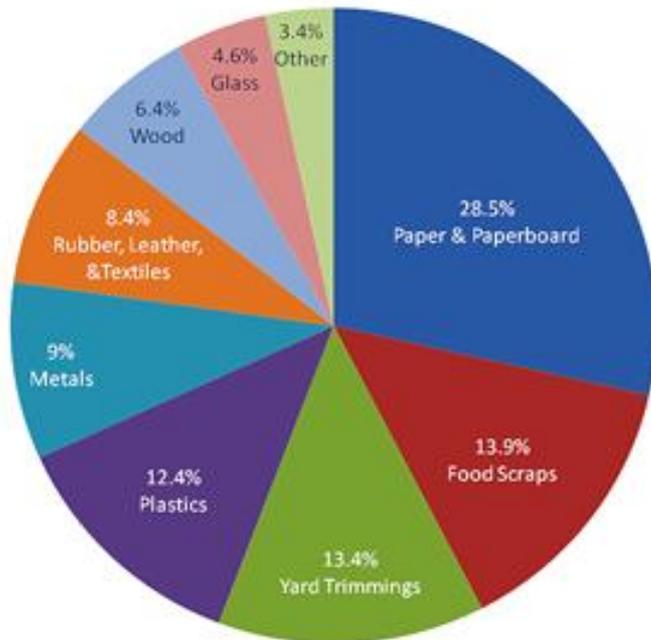


# Food Scrap Composting Demonstration Project



# Food Scraps – Major Source of Waste Stream

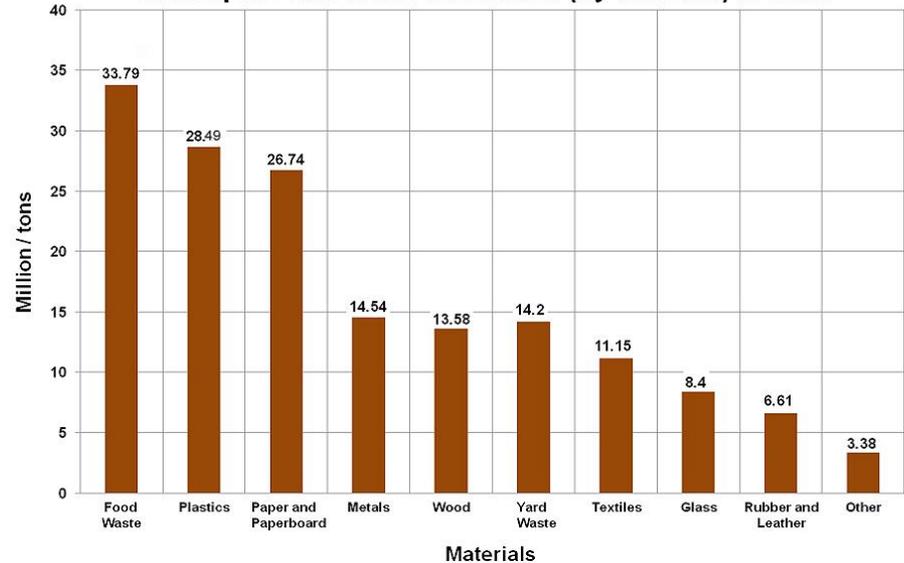
2010 Total MSW Generation (by Material)  
250 Million Tons (Before Recycling)



- Paper and Paperboard
- Food Scraps
- Yard trimmings
- Plastics
- Metals
- Rubber, Leather, & Textiles
- Wood
- Glass
- Other

Source: EPA

Municipal Solid Waste Discarded (by material) in 2010



Source: EPA

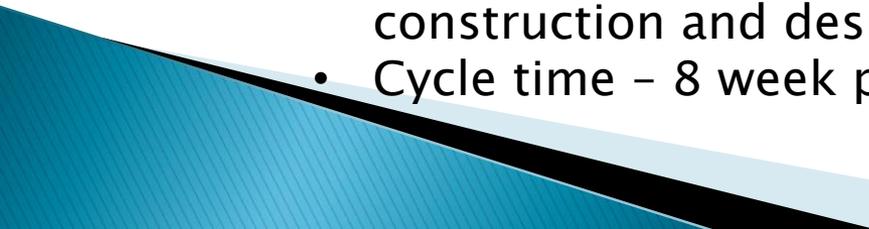
We know that approx. 25% of waste going in the County's landfill is food scraps.

**Please Clap!**

# Support for Food Scrap Composting Increases

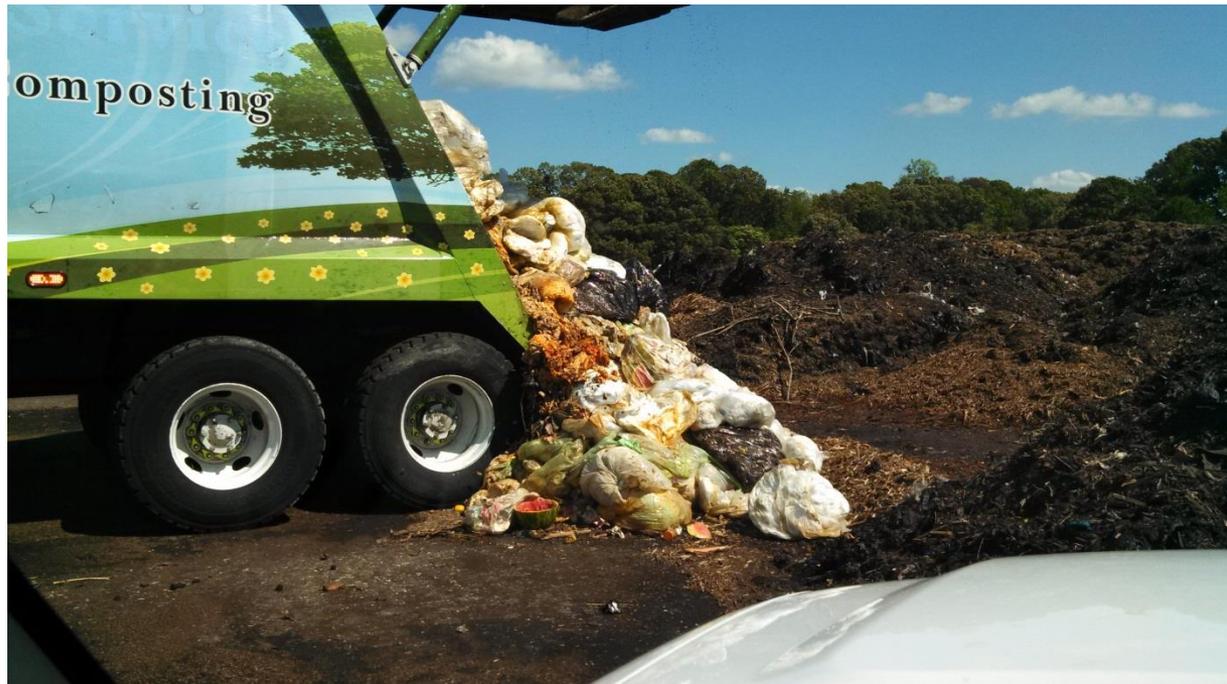
- ❖ Recycling Section reviewing and studying various food scrap composting technologies and types systems to reduce yard waste composting time-frame and space / foot print
- ❖ County Council passes aggressive Recycling Bill – CB-87-2012
  - The Director shall implement a pilot food composting program in the County by July 1, 2014 and shall evaluate the food composting program for expansion on a County-wide basis by December 31, 2015
- ❖ Director of Department of Environmental Resources, Mr. Adam Ortiz
  - Gives Recycling Section **GREEN LIGHT** to move forward with the food scrap composting demonstration project
- ❖ Sustainable Generations LLC, the U.S. authorized Gore® Cover technology service provider selected for the demonstration project
- ❖ Project commences one year ahead of schedule
- ❖ Maryland Environmental Service – the County's yard waste composting facility operator contracted to also operate food scrap composting demonstration project

# Demonstration Project Overview:

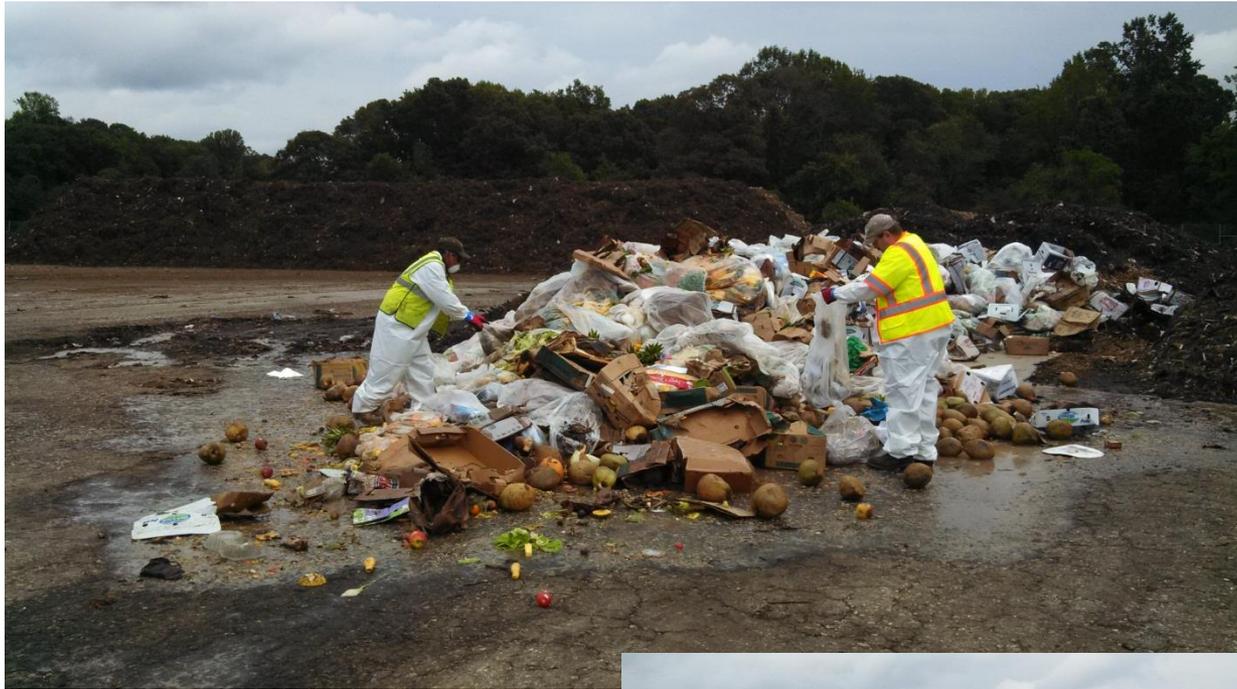
- Duration – 12 months
  - Pre-and post consumer food scraps bulked with yard waste to create different compost recipes
  - Intended to provide process installation simulation to best illustrate the manufacture of compost using mobile equipment that replicates the process and manufacture that happens in a full scale compost installation using the GORE® Cover system and supporting infrastructure
  - 3 Heap System
  - Will test and provide results for the following:
    - Feedstock materials
    - Input material mix ratio
    - Finished product quality
    - Confirmation of the assumptions for system sizing, construction and design
    - Cycle time – 8 week process
- 

# Demonstration Project Overview continued:

- 1 Compost Cycle – 8 week process – represents a Batch
- Each Batch will consist of 3 Heaps (750 tons total)
- One Heap consists of 250 tons of material
- Annual project will allow for 6 batches for a total of 4,500 tons of material
- 1 Cycle = 8 week process (4 + 2 + 2)
  - Phase 1 = four weeks under cover (uncover & turn material w/loader)
  - Phase 2 = two weeks under cover (uncover & turn material w/loader)
  - Phase 3 = two weeks not covered
- Will test various feedstock mixes







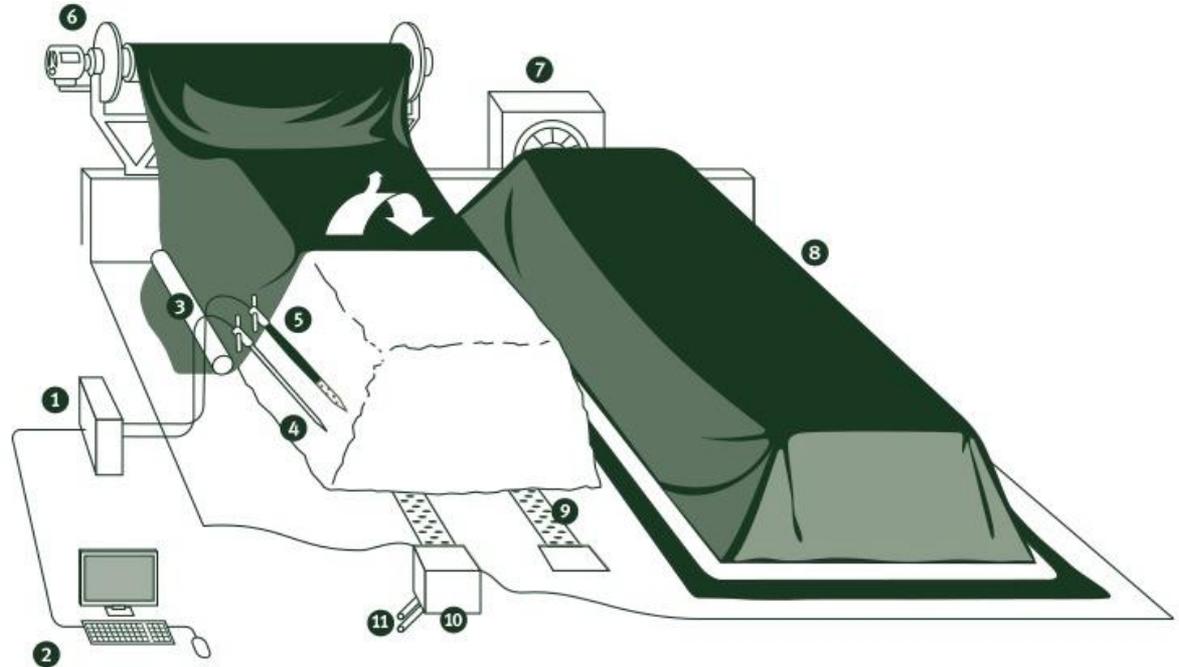
- ▶ Contaminates are hand-picked out and remaining minor contaminants are grinded via the horizontal grinder and removed during the screening process.

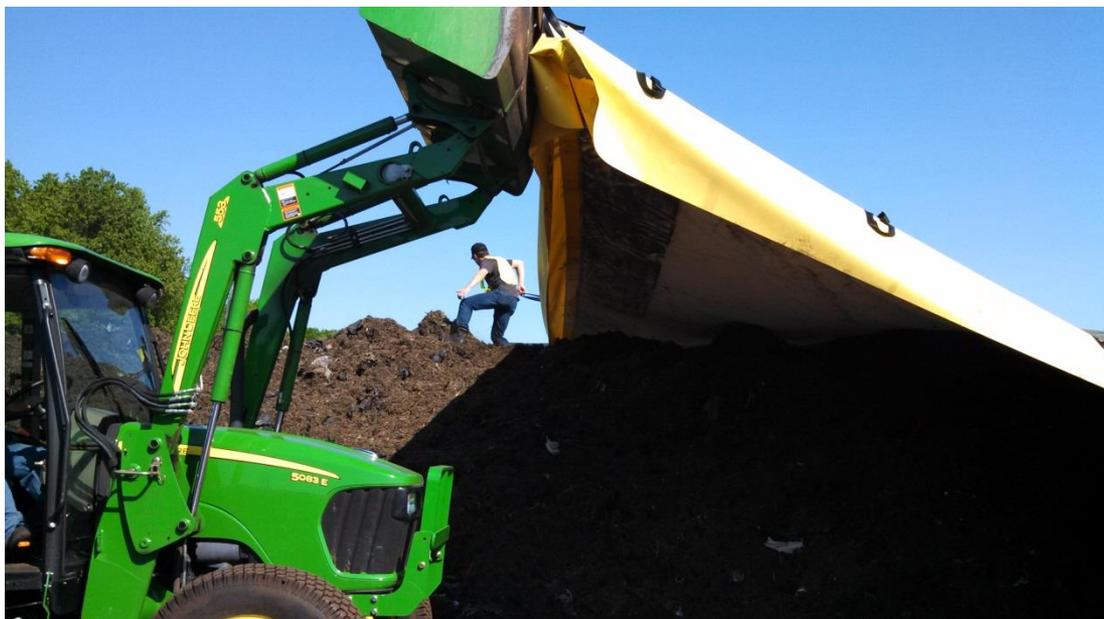


# Gore® Cover System



- 1 Control system
- 2 PC
- 3 Rim weight
- 4 Temperature sensor
- 5 Oxygen sensor
- 6 Cover handling device
- 7 Aeration fan
- 8 GORE® Cover
- 9 Aeration and leachate system
- 10 Water trap
- 11 Leachate pipe





Placing the Gore®  
Cover over the  
windrow



## GORE® Cover and Perimeter Weighting System



# Blower/Aeration and Control Box



## Oxygen and Temperature Probe



# Covered Heaps



The heaps are monitored for temperature and moisture daily using a computerized system.

The curing process takes approximately 8 weeks from start to finish.

Each Batch is evaluated at the completion of the 8 week cycle.

# Food Scrap Demonstration Pilot Project Customers

- ▶ University of Maryland
- ▶ University Park
- ▶ Apple Valley
- ▶ Progressive Waste Solutions



## Partnerships:

MES  
Sustainable Solutions  
GORE  
University of Maryland  
University Park  
EPA - *potentially*

## Permitting:

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)



- This system of composting has obvious benefits
  - It allows the County to accept food scraps for composting
  - Allows Agency to conduct Zero Waste Events
  - It uses less space than open windrowing
  - It takes less time to produce finished compost product
  - It eliminates the odors generally associated with food waste
  - It creates landfill longevity by diverting materials to composting rather than landfill disposal
  - Cost effective for customers – tip fee is much less than landfill tip fee



# Advice to others:

- ▶ Ensure food preparation businesses...people in the kitchens, cafeterias, etc...are educated on preparation/separation of food scraps
  - Initially, some loads contained more trash (non-compostable materials) than food - these loads were rejected

- Rejected



- ▶ Encourage purchasing departments to buy certified biodegradable bags and convince them that the savings on tipping fees for food scraps at a composting facility versus tipping fees at a landfill will save them money even though they are purchasing more expensive bags ---or better yet, collect and contain the food scraps in a receptacle LOOSE using no bags at all ----mixing in paper products to help absorb potential liquid is okay!
- ▶ Continue to educate the public on purchasing only the amounts of food they actually need and or creating meals from their leftovers
- ▶ Continue to promote food donation to food pantries, churches, etc...

# MES – Representative Steven Birchfield Food Scrap Composting Project Manager

## Steps of the Process:

- Remove contaminants
  - Grind Material per recipe
  - Build Heaps
  - Cover Heaps
  - Monitor Oxygen and Temperature Data
  - Flip Piles at 4 weeks and again at 6 weeks
  - 8 weeks move to curing pile
  - Screen material
  - Apply material to Test Plot (pending approval from MDE)
- 

## Proposed Batch Schedule

	Start Date	End Date	Heap 1	Heap 2	Heap 3	Food Waste	Green Waste
Batch 1	May 15	July 10	Green Waste	Green Waste	Green Waste	0 tons	750 tons
Batch 2	Jul 15	Sept 11	Green Waste	Food Waste 10%	Food Waste 10%	50 tons	700 tons
Batch 3	Sept 17	Nov 13	Green Waste	Food Waste 25%	Food Waste 25%	125 tons	625 tons
Batch 4	Nov 19	Jan 15	Green Waste	Food Waste 50%	Food Waste 50%	250 tons	500 tons
Batch 5	Jan 20	Mar 13	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
Batch 6	Mar 17	Apr 21	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional

Company :

\* Text \*  
\* Text \*

Stack- name : Batch2\_Stack2\_Food

File- name : C:\Users\SG-DEMO-UNIT\Desktop\Data\Batch2\_Stack1\_Food\_7-15-2013.CSV

Food / Leaf &amp; Mulch\_10% food

First data download at: 7/15/2013

Nr.:	Date/time	Temperature					O2[vol%]	Blower		Depth s 131 °F[in]
		T1[°F]	T2[°F]	T3[°F]	T4[°F]	T5[°F]		On-time/min	Cycles	
1	7/15/2013 23:59	114	114	113	113	111	15.5	109	38	39
2	7/16/2013 23:59	125	125	122	122	122	13.3	145	34	39
3	7/17/2013 23:59	147	147	145	145	141	9.5	438	145	0
4	7/18/2013 23:59	163	163	163	163	163	9.3	483	155	0
5	7/19/2013 23:59	161	163	165	167	165	8.7	574	99	0
6	7/20/2013 23:59	163	163	165	167	165	9.2	469	98	0
7	7/21/2013 23:59	165	165	167	168	167	9.2	541	76	0
8	7/22/2013 23:59	163	165	165	167	165	9.4	491	76	0
9	7/23/2013 23:59	167	167	167	167	163	9.5	427	53	0
10	7/24/2013 23:59	165	167	167	167	165	10.0	429	47	0
11	7/25/2013 23:59	165	165	167	167	163	8.9	341	45	0
12	7/26/2013 23:59	165	165	165	165	163	9.4	369	37	0
13	7/27/2013 23:59	165	165	165	165	163	10.4	311	45	0
14	7/28/2013 23:59	165	165	165	165	163	9.2	308	40	0
15	7/29/2013 23:59	165	165	165	165	159	9.1	294	46	0
16	7/30/2013 23:59	165	165	165	165	159	9.0	274	57	0
17	7/31/2013 23:59	163	163	165	165	159	9.5	274	60	0
18	8/1/2013 23:59	163	163	163	165	161	9.1	282	52	0
19	8/2/2013 23:59	163	163	163	165	159	9.1	249	65	0
20	8/3/2013 23:59	163	163	165	165	161	9.8	239	62	0
21	8/4/2013 23:59	163	163	163	165	161	10.9	246	58	0
22	8/5/2013 23:59	161	161	163	165	161	11.7	256	54	0
23	8/6/2013 23:59	159	159	161	163	159	9.8	239	86	0
24	8/7/2013 23:59	161	161	161	163	161	9.7	206	103	0
25	8/8/2013 23:59	163	163	163	163	161	9.5	206	103	0
26	8/9/2013 23:59	165	163	165	167	163	9.2	219	81	0
27	8/10/2013 23:59	163	163	165	167	165	9.1	211	64	0
28	8/11/2013 23:59	163	163	165	167	165	9.3	200	61	0
29	8/12/2013 23:59	163	163	165	167	165	9.2	171	62	0
30	8/13/2013 08:02	159	159	165	167	163	12.9	83	20	0

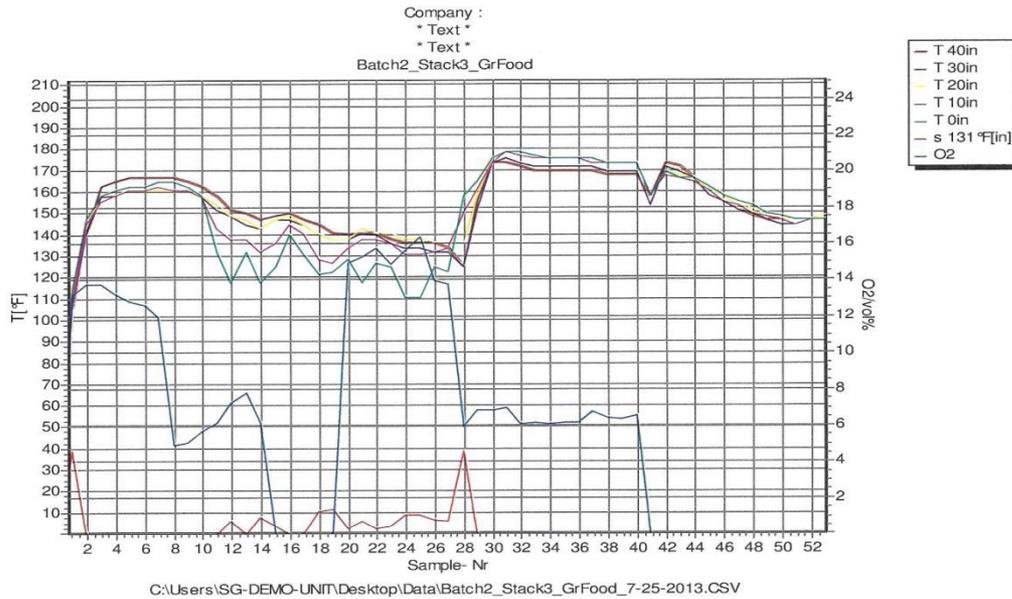
KOMPMASTER protocol

Company :

\* Text \*  
\* Text \*

Stack- name : Batch2\_Stack3\_GrFood  
 File- name : C:\Users\SG-DEMO-UNIT\Desktop\Data\Batch2\_Stack3\_GrFood\_7-25-2013.CSV  
 Greenwaste/ Foodwaste 1:1 + 8 tons Food waste  
 First data download at: 7/25/2013

Nr.:	Date/time	Temperature					O2[vol%]	Blower		Depth s 131 °F[in]
		T1[°F]	T2[°F]	T3[°F]	T4[°F]	T5[°F]		On-time/min	Cycles	



# KOMPMASTER protocol

Company :

\* Text \*  
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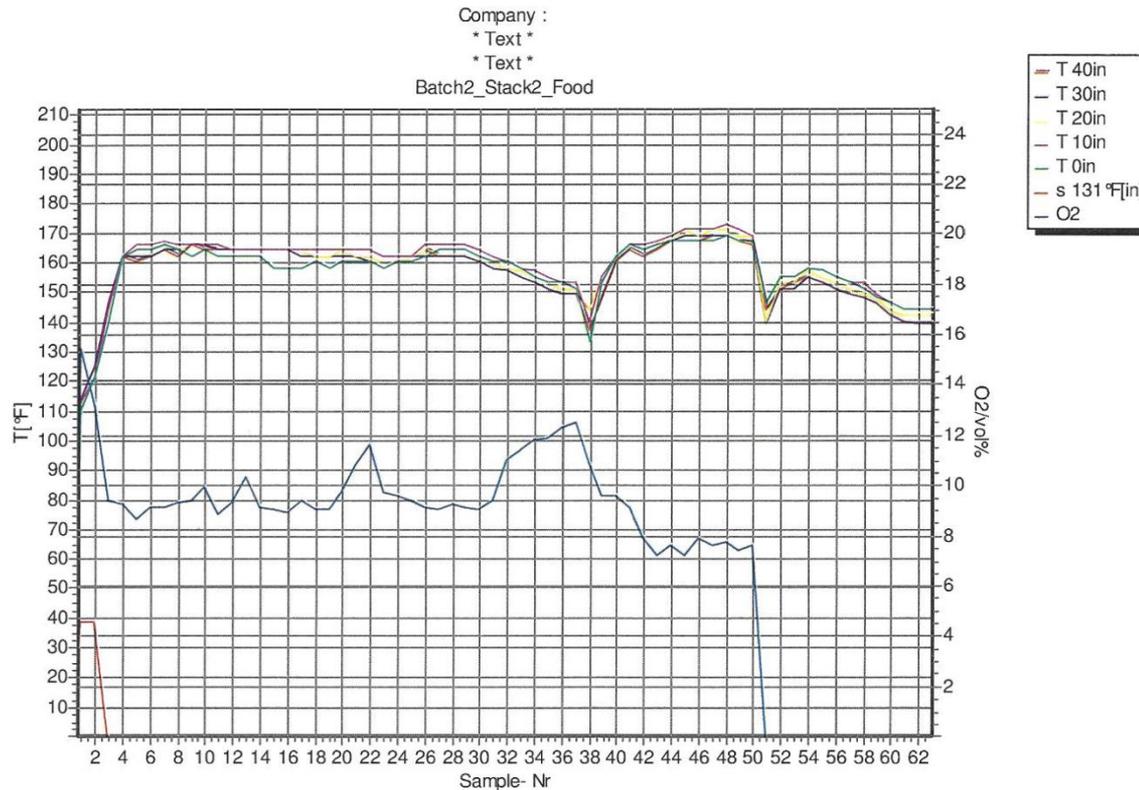
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Food / Leaf & Mulch\_10% food

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Nr.:	Date/time	Temperature					O2[vol%]	Blower		Depth s 131 °F[in]
		T1[°F]	T2[°F]	T3[°F]	T4[°F]	T5[°F]		On-time/min	Cycles	



C:\Users\SG-DEMO-UNIT\Desktop\Data\Batch2\_Stack1\_Food\_7-15-2013.CSV

# Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

## October 23, 2013 – 10 a.m.

Prince George's County Yard Waste Composting Facility  
6601 S.E. Crain Highway  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland  
(Turn on Maude Savoy Brown Road – Follow signs to Visitors Center)

You are invited!  
Hope to see you!



# What's Next?

## Potential Future

Prince George's County **Organic** Composting Facility

Organic Collection Carts

Residential Curbside Collection  
Program for Food Scraps mixed  
with Yard Waste





PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
**Department of  
Environmental  
Resources**

Adam Ortiz  
Director



**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**

*Yard Waste Composting Facility*

*Proudly Serving Prince George's County, Maryland.*



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
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