

# *Talking...* **TRASH**

The Newsletter of the SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter

Fall/Winter 2010

Inside:  
Technical Articles  
Winter Meeting Details  
Member News



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# Letter from the President

December 13, 2010

In early September, I was cranking away at my desk when an email entitled “Congratulations” popped up on my computer from the Chairman of the Board at PBS&J. Really? I had to stop and open it! “Congratulations on 30 years of service to PBS&J” it read. I checked the calendar, and sure enough – I started at PBS&J 30 years ago that day. Wow! Where did the time go? I’ve been reflecting on this for a while and I realized I’ve been a member of GRCD/ SWANA for 30 years as well. I’ve seen a lot of changes in these 30 years. Here are a few that relate to our industry that I consider milestones:

- In the early 80’s Waste-to Energy facilities were implemented in Florida to avoid placing waste in “dumps” and to capitalize on energy recovery that would make the facilities cost effective as the price of oil rose over the years.
- Florida recognized that protecting our precious groundwater resources couldn’t wait for Subtitle D, so we passed the groundwater monitoring rule, then the landfill closure rule and finally in 1988 the Solid Waste Management Act and the “Liner Rule”.
- HDPE liner material, once considered only cost effective for hazardous waste landfills, emerged as the liner of choice for MSW landfills after welding techniques were perfected that allowed 40 mil and 60 mil liners to be welded reliably.
- A nation-wide initiative to recycle our waste moved forward, not on the “Gold in Garbage” theory of the 70’s, but on the basis that it was the

socially responsible thing to do.

So while we were all working diligently at our careers and GRCD/ SWANA morphed into SWANA no one really thought much about the coming revolution in solid waste management that I predict is about to break. Consider the following and think about where these pending changes will take us in the years to come:



- Florida has set a 75% diversion goal from landfills. Where is this stuff going to go? How are we going to get it there?
- LEED Facilities and Green Power requirements are popping up all over the place – just read on in this newsletter.
- A Renewable Energy Portfolio for Florida, if passed, will dramatically change the economic viability of energy recovery and utilization projects related to landfill gas, bio-fuels and waste-to-energy.
- New, more efficient energy recovery technologies are on the verge of a breakthrough. When this finally occurs, our industry will change dramatically – again.

I have been privileged to be a part of the evolution of the past 30 years, am proud of the progress made, and am grateful to have worked with a wonderful group of colleagues and clients. Sound like a fairwell? It’s not. It’s a hello – we have much work still to be done. Please join me in this endeavor by supporting SWANA with your time and talent. The future awaits us all.

David E. Deans, P.E., BCEE

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# SAFETY-CONSCIOUS SOLID WASTE SURPASSES 500,000 HOUR MILESTONE

*By Dennis Slifer, Recycling Coordinator/  
Safety Officer, Marion County Solid Waste*

Dangers such as hazardous waste, heavy equipment and high traffic are just part of the daily routine for employees at Marion County's Solid Waste department. And for years, the number of work days lost due to on-the-job injuries and the number of dollars spent on workers' compensation served as constant reminders of the job's daily hazards. But thanks to a safety program that the department has been running for several years now, Solid Waste staff has changed trends – and surpassed a milestone of 500,000 hours of work with no time lost due to

on-the-job injuries.

To reach the half-a-million-hours mark, staff ran 44 consecutive months (or since the beginning of 2007) without a major injury. For taxpayers, this mean annual savings of approximately \$85,000.00 – money which would have gone toward worker compensation costs – through implementation of the safety plan.

"Achieving 500,000 hours with no lost time due to injury is testament to the caliber of employees working in this department," said Marion County Solid Waste Director Ken Whitehead. "Our employees continually show their dedication to safety while also maintaining a high work volume,

serving 11,000 people a day at our 18 recycling centers and Baseline landfill."

Before the safety program began, the department spent an average of \$101,165 annually on workers' compensation and lost an average of more than 300 workdays a year due to injuries. After the program's 2004 implementation, that average dropped to \$13,377 a year and only three lost workdays due to injuries (during the five year time span). Changes implemented through the safety program include: regular safety inspections and meetings, increased safety awareness, wearing of protective gear when performing certain tasks and maintaining set clearance from select landfill heavy machinery.

## Kessler Consulting, Inc. Offsets its Carbon Footprint and Supports Green Energy

*By Mitch Kessler, Kessler Consulting, Inc.*

Kessler Consulting, Inc. (KCI) today announced that it has become carbon neutral by offsetting 100% of its estimated carbon emissions for 2010. KCI is offsetting over 70 tons of CO2 emissions from its electricity consumption, corporate travel and daily commuting, and resources used in office opera-

tions. Offsetting our estimated carbon emissions contributes to KCI's efforts to operate in a sustainable manner and act as a responsible corporate citizen. "We are proud to be a carbon neutral business and are committed to continuing on this path to sustainability," said Mitch Kessler. Making our business carbon neutral is one more way we can lead by example while serving our clients' needs.

For over 22 years, Kessler Consulting, Inc. has served over 100 government and numerous business and private clients with our expertise in solid waste manage-

ment options and innovative, state-of-the-art collection, processing, and disposal solutions. We are committed to operating based upon principles of sustainability, and providing leadership and environmental stewardship within the communities we serve. Taking action to offset our carbon emissions and support Green Energy is a natural addition to our waste reduction, reuse, and recycling practices. KCI's other steps to reduce our climate impact include using hybrid vehicles for business automobile travel, environmentally preferable purchasing, on-site composting, and double sided printing.

Please contact us if you want to learn more about offsetting the carbon emissions and electricity consumption of your operation.



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# Sumter County Organics Recycling Website Update – See What's New!

*By Maureen T. Schaefer, LEED® Green Associate, Kessler Consulting, Inc.*

The Sumter County Florida Organics Recycling Center of Excellence (FORCE) works to support organics recycling and research in the state of Florida. The organization's website ([www.floridaforce.org](http://www.floridaforce.org)) is a resource for the three sectors – feedstock generators, organics processors, and end users, both public and private – across the state. It provides information and resources to support the growth of composting and the market for commercial compost use in Florida. Over 15,000 visitors have accessed the site for news, regulatory updates, events, training opportunities, and links to additional organics recycling resources. The site provides searchable directories of vendors who supply equipment, products and

services to compost processors and end users, including nurseries, golf courses, soil and sod producers, and vegetable growers.

The FORCE project team updated and reorganized the FORCE website to provide easier navigation among the pages, and includes a new Home Page that directs visitors to the latest organics recycling news, upcoming events, and current FORCE projects. The Training page and links to additional resources have been expanded and updated, and the End User Directories (Nurseries, Golf Courses, Sod, Soil, and Food Producers) are in the process of being updated. Vendors and End Users who wish to be included in the newly updated directories should visit the website's contact page <http://floridaforce.org/contact> to submit information.

The site shares information and

photos from the current FORCE research project. The Project Team is conducting an on-farm demonstration of what can be accomplished under the revisions to Chapter 62-709 F.A.C. that provide a regulatory exemption for certain types of on-farm composting operations. The exemption expands the list of materials that can be processed under the normal farming exemption to include off-farm generated vegetative waste.

A second new project has recently started. Look for a future article to update readers on a vegetative food and yard waste project in Polk County.

For additional information, please visit the FORCE website or contact Maureen Schaefer of KCI at 813-971-8333 or [mschaefer@kesconsult.com](mailto:mschaefer@kesconsult.com).

## SCS Engineers Assists DeKalb County in Earning LEED Certification for its Sanitation Administration Building and Central Transfer Station

*By John Picone, Corporate Communications Manager*

In April 2010, the US Green Building Council (USGBC) announced that DeKalb County's new Sanitation Administration Building and Central Transfer Station was awarded LEED Certification. (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – LEED – is USGBC's award program to incentivize sustainable construction innovations.) The facility includes a transfer station for recovery of recyclables and yard waste (for processing into mulch), and consolidation of municipal solid waste into larger loads for transport to the County's landfill. The integrated Administration Building houses

Sanitation Department personnel. The facility was designed and constructed to showcase practical operations and environmental conservation features. SCS Engineers (SCS) managed the application for LEED certification in collaboration with key subconsultants Toland & Mizell Architects and Atlantic Coast Consulting. Several LEED-certified professionals were involved in the process.

The facility is built on the site of a former industrial plant which was remediated in accordance with both EPA and LEED requirements. During construction, 95% of the construction and demolition debris was diverted from landfill disposal, and over 20% of the materials used for construction were made from recycled products.

Native drought-tolerant plants are used in landscaping to eliminate the need for a permanent irrigation system. In addition, the HVAC system was designed to reduce energy use by 21% below the minimum code requirements. LEED signage throughout the facility provides information to the staff and visitors about the sustainable features of the building.

The LEED certification process was managed by professionals in SCS's Alpharetta, Georgia, office.



# Landfill Swan Song

*By Brenda J. Westthorp, P.E. and Naila Hosein, P.E. of Westthorp & Associates, Inc.; Luis Moreno, P.E. G.C., Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management*

Imagine you are standing on top of a hill (150 feet above sea level – 10 to 12 stories high) looking out at Biscayne Bay. Adjacent to the hill is a beautiful 54-acre restored wetlands area. A picture perfect setting, right? Yet, directly under your feet is a landfill, and the wetlands area is a stormwater management basin. To us, this project is about nature in harmony with a carefully constructed facility designed to be the final resting place for our society's waste.

The South Dade Landfill (SDLF), a 320-acre Class I municipal solid waste (MSW) facility located in southern Miami-Dade County, is owned and operated by the Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM), the largest government-owned and operated waste collection and disposal system in the southeastern United States, responsible for the management of approximately two million tons of solid waste per year.

This site was developed in the 1970s during Miami-Dade County's "Decade of Progress" using General Obligation Bonds. These bonds

were recently retired and in 2004, voters authorized the sale of new bonds to provide similar funding for the construction of such projects to be completed over the next 15 years.

The SDLF is one of the most important facilities for Miami-Dade County as it serves as the "safety net" for the County's disposal system, should other waste disposal options fail. The SDLF consists of five cells designated as Cells



*Installation of final cover sand.*

1 through 5. Cells 1 and 2 are approximately 60 acres combined and are closed. The 50-acre Cell 4 is currently active and receiving Class I waste, while Cell 5 has 50 acres available for future capacity.

DSWM recently completed a closure construction project consisting of 46 acres of Cell 3 at the site. This \$9 million closure construction project consisted of the installation of a final cover system that contains geosynthetic materials and soil layers, stormwater drainage, landfill gas collection

and leachate extraction wells, and associated piping. First, the site was re-graded to achieve the proper sloping and bench terrace requirements. Next, 34 boreholes were installed which provided the housing for both a gas extraction well and a leachate extraction well within each hole. These wells were constructed with High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) piping and installed at depths ranging from 40 feet to 100 feet.

Nineteen new extraction wells were installed on the top of the landfill cell, and fifteen were installed on the side slopes. Approximately 8,450 feet of new HDPE gas header lines were installed on the top of the cell and side slopes. These gas extraction wells are connected to the site's existing flare station, while the leachate

is routed to the facility's onsite leachate pretreatment system prior to being discharged to the County's Wastewater Treatment Plant for final treatment.

Upon completion of the gas wells and header lines, a 6-inch layer of compacted limerock was placed over the entire landfill surface prior to the placement of the geosynthetic layers. The geosynthetic layers consisted of an 8 oz. non-woven geotextile fabric cushioning layer overlain by a 40-mil linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE)

geomembrane. A geocomposite drainage layer sits on top of the geomembrane. The geocomposite material was covered by 120,000 cubic yards of concrete screenings (also called cyclone sand) which was placed in an 18-inch layer. Finally, the entire system was overlain by 6 inches of topsoil and sod.

Management of stormwater is essential on an impermeable site of this size. Four drainage inlets were installed at the top of Cell 3 to collect stormwater which is then conveyed down slope through an 18-inch HDPE pipe. At the bottom of the slope, the water is slowed down by a concrete energy dissipator structure and dispelled into the stormwater swales surrounding the landfill. Each of the two closed side slopes of Cell 3 was constructed with two bench terraces which

included drainage inlets and pipes of their own that connect to the 18-inch down slope pipe to help collect stormwater and control side slope erosion.

The closure of Cell 3 was completed this summer, with the project taking slightly longer than anticipated due to the construction of the new LFG system. However, construction costs remained within the established budget. The challenges encountered during construction were nothing out of the ordinary – delays due to rain and delivery, but everyone worked together to keep the project moving forward. Today, the site is a vision of a grass-covered hilltop with the views of the Miami skyline and Biscayne Bay as spectacular as ever! Tours of the site can be arranged upon request by visiting [http://](http://www.miamidade.gov/dswm/tour_requests.asp)

[www.miamidade.gov/dswm/tour\\_requests.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/dswm/tour_requests.asp) for more information.

The project was designed by Brown and Caldwell. Luis Moreno, P.E., GC is the Project Manager for Miami-Dade County DSWM. The Construction Management Team consisted of Westhorp & Associates, Inc. as the Prime Consultant while Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. provided Construction Quality Assurance Services. The contractor was Downrite Engineering, Inc.



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# Okaloosa County Educates Technical School on Green Building

*By Maureen T. Schaefer, LEED® Green Associate, Kessler Consulting, Inc.*

Okaloosa County (County), with technical assistance from Kessler Consulting, Inc. (KCI), recently assisted the Okaloosa Applied Technology Center (OATC) with incorporating Green Building concepts into its curriculum for high school students and adults preparing for careers in construction trades. Preliminary research found that programs dedicated to Green Building are available at some colleges and adult education facilities in the US, but that no such dedicated program currently exists at the vocational High School level in Florida.

The Project Team researched current trends in curriculum development and interviewed organizations involved in educating adult workers in the construction trades. Interviews with the National Center for Construction Education and

Research found that Green Building is being phased into existing curricula by including examples and case studies in current lessons. During the next few years, as scheduled course revisions take place, Green Building will become a focus of the learning experience.

KCI coordinated an opportunity for teachers, staff, and students of OATC and County to participate in a US Green Building Council (USGBC) “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Core Concepts and Strategies Workshop.” The workshop introduced key Green Building concepts and goals, including the environmental, social, and economic benefits of Green Building practices. Workshop attendees learned about the structure of the LEED rating system and certification process, the power of integrated design, and successful strategies for Green Building. The educators left the workshop more prepared to integrate Green Building

concepts into their teaching plans.

The County also provided the teachers with Green Building resources and educational materials such as the Building Design & Construction Reference Guide, LEED-Schools 2007, and the LEED for Homes Reference Guide. The teachers can apply information from the resources within their existing curriculum to enrich the classroom experience for their students. The education of students in Green Building and their subsequent entry into the workforce will contribute to Florida’s long-term recycling goals for Construction & Demolition waste management, conservation, and the market for recycled content building materials.

For additional information, please contact Maureen Schaefer of KCI at 813-971-8333 or [mschaefer@kesconsult.com](mailto:mschaefer@kesconsult.com).

## Old motor leads cause problems...

*By Ramon (Ray) Rivera, EPG Regional Representative*

We’ve seen it hundreds of times. The problem is created during the pump installation and/or maintenance and progresses to a pump motor failure, a frustrated landfill operator and expensive pump repair or replacement.

One of the key factors leading to an expensive pump repair, failure or replacement is the quality and condition of the motor lead installation during pump construction or maintenance. Not all manufacturers build leads sealed to the motors. To provide years of moisture-free, safe and dependable service, request that motor leads come with a rubber grommet seal, jacketed cables, and a large grounding surface, that they are thoroughly tested, first with a mega ohm meter and then

submerged and pressure tested at 150 psi.

Pressure testing insures that no potentially explosive gases can migrate through the cable housing to the control panel. New motor leads should be tightened to the motor, a rubber grommet expands within the Pump and heats during operation which solidifies this seal providing years of moisture-free connection. If the motor lead is detached from the pump housing, the heat-set rubber grommet will not provide a permanent moisture-free seal. After maintenance, some service technicians simply re-attach the motor lead and without an adequate seal.

We’ve seen hardened, cracked or twisted motor leads that were apparently reused either to save time or money but shortly thereafter, the pump will fail due to a motor short or disintegrated connection in the lead chamber.

Another condition created when working with a motor lead applies to three-phase applications. During new motor lead installations, wires can be connected to the terminals incorrectly causing the pump to run backwards during operation. The pump will run but liquid flow is typically less than 25% of the pumps capacity. If left in this condition, the pump will destroy itself internally.

To help avoid the possibility of costly pump repairs and replacements due to motor lead problems, we highly recommend the correct installation of a new motor lead on all pumps prior to installation.

Can all equipment malfunction or failure be avoided? Not likely. But if installed and serviced correctly, equipment will provide years of dependable cost-effective service.



# Greenhouse Gas Monitoring and Reporting - Are You Ready?

*By Kelsi Oswald, Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste Operations*

Last October, the EPA approved 40 CFR 98, which requires facilities in certain designated categories to monitor and report on their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. This rule became effective January 1, 2010, with the first annual report due March 31, 2011 for emissions during calendar year 2010. This rule applies to many industrial categories with the potential to emit greenhouse gases, including landfills and stationary combustion units above a certain size.

The rule contains requirements that all facilities must comply with by specified deadlines. The required data that must be collected and reported along with calculations to be used in determining emissions are provided in the rule. While much of the required data must be collected directly, there are default values within the rule for certain input parameters along with criteria for when these defaults can be used. The rule also includes requirements for calibration and maintenance of equipment used in data generation and recordkeeping requirements. Each facility was required to prepare a Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Plan (GHGMP) by April 2010 describing how the facility will comply with these regulations. This GHGMP must be made available to the EPA upon request.

Reporting under the GHG Monitoring rule must be submitted using e-GRRT, which is EPA's Electronic Greenhouse Gas Reporting Tool. The first report is due March 31, 2011. Prior to that date, each facility must be registered in e-GRRT and must identify a Designated Representative (DR) responsible for reporting data for the facility. Facilities may also identify an Alternate Designated Representative (ADR) and Agent(s) that can provide backup to the Designated Representative. Facility registration and DR, ADR and Agent identification must be completed by January 30, 2011. This process has multiple steps, and it would be wise to begin working on it now.

**Facility registration** - The facility can only be registered by a registered user. In order to become a registered user, you must create an account on the e-GRRT system. Part of the registration process includes printing an Electronic Signature Agreement which must be signed, dated and mailed to the EPA. After receipt and review of the Electronic Signature Agreement, EPA will send an email notifying the user that their registration has been accepted, at which time they can log in to e-GRRT and complete the facility registration process.

**Designated Representative** - The designated representative is authorized to complete the annual GHG emissions report as well as any other required

reports in e-GRRT. All reporting will be done through this system. If the facility is owned and operated by two separate entities, as is the case with many landfills and WTE facilities, the two parties must sign a formal agreement identifying who will be acting as the Designated Representative and the Alternate Designated Representative (if an alternate is identified). This agreement authorizes the DR to report on behalf of the owner / operator.

The e-GRRT system should be available in mid to late November for Facility and User registration. The data reporting modules will not be available until early 2011, and training webinars will be provided prior to that time. Webinars on facility and user registration are ongoing and copies of the slides and audio are available on the website.

Where do I learn more?  
The place to start is at the main GHG website: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html>

Here you will find links to the approved rules as well as proposed rule changes, answers to Frequently Asked Questions, training opportunities, and the e-GRRT reporting application. There is even an Applicability Tool to walk you through the process of determining whether you are required to comply with 40 CFR 98. If you're not ready now, visit the site and get started. 2011 is just around the corner!!

## REPUBLIC SERVICES RENEWS THEIR COMMITMENT TO POLK COUNTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

*By Kimberly Byer, Polk County Waste Resource Management Division*

In October 2010, Polk County awarded a 7 year residential curbside collection contract to Republic Services. This collection contract transitioned 140,000 County residents to once a week automated collection service using 95 gallon automated carts and is estimated to save Polk County tax payers \$34,000,000 over the life of the contract.

With the award of this contract Republic Services Polk County Division

made a \$12 million investment in Natural Gas (CNG) power in its ongoing commitment to "Go Green @ Work". The investment in CNG is all part of Republic Services ongoing effort to increase the utilization of low emission, clean fuel technology in the vehicles and equipment it uses to collect the thousands of tons of recyclables and solid waste throughout Polk County and the U.S. each year. By partnering with companies such as CleanEnergy fuels, Lakeland Electric, TECO, Mack Trucks and Heil Environmental Products the fueling system was

installed and vehicles were built and delivered in time to begin the collection contract awarded to Republic Services. The CNG powered fleet consists of 41 Mack/Heil Automated Sideloaders which will provide collection services to the residents of Polk County over the next 7 years. The new Republic CNG vehicles produce 23 % less greenhouse gas than diesel powered trucks and are 90% quieter. One CNG powered refuse truck is equal to removing 325 pickup trucks worth of tailpipe emissions.

# Nation's Oldest City "Grapples into the Future"

*By Richard Stevens, Manager of Solid Waste/Sanitation, City of St. Augustine*

Due to the current economic situations of many government agencies, it has become imperative to find creative ways to maintain services, increase revenue, and enhance the stability of budgets. In St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city, bulk collection has gone from a two-man collection to a one-man collection vehicle. As a result, the bulk collection system has become more efficient and cost effective. The Division of Solid Waste already utilizes a semi-automated collection system for residential service. A major challenge was how to handle bulk items and brush collection safely. Due to the growth of vegetation, number of rental properties, and city-mandated collection policies, bulk collection can range from 5% to 40% of generated municipal waste.

Prior to the grapple implementation, workers of the Division picked up brush and bulk items manually. This type of collection was performed in two ways. First, a flat bed truck used for bulk collection would assist the residential routes with brush collection by placing the brush manually into the bed area of the vehicle. Then the flat bed truck

would dump the brush debris at the yard waste transfer station and proceed with the collection process. At the end of the week, a Streets Division front-end loader would then assist Solid Waste with disposal by loading the brush debris into roll-off boxes. Second, the flat bed bulk truck would load refrigerators, sleeper sofas, dishwashers, etc. and transport these types of items to a



roll-off container where they were manually unloaded into the boxes. This collection procedure was not only costly to the City, but also a recipe for worker injury. The City had such an injury occur shortly before the delivery of the new grapple vehicle due to lifting heavy items into the roll-off box.

In addition to this practice of bulk collection, the flat bed vehicle would drive through the City looking for items to be picked up. This process was very time-consuming and not the most efficient use of the workforce. Instead, the City

decided to accomplish this by utilizing the grapple truck on a "will call" basis. The new process has residents contacting the City when they have bulky items to be picked up, reducing unnecessary fuel consumption and enhancing savings by 25 gallons of diesel fuel per week.

Implementation of the grapple truck into the City's collection process not only allowed the Solid

Waste Division to reduce collection to a one-person operation, but also produced an annual savings of \$20,883.00. Since the grapple truck also assists the rear load residential vehicles in the yard waste collection process, there is no longer a need for overtime.

The grapple truck also serves as the storm response vehicle for the

Division. Due to the geographical location of St. Augustine, there is a potential for storms on the Atlantic side of Florida and the truck would be able to respond quickly to the needs of residents during such an event.



# ADVANCED DISPOSAL PRODUCES GOPHER TORTOISE RELOCATION MOVIE

## *Company Releases Documentary-Style Film Shot on Location at Turkey Trot Landfill*

By Mary O'Brien, Chief Marketing Officer,  
Advanced Disposal Services, Inc.

Advanced Disposal is looking to make a certain colony of gopher tortoises famous in an effort to bring awareness to the federally-protected species. The environmental services company today released its documentary-style film titled "Relocating the Gopher Tortoise at Turkey Trot Landfill."

The film takes viewers through the unique process of relocating a colony of gopher tortoises and teaches them why this keystone species is such an important part of the south uplands ecosystem.

Advanced Disposal was awarded a contract to build a municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill on a permitted and approved site in Washington County, Alabama. During the assessment process, the company and its regulatory partners discovered a colony of gopher tortoises on the 300 acre landfill site.

The film tells the story of how the gopher tortoises were relocated to a preservation owned by South Alabama Utilities just 30 miles away from Turkey Trot Landfill. It documents the burrow identification processes utilizing GPS technology, two types of capture techniques, medical assessment process and release at the new location. Countless hours were spent by several companies and organizations including U.S. Army Corp

of Engineers; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Alabama Department of Environmental Management; Board of Commissioners of Washington County, Alabama; Environmental Services,



Inc.; South Alabama Utilities; Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble, Inc. and Advanced Disposal to ensure a smooth and successful transfer of the tortoises.

"Advanced Disposal strives to be a stellar corporate citizen in all of the communities in which we live and work," said Mary O'Brien, chief marketing officer with Advanced Disposal. "When we learned that we would be relocating a colony of gopher

tortoises, we decided to capture it on film and utilize it as a fun, engaging educational tool while showing our commitment to the environment. We think this film does just that and hope that others will help us build awareness for this special species."

Projects like Turkey Trot Landfill assist in tortoise conservation actions that could not otherwise be developed without the scientific data collected during the relocation process. Taking specific measurements when collecting the species from their burrows and conducting the long-term monitoring and research at South Alabama Utilities' preserve help scientists understand more about the tortoises' habitat needs, their survival rates, and their reproductive success. The information gained from relocating the tortoises from Turkey Trot Landfill will assist U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in making long term conservation goals to protect the species in perpetuity.

Copies of the DVD are being sent to local schools, environmental and conservation groups, wildlife preservations, youth organizations, etc. to help

grow an appreciation and respect for the gopher tortoises. People can also watch the film by going to [www.AdvancedDisposal.com](http://www.AdvancedDisposal.com) and clicking on the gopher tortoise video link on the homepage.

For photos from the relocation or a copy of the DVD please contact Katrine Strickland at (904) 493-3068 or [kstrickland@advanceddisposal.com](mailto:kstrickland@advanceddisposal.com).



# SCS Engineers Selected to Develop a Plan for Greenhouse Gas Reductions by the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County

*By John Picone, Corporate Communications Manager, SCS Engineers*

The West Palm Beach office of SCS Engineers has been selected by the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County (SWA) to support development of a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plan, as well as a carbon credit and Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) Management System.

The overall objectives of the SWA include to:

- Determine the optimal methodology, and use it to identify the baseline carbon footprint for operations of the SWA and each of its elements (transfer, disposal, WTE, recycling, etc.)
- Identify projects and activities that can reduce SWA's GHG emissions, potential obstacles, and opportunities to incorporate carbon credits into project financing.
- Evaluate options for registration and third-party verification of GHG credits and RECs.
- Develop a plan for implementation by SWA to register, manage and market carbon credits created as a result of SWA efforts to reduce its carbon footprint.
- Identify RECs created by SWA's energy production activities.
- Develop a system for tracking regulatory and market trends

for GHG and REC markets.

- Identify and develop other marketable environmental attributes, if feasible.

## About the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County, Florida

The SWA operates an Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) system that manages all of the municipal solid waste (MSW) generated within Palm Beach County. The SWA collects solid waste and recycling in the unincorporated portions of the County through a system of private franchise contracts, while each of the 38 municipalities is responsible for solid waste and recycling collection within their jurisdictions.

The SWA operates a system of five, soon to be six, transfer stations that consolidate waste and recyclable materials from collection vehicles for transportation to the SWA's central facility located in West Palm Beach. The transfer station system disperses collection vehicle traffic more evenly through the county and results in considerable fuel savings for the collection system by reducing total fleet miles traveled.

At the SWA's central facility, waste and recycling are managed in a complex of operations. A Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility processes MSW into electricity, while recovering aluminum, ferrous and non-ferrous metals. A Recovered Materials Processing Facility takes the materials generated from recycling collections and processes them for delivery to recycling markets. Yard waste is processed

though mulching, to generate bulking agent for the SWA compost facility, which combines yard waste and wastewater bio-solids to produce compost. Portions of the yard waste are also sent as fuel to the privately operated Okeelanta biomass fueled power facility. Another portion of the mulch is used beneficially on site for cover and erosion control.

The SWA has two landfill operations, one for non-putrescible bulky waste (Class III Landfill), and one for MSW and ash and residue from the WTE facility (Class I Landfill). Both landfills collect gas pursuant to State and Federal clean air regulations. The landfill gas (LFG) collected is currently being utilized for the drying of bio-solids from wastewater treatment facilities in the county; bio-solids are dried and pelletized for sale as a fertilizer component. The dryer can be fueled by LFG, beneficially using this GHG contributor, and avoiding the use of natural gas as a fuel source.

The SWA is currently proceeding with the development of a 3000 ton-per-day expansion to its existing 2000 ton-per-day Waste-to-Energy Plant.

# Lee County Recognized as Most Sustainable Waste System

By Don Castro, HDR

On October 7, 2010, Lee County was recognized as a “North American City Closest to Sustainable Waste Management” during the WTERT/SUR 2010 Awards dinner for the Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council at Columbia University in New York (WTERT). Lee County joins an elite list of past award-recipients including Italy, Austria and Germany.

This prestigious award recognizes Lee County’s long-standing goals and subsequent accomplishments in developing and executing one of the nation’s most highly advanced integrated waste management systems.

This system originated in 1994 with the start-up of the County’s first waste to energy facility. During the past 16 years, the County has developed its solid waste system to be one of the Country’s most successful and sustainable recycling and solid waste management systems. Lee County has consistently reported from 35% to 42%

of documented recycling activities for more than 12 years and is listed as the State’s top County for recycling success in 2008 (latest reporting year). Including energy recovered from their Waste to Energy facility, Lee County already exceeds the proposed Florida 75% recycling goal. Included in the County’s recycling and energy from waste recovery system are the following facilities and programs that clearly demonstrate the sustainable characteristics of the System:

- County owned / contract operated state-of-the-art and award winning, 1836 tons per day, 62 gross MWe Waste to Energy Facility (WTE).
- County owned / contract operated Recovered Material Processing Facility (RMPF) for recycling up to 400 tons per day (start-up Oct. 2000).
- Currently converting the RMPF from dual-stream to single-stream recycling w/ capacity of 600 tpd. (\$9 MM investment, operational as

of Oct. 2010).


- County owned/operated composting facility producing 30,000 tons/year from organic yard waste and biosolids. (start-up Dec. 2009)
- County owned / contract operated landfill consisting of Class I, Class III, and ash monofill disposal cells. (start-up Oct. 2002)
- Franchised solid waste and recycling collection system with 6 separate franchise collection service areas
- Curbside collection of recycling materials from single-family houses since 1991 with 73%+ participation rate.
- Collection of recycling materials from multi-family residential properties since 1995 at no additional cost above cost for garbage collection and currently with 100% participation.
- Curbside collection of discarded electronic devices for all single and multi-family residential properties (since 2005, approx. 2 MM lbs. per year).
- Enacted one of the State’s most successful local recycling ordinances for business, institution, and multi-family properties (with 100% participation rate), including requirements for construction/ demolition debris landfill avoidance (C&D recycling rate at 55%).
- Mulch from vegetative waste with 5 ‘give-back’ locations for citizens.
- Recently submitted an application to construct and operate a C&D recycling facility. Scheduled to go to construction in December 2010.

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# Advertising Opportunities Available

It's not too late too reserve a space in the Spring issue of Talking Trash.

## Job Openings

Post an employment notice on the SWANA FL website for just \$100!

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Email  
[info@swanafl.org](mailto:info@swanafl.org)  
or visit  
[www.swanafl.org](http://www.swanafl.org)  
for more  
information.

## Member News

**HDR Engineering, Inc. welcomes the addition of five new employees** to our Florida Solid Waste Group! In September, 2010, Katie Brown joined HDR as a Solid Waste Planner working from our Tampa office. Katie has



*Scott Karwan*

over six years of experience and most recently held the position of Recycling & Waste Reduction Specialist with Hillsborough County. Also joining our Tampa staff in September was Braden Johnson, as a Senior Solid Waste CAD Designer. Braden has 21 years of experience with the past 12 years specializing in solid waste facilities. Also during September, Timothy Fish, PE, joined our South Florida Solid Waste staff as an Assistant Project Engineer, working out of our Ft. Lauderdale and Miami Lakes offices. Tim came



*Katie Brown*

to HDR from the IBI Group and has substantial landfill and surface water consulting experience in both South Florida and the Midwest. Scott Karwan has recently joined



*Braden Johnson*

HDR's Landfill Services Group as an Engineering Intern in our Gainesville office. Scott has previous solid waste experience working for Alachua County and will complete his engineering degree at the University of Florida later this year. Finally, Karamjit Singh, who has been working as an intern at our Jacksonville office since this past Spring, has joined HDR as a Project Engineer. Karam (not pictured) received an ME in Environmental Engineering from the University of Florida



*Timothy Fish, PE*

during Summer, 2010. We welcome these new employee owners to HDR to help us continue to serve our solid waste clients in Florida.

**Value Added Consulting, LLC is a new Florida-based consulting firm** that specializes in solid waste management consulting. Sandy Gutner has been providing solid waste management consulting services throughout the US for nearly 25 years with nationally recognized A/E firms. He has recently formed Value Added Consulting, LLC to be able to bring his extensive solid waste management consulting experience to clients in a more flexible, direct, and streamlined manner.



*Sandy Gutner*

**SCS Engineers and ES Consultants** are pleased to announce that the Small Business Administration has approved their Mentor/Protegee Agreement to provide comprehensive environmental engineering, consulting and remediation services to Federal agencies.



## Committee Updates

### More \$\$ Now Available for College Scholarships!

Struggling with college expenses? The SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter now offers two scholarships per year for college students worth \$2,000 each (\$1,000 per semester). Additionally, these scholarships will be awarded directly to the students to assist with tuition, books, fees and/or living expenses. So if you work in the solid waste industry (and why else would you be reading this newsletter?), graduated or are a senior in a State of Florida High School – or have a child who fits this bill – with at least a 3.0 GPA, what are you waiting for?

Go to our website, [www.swanafl.org](http://www.swanafl.org), and download the application – click on News & Information, then Committees, then Scholarship Committee. Scholarships have already been awarded for 2010, but 2011 is right around the corner. With the requirements in hand, you'll be ahead of the game! Please share this information with your colleagues and others in your organization who can use some help paying for college, and who couldn't these days? Helping someone pay for college also helps SWANA achieve one of its main goals – to educate. And education helps to provide a better future for all of us.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [info@swanafl.org](mailto:info@swanafl.org) and thank you in advance for spreading the word.

## Chapter Calendar

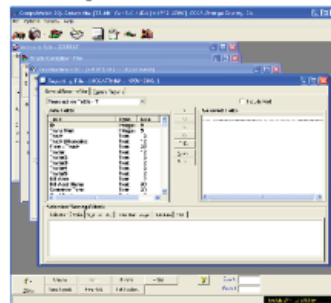
January 25-26, 2011  
SWANA/RFT Joint  
Winter Meeting  
Orlando, FL

February 15, 2011  
Talking Trash  
Spring Advertising  
Reservation Deadline

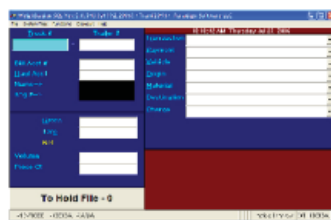
May 1, 2011  
College Scholarship  
Application Deadline

June 12-14, 2011  
Summer Conference  
Clearwater Beach, FL

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The purpose of this one-day meeting is to provide a forum to exchange information and experiences on methods, policies, initiatives, and technologies which are useful and timely. The format of the program includes formal presentations, panels and facilitated sessions. The meeting will also include joint sessions with RFT to discuss issues related to achieving the 75% goal.

The format of the meeting will be as follows:

Tuesday, January 25 <sup>th</sup> :	Board of Directors meetings for both organizations Followed by an evening mixer
Wednesday, January 26 <sup>th</sup> :	Joint continental breakfast Separate sessions for RFT and SWANA Joint session, luncheon and environmental round robin Joint FDEP closing session

**Venue and Hotel Accommodations:** The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Resort Orlando (10100 International Drive). A block of rooms are available for participants who wish to stay over. Contact the Hotel directly at 407-352-1100 and mention SWANA FL/RFT to receive discounted rate of \$109 per night.

**Refund Policy:** Refunds, less \$25 processing fee, will be issued upon receipt of written request by January 7, 2011. Due to meal guarantees, no refunds will be issued after January 7, 2011. Substitutions are welcome. Please send written requests for refunds and cancellations to [info@swanafl.org](mailto:info@swanafl.org). We will invoice for no-shows.

**Registration:** Submit registration form and payment to SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter, 2854 St. John Drive, Clearwater, FL 33759 or fax to (727) 231-0693. Questions? Call Crystal Bruce at (727) 797-4234 or email [info@swanafl.org](mailto:info@swanafl.org).

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**REGISTRATION FORM – SWANA FL Winter Meeting & Issues Forum – January 26, 2010**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY, STATE ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Registration Fees:**</b>	<u>By Jan. 7</u>	<u>After Jan. 7</u>
Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125
Non-Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Speaker	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
Student/Regulatory Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Complimentary	

**Sponsorship:** Level \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL DUE: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Information:** • ☐ Check (payable to SWANA FL) ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_



## Sponsorship Opportunities

Start 2011 off right by being a part of Florida's premier education forum – held jointly by Recycle Florida Today and the SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter. Through your sponsorship, you will have the opportunity to showcase your business to the two top recycling and solid waste professional organizations in Florida. This is a rare and special opportunity that may not happen again soon ... so don't miss the chance!

### **Breakfast Sponsor - \$250**

Includes signage during the breakfast, your logo on all promotional materials and on the RFT and SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter websites, and special recognition during the technical sessions.

### **Break Sponsor - \$100**

Includes signage during your break (morning or afternoon), your logo on all promotional materials and on the RFT and SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter websites, and special recognition during the technical sessions. Double the price to sponsor both breaks!

### **Lunch Table Sponsor - \$150**

Reserve a table at the luncheon with your company's name for your employees and clients, and distribute your literature and/or promotional items to your table mates – line up your guests now! Includes your logo on all promotional materials and on the RFT and SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter websites, and special recognition during the technical sessions. (Please note – table hosts and guests must be registered for meeting. Lunch table sponsorship does not include meal tickets.)

### **Evening Mixer Sponsor – \$500**

Includes signage during the evening mixer, your logo on all promotional materials and on the RFT and SWANA Florida Sunshine Chapter websites, special recognition during the technical sessions, and an opportunity to display your literature and/or promotional items at RFT's and SWANA's registration tables throughout the event.

### **NEW! Environmental Round Robin Sponsor – \$200**

RFT/SWANA will be hosting an Environmental Round Robin networking and interactive discussion session. Attendees will be able to "speed discuss" important environmental issues impacting our state, areas of interest and other hot topics. During the four – 20-minute sessions, attendees will have the opportunity to sit at a topic specific table and discuss or listen to thoughts regarding that specific topic. The goal is to encourage constructive discussion and thought sharing in an interactive and educational environment. Only 10 tables are available, so reserve yours today!

Includes 50-word advertisement with contact information in conference brochure, logo on round robin topic table of choice (tables available on first-come, first-serve basis), opportunity to have a representative from your organization moderate your sponsored table (registration not included) and your organization name with hyperlink to your website placed on both the RFT and SWANA association websites. Choose from the following table topics:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Surviving the Economic Downturn          | (2) New Approaches to Collection Services                   |
| (3) Thermal Conversion Technologies          | (4) Retooling the Collection of Solid Waste Management Fees |
| (5) Creating a Paradigm Shift for the Public |   |

Additional table topics (Extended Producer Responsibility, Zero Waste, 75% Recycling Goal, C&D Recycling and Composting) are available through RFT. To sponsor an RFT table topic, please go to [www.recyclefloridatoday.org](http://www.recyclefloridatoday.org).

Please email your company logo in eps format (300 dpi) to [info@swanafl.org](mailto:info@swanafl.org) no later than December, 31, 2010, to be included in printed conference materials.



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