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BIOCYCLE ALERT!

B U L L E T I N

May 14, 2004

The editors of BioCycle bring you the second edition of BioCycle Alert. |For your information, the May 2004 issue of BioCycle will be mailed on May 18.

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Reminder: Plan now to join us for the 34th Annual BioCycle National Conference on Composting, Organics Recycling and Renewable Energy in Philadelphia, June 21-23. [More information](#)

Rutgers EcoComplex In New Jersey Is On Cutting Edge

Last week, we paid a visit to the Rutgers EcoComplex at the Burlington County (NJ) Resource Recovery Park. The reason for the visit was to preview what attendees at the BioCycle National Conference in Philadelphia (June 21-23) will see when they visit the complex with us on June 23rd. Suffice it to say, the visit will be amazing!!! We started out in the EcoComplex headquarters, which houses a business incubator. Tenants include Acrion Technologies, Inc., which invented a technology to convert landfill gas into liquid natural gas. Acrion is working with Mack Trucks to test the fuel in two garbage collection vehicles that bring MSW to the adjacent Burlington County bioreactor landfill. Another tenant, Garden State Ethanol, was founded by 12 New Jersey farmers who are putting in a production facility in southern New Jersey (at a renovated plastics manufacturing plant) with the capacity to process 14.5 million bushes of corn and sorghum into 40 million gallons/year of ethanol. The EcoComplex also is home to a greenhouse production facility that is heated and powered by landfill gas converted by 4 Capstone microturbines. David Specca, acting director of the EcoComplex, noted that powering greenhouses with converted landfill gas is about 10 times less expensive than purchasing power (currently about 11.6 cents/kw). Single and multiple cluster tomatoes are grown in the greenhouse; there also are four tanks to grow tilapia (the wastewater fertilizes hydroponic-grown plants that remove nutrients so that the water can be reused in the tanks). TerraCycle, an upstart plant fertilizer company, uses a portion of the greenhouse to vermicompost manures, coffee grounds and other feedstocks, then brews and packages the liquid fertilizer in



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recycled plastic bottles. This VERY COOL facility can be viewed [on line](#). A visit is highly recommended so sign up now for the BioCycle National Conference and tours by going to the [BioCycle site](#).

Association of the Month

The Association of Compost Producers (ACP), based in southern California, has been in existence for a number of years. But it's been within the past two years that the group has taken on a new head of steam — and a theme, focusing on healthy soils. [ACP's website](#) is a treasure box of links and resources that anyone in the composting and organics recycling world should be aware of. One quick example, is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Quality Institute (run by the Natural Resources Conservation Service). The lead item discusses the quality of urban soils (or the lack thereof) and provides valuable data for composters with high quality products to improve urban soils — thus directly benefiting water quality. ACP holds monthly meetings. For information, contact Dan Noble Executive Director, (dan@resourcetrends.com).

Growth of the Biomass Industry

On April 20, 2004, the U.S. EPA, the Energy Information Administration (in the U.S. Department of Energy) and the American Council On Renewable Energy sponsored a day-long meeting, "Forecasting the Growth of Wind and Biomass." Papers from the meeting will be posted on [EPA's website](#). Zia Haq of EIA forwarded us a preview of the kind of information to be available. Haq spoke about supplies of biomass in the U.S. Four categories of biomass covered and maximum quantities available now are forest products, including forest thinnings and beetle damaged wood (162 million dry tons/year); energy crops including switchgrass and hybrid poplars (available on commercial basis by 2010 — 155 million dry tons/year); agricultural residue including wheat straw and corn stover (136 million dry tons/year); and urban wood waste and mill residues (29 million dry tons/year). Haq predicts that by 2030, biomass will provide 5% of the nation's power, 20% of transportation fuels and 25% of chemicals, which will require one billion dry tons/year of biomass to be available. Where do "BioCyclers" plug in? Hot spots include wood recovery and processing into chips, and recycling of biosolids, manures and other organics as fertilizer to grow energy crops. A complete report on the data and analysis from the April 20th meeting will appear in the July issue of BioCycle.

Green Roof Conference and Trade Show in Portland, Oregon, June 2-4, 2004

Earth Pledge is cosponsoring the Second Annual Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference, Awards and Trade Show in Portland, Oregon, June 2-4. The event is cohosted by Green Roofs for Healthy Cities and the City of Portland. Over 50 speakers from nine countries will present papers on green roof design, policy and research. The event also includes tours of Portland's notable green roofs and green buildings, as well as a Green Roof Design 101 Training Workshop, approved for continuing education credits by the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Roof Consultants' Institute. Details available at the [Earth Pledge website](#). The June 2004 issue of BioCycle includes an article green roof installers using compost as a component of the media.

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