

Santa Cruz County Compost Demonstration Project



Participants are being sought for the Santa Cruz County Compost Demonstration Project, a joint project of the County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department Recycling and Solid Waste Services, Vision Recycling and Green Waste Recovery. The objective of the project is to demonstrate the practical application of compost in landscaping, erosion control and agriculture.

The compost product to be used is produced by Vision Recycling in cooperation with the County of Santa Cruz. Feedstocks include food scraps, food-soiled



paper, yard trimmings and horse manure. The compost is processed aerobically in an enclosed system for three months, then cured to achieve a mature and stable product. The product is tested in accordance with the U.S. Composting Council's Seal of Testing Assurance and analysis is available on request.

Project participants will be provided with compost at no cost, but hauling and application will generally be the responsibility of the user. Participants are responsible for any associated soil analyses or application recommendations related to their use of the product.

Outreach component will include collection of information on the compost application and performance via interview, photos and video footage with a goal of sharing information on compost use with landscape, horticulture and agriculture professionals as well as residents of Santa Cruz County.

Typical applications:

Agriculture—Incorporation prior to planting row crops, orchards or vineyards to improve soil physical properties.

Topdressing to existing orchards and vineyards.

Landscaping—Soil preparation prior to laying sod, planting lawn seed, planting ornamentals, improvement of marginal soils.

Erosion control—Topdressing to reduce run off and soil sedimentation, incorporation to improve soil's water holding ability and resistance to compaction.

Horticulture—Topdressing or incorporation prior to planting.



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