



Charleston County News Release

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County Celebrates International Composting Awareness Week May 1-7

Award-winning facility offers tours on May 3-5 to increase compost awareness

[Charleston County Government](#) will celebrate International Composting Awareness Week, May 1-7, with a week of activities and community outreach to increase awareness about the importance of compost, a valuable organic resource.

Residents will be offered tours of the County's compost facility at Bees Ferry Landfill as follows:

- Tours will be given on Tuesday, May 3; Wednesday, May 4; and Thursday, May 5.
- There will be two tours a day, at 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.
- The tours will last for a half-hour and will be scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis, with a maximum of four people for each tour.
- To sign up for a tour, call (843) 720-7111.

"We encourage folks to come out and see the improvements we have made at the compost facility, to learn how compost is made and perhaps even see a bald eagle," said Harvey Gibson, Charleston County's Composting Superintendent.

Also in honor of *Composting Awareness Week*, the County's composting facility will give out sample bags of compost on Wednesday, May 4 (only one bag per person, while supplies last).

Last month, [Charleston County's Environmental Management Department](#) received the *2011 Outstanding Composting or Organics Recycling Program Award* during the [Carolina Recycling Association's \(CRA\) 21st Annual Trade Show and Conference](#), which recognized the County's compost facility for its design and implementation of an organics-recycling program.

"We are very proud to have been named the 2011 Outstanding Composting Program in the Carolinas and would like to invite the public to come out to see Charleston County's Compost Facility at Bees Ferry Landfill first-hand, during International Composting Awareness Week," said [Charleston County Council Chairman, Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.](#)

Background information:

- Composting is an important part of the County's integrated solid waste management program. A 40% recycling goal was adopted by Charleston County Council after Charleston County's Environmental Management Department completed a comprehensive assessment in 2009.
- The assessment identified the yard waste composting program as a key element in achieving that goal. The study found that the composting facility was processing on average 20,300 tons per year, or only, approximately 28% of the total yard waste generated in the County.
- The Environmental Management Department developed and initiated a plan to maximize productivity, expand the operations and materials, and enhance the end product quality of the compost program.
- Actions taken by the department resulted in doubling the County's recycling rate in less than a year.

"We continue to strive toward the 40% recycling goal for the County and are happy to be recognized for what we have accomplished thus far," Pryor said.

For more information on recycling, visit recycle.charlestoncounty.org.

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