Vinçotte Certification

In December, Organix Solutions received the OK biodegradable SOIL Certification from Vincotte International for our black soil biodegradable Organix A.G. Film™. This certification distinguishes Organix A.G. Film from its competitors and the unverified claims of biodegradability amongst similar products.

The OK biodegradable SOIL label verifies that Organix A.G. Film will completely biodegrade in the soil without adversely affecting the environment under ISO 17556, ASTM D5988 or ISO 11266. The US Composting Council’s Executive Director, Frank Franciosi stated, “We recognize Vincotte’s OK biodegradable SOIL is a standard that
proves materials will biodegrade in soil without negatively impacting the ability of the soil to grow plants. This certification label offers a significant benefit to the agricultural and horticultural market.”

We are very excited to receive this certification as it is a demonstration of the value Organix Solutions places on a product’s end-of-life destination.

**NERC Awards Organix Solutions**

The Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) inaugurated the Environmental Sustainability Leadership Awards at the 30th annual NERC Conference in Amherst, Massachusetts this November. Recipients of the award demonstrate work aligning with NERC’s mission to promote sustainable materials management by supporting traditional and innovative solid waste best practices, focusing on waste prevention, toxics reduction, reuse, recycling, and organics recovery.

Organix Solutions was recognized for our efforts to promote and expand the curbside collection of organics with our Organix Co-Collection Method. With our program becoming more well-known on the East Coast, NERC considered Organix Solutions to be making a substantial contribution to furthering NERC’s mission surrounding innovative solid waste practices and organics recovery.

Marketing and Program Director, Debra Darby, accepted the award on behalf of Organix Solutions and serves as a valuable resource and voice of organics recycling on the council.

**Mulch Machinery Now Sold Online**

Organix Solutions’ recently-launched online store is now available for fast and hassle-free ordering. Both our mulch film and mulch machinery, along with compostable bags are available 24/7 at [Store.OrganixSolutions.com](http://Store.OrganixSolutions.com). For further ordering assistance or any other questions please contact us at [CustomerService@OrganixSolutions.com](mailto:CustomerService@OrganixSolutions.com).

**Micro Grant Program in New York**
The Foundation for New York’s Strongest – NYC Sanitation’s official nonprofit organization – is excited to share its latest innovation: The Microgrant Program. Small business owners may secure financial and technical support in their drive to reduce food waste.

The Microgrant Program helps businesses make food, not waste – and is a direct result of the Foundation’s successful NYC Food Waste Fair, where participants learned ways to reduce waste and lower costs through food waste prevention, recovery and recycling. In this latest program, local business owners can apply for microgrants up to $15,000 in funding and technical advisory to embrace technology or implement strategies that will keep usable food from rotting in landfills.

To learn more about The Microgrant Program, the NYC Food Waste Fair or the Foundation for New York’s Strongest, visit foodwastefair.nyc/microgrants.

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**Tech Talk**

**Organix Solutions Receives Patent for Organics Co-Collection Method**

As of June 6, 2017, Organix Solutions’ method of co-colllection curbside organics is protected under utility patent US 9,669,431 B2. The patent includes our co-collection method and materials, including the proprietary product line of compostable bags. Being that it is a patent on a method of collection and processing, it is the first of its kind—especially involving organic waste materials.

The patent lends validation to the efficiency of a single waste collection vehicle collecting both organic waste and municipal solid waste (MSW) in a single trip. A summary of the patented process includes the following 5 stages of Organix Co-Collection:

1. Providing a waste collection vehicle
2. Providing a dedicated organic waste liner
3. Filling the liner with organic waste
4. Placing the liner into a mixed waste stream
5. Separating the liner from said mixed waste stream
With the use of this patent, Organix Solutions will expand Organix Co-Collection Method™, making curbside organics collection more accessible across the United States. As of 2017, BioCycle reported that 5.1 million Americans have access to curbside collection, with Minnesota—leader in Organix Co-Collection participants—among the top 3 states for curbside organics accessibility.

New Policy/Legislation

Solid Waste Management Policy Highlighting Organics Recycling in Twin Cities

With almost a full year passing since the implementation of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s (MPCA) 2016-2036 Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan, the 7 Twin Cities Metro Area (TCMA) counties are now sharing their individual master plans addressing the specific projects and programs to be executed in order to divert more waste. One area seeing greater attention in all reports is Organics Recycling—specifically, that improvements and expansion are needed throughout the TCMA in order to achieve at least 15% recovery of all organic material by 2030.

Minnesota’s Legislature established a 75% combined recycling and organics goal for 2030—a 25% increase from the 50% recovery rate in 2015. The MPCA stated from 2013 research that organic material makes up at least 28% of the solid waste stream throughout the 7 counties. As an area with such high potential for waste diversion, all counties plan to begin, improve, or expand residential and commercial organics collection.

Examples of short and long-term strategies outlined by different counties to recover more organics include: require all licensed haulers to offer curbside collection by 2020, require organics diversion by large food waste and organics generators by 2022, fund organics collection pilot programs for individual cities or communities, reward existing residential and commercial organics participants, and implement regional anaerobic digestion.

At this time, the progression of organics recycling throughout the TCMA is largely challenged by pushback from individual stakeholders. For instance, there are cities who don’t see organics collection as a priority or they don’t have the budget and know-how to see a program into complete fruition. Certain haulers and processors are hesitant to expand organics collection without reassurance of increased customer participation.
Despite these concerns, the MPCA’s Policy Plan is mandated and sure to see culmination in the next 10-15 years. Based on the region’s 75% recycling goal and potential with organics recovery, this time period will likely serve as a significant advancement in organics collection throughout the state of Minnesota.

Upcoming Events

**Illiana Watermelon Association:**
The Illiana Watermelon Association Convention will be held on March 9-11th, 2018 in French Lick, IN. Come out and visit with our Organix A.G. Film team.

**R3 Recycling & Organics Conference:**
The R3 Conference on March 26th is the biggest annual recycling and organics conference in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and one of the biggest state conferences in the nation. Come visit Organix Solutions at our booth.

**Northeast Recycling Council:**
NERC’s Spring Workshop—Markets or Bust—will be held on April 3rd at the Sheraton Baltimore Washington Airport Hotel in Linthicum, Maryland.

**WasteExpo:**
Celebrate how far this industry has come at the 50th annual WasteExpo in Las Vegas. Organix Solutions is featured in the organics region at booth 1352.

Employee Spotlight

**Emilee Metcalf**
Emilee Metcalf is the Community Relations and Market Development Manager with Organix Solutions. She works with municipalities, businesses, schools and waste haulers to implement organics recycling or Organix Co-Collection.

Emilee graduated from the University of Minnesota and did some graduate work at Crown College. She has over 10 years of waste industry experience working with communities on hauling, recycling and organics programs. Prior to working with Organix Solutions she owned a private waste hauling business. She is an avid gardener and organics recycling enthusiast. She enjoys the outdoors and is passionate about efforts small and large to become a more green, sustainable planet.

Her volunteer activities include the Wayzata Farmers’ Market community tent where she organized a booth for community outreach and education around organics recycling and compost. She currently serves as garden manager on the planning committee for a community garden in the City of Independence. The food grown is shared with the community and services the local food pantry in Delano, MN. She has also volunteered with Feed My Starving Children packing nutritious meals for hungry children and working with other volunteers on food distribution. Emilee has been involved with citywide clean up activities such as cleaning up storm debris and waste for 12 municipalities in Hennepin, Wright, and Carver Counties.

At the recent Resource Recycling Conference in Minneapolis, she participated in a course on zero waste planning, principles and tools. She is an active member of Minnesota Recycling Association of Minnesota, attending the annual RAM/SWANA conference, and she regularly attends the National Waste and Recycling Association’s Waste Expo and the Northeast Recycling Conference (NERC).

Emilee and her husband have two daughters, both involved with soccer and volleyball.
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