

**BIOCYCLE GLOBAL 2011 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

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# BIOCYCLE

**ADVANCING COMPOSTING, ORGANICS RECYCLING & RENEWABLE ENERGY**

## Technology Innovations Advance Organics Recycling

**BioCycle Global  
Focuses On Australia**

**Improving Economics  
Of Food Waste Recycling**

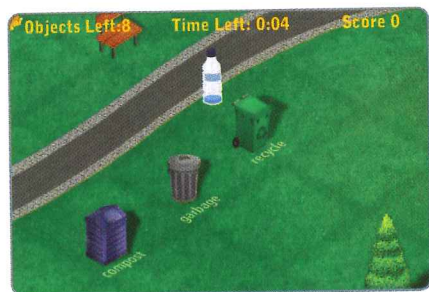
**Profiles In Biosolids  
Composting Success**

**From Dining Halls  
To Farm Power**



years to settle at \$17.50/ton in 2015. The city is to receive \$1/ton for materials coming into the facility from area business and 50 cents/ton for finished compost going out.

Some citizens pointed out that the facility is still going to be operating at a loss to the city. "Even though the profits would be sent out of state, the responsibility for major repairs and capital improvement would reside here in Ann Arbor," city resident Lou Glory said during a public comment period before the vote. Ann Arbor Solid Waste Coordinator Tom McMurtrie clarified to *BioCycle* that WeCare will be responsible for repairs to equipment leased from the city under a six-month lease, after which all equipment would be furnished and maintained by WeCare. With regards to site improvements, no plan exists for Ann Arbor to fund capital improvements to the site. Under the new arrangement, city employees who currently help run the facility will be shifted to other positions within the city, curbside pick-up of residential organics residuals will continue and residents will have the same access to compost as before. WeCare Organics has promised to hire locally.



**Will County, Illinois  
TEACHING COMPOSTING  
THROUGH COMPUTER GAMES**

On November 15, 2010, in honor of America Recycles Day, Will County (southwest of Chicago) launched a comprehensive website to teach residents, businesses and schools about recycling and resource conservation. The website, [willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com), contains more than 150 pages filled with waste reduction, recycling, water conservation and energy efficiency information. "One of the most unique features of the website is its games," says Marta Keane, Will County Recycling Specialist and project manager for the new website. Four games were designed for the site. The first is for the youngest computer users and teaches which items are recyclable, which are

garbage and which can be easily composted. "The second game is a classic memory match with three levels, but the trick is to take the pairs of items and place them in the proper recycling or reuse area," explains Keane. "This game teaches about electronics recycling, composting, curbside recycling, donation and retail take-back. The third game is a trivia challenge that changes daily and asks players to fill in the blank in a limited time with a conservation word." The fourth game, she says, requires users to find the differences as they tour a home and yard and discover new ways to save energy and conserve water. "It depicts a backyard compost and native plantings among other things," she adds. "Will County created this site primarily for its residents and businesses, but it is also meant to be useful and inspiring beyond our borders."

**Los Angeles and Chino Counties,  
California  
COMPOST PILES  
GO UP IN SMOKE**

Two compost-related fires in the greater Los Angeles area inside of a month — one occurring indoors and one outdoors — had the fire department responding (with the indoor incident also attracting the attention of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office). Authorities responding to a fire in a single-story home in November found that a living room compost pile had ignited, torching a sophisticated marijuana growing operation that included 1,700 plants. Sheriff officials said such intensive indoor growing operations are commonplace and primarily run by gangs who sell the high-potency cannabis to medical marijuana dispensaries. The homes are typically gutted to make room for the plants — and, in this case, the compost. And in mid-December, the Chino Valley Fire Department responded to a fire involving two 30-foot stacks of green waste at a local recycling center. Heavy machinery was used to break up the burning piles containing grass, weeds, palm fronds, manure and other organics so densely packed together that water, even under high pressure, could not penetrate, according to a fire district spokesperson. The fire burned for 42 hours before it was extinguished, with smoke from the blaze covering the skies above the Chino Valley and western Riverside County for three days.

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