



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AGENCIES PARTNER ON A PILOT BACKYARD COMPOSTING EDUCATION PROGRAM

(MIAMI-DADE, FL, November 25, 2014) – The Miami-Dade County Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM) Department and the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Miami-Dade County Extension are proving their commitment to sustainable methods of Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSW) by launching a new pilot backyard composting program. Composting is one initiative of the Green Print (online at <http://www.miamidade.gov/GreenPrint/>), the County's plan for a sustainable future. Both county agencies are part of the Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER) department.

Backyard composting of yard waste and select kitchen wastes takes materials that could have ended up in a landfill creating methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and instead converts them into compost, a useful item for Miami-Dade gardens. Composting also avoids expending the energy and creating the carbon emissions associated with transporting the material to a disposal site. But if not done correctly, composting can create a nuisance, and that's where the PWWM and UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension come in, as they launch a cooperative effort to teach Miami-Dade residents proper methods of backyard composting.

The way the program works is that Certified Master Gardener volunteers from UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension will teach classes on proper composting. These classes are free and are open to Miami-Dade County residents only, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Upon completion of the class, residents will receive a compost bin free of charge from the PWWM while supplies last. Residents can visit the UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension website for upcoming composting classes (and register on-line) <http://miamidade.ifas.ufl.edu/> or read about composting by visiting http://miamidade.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/home_gardening.shtml.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Office Plaza
2525 NW 62nd Street, 5th Floor, Miami, Florida 33147
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The following is a fact sheet about the composting program in Miami-Dade County
http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/urban_hort/composting%20brochure%201a.pdf.

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