

Contents

1. **Vic. Vegetable Growers Positive About Using Recycled Organics Products**
2. **Healthy Gardens Program an Unprecedented Success**
3. **Links with Monash University Centre for Green Chemicals**

1. **Victorian Vegetable Growers Positive About Using Recycled Organics Products –**

Vegetable growers in the Werribee region of Victoria have been supplied recycled organics based composts for use as a soil treatment for cauliflowers.

The target of the trial is to analyse the possible benefits of recycled organics based composts for the management of club root. It is anticipated that an improved disease resistance will be found versus control crops and chicken manure amended crops.

Initial results show a superior plant establishment rate versus chicken manure. More detailed results will be available in the autumn.

2. **Healthy Gardens Program an Unprecedented Success** – CORE has engaged six nurseries in the Northern region of Melbourne to purchase compost within a project called *“Healthy and Sustainable Gardens”*.

The project, managed by the Northern Regional Waste Management Group (NRWVG), the Northern Melbourne regional of Group of Councils, provided a discounted compost price to residents along with free delivery (funded by the local Councils) to promote and generate bulk compost sales for use in home gardens.

Compost was supplied by Organic Recyclers, the composting contractor for the region.

The initiative was a resounding success with demand far outstripping expectations. Some nurseries sold out of the initial product within a couple of days and additional product orders were required. During the promotional period, 4,200 metres was sold and some nurseries were required to hire extra staff to meet increased order-taking. Sales have continued to grow to date.

CORE is seeking the means to lead the project into the other areas of Victoria and potentially around Australia, based on the availability of products from members and existing penetration into the nursery sector. If members would like the project to be conducted in their region please contact us on 1300 88 55 66.

- 3. Links with Monash University Centre for Green Chemicals** – CORE has developed links with the Monash University Centre for Green Chemicals as a means to explore the opportunities to develop green chemicals from recyclable organics materials in the future.

The Centre for Green Chemistry is a Special Research Centre, funded by the Australian Research Council. The centre is located at Monash University, utilising custom built research laboratories with state-of-the-art facilities. Their projects involve advanced enabling expertise, intellectual property and know-how in cleaner synthesis technology and green biotechnology.

It is envisaged in the future that most major recycled organics facilities will extract green chemicals prior to composting incoming materials. This could add additional revenue, business diversity and long-term business security. Examples of types of chemicals that could be extracted are shown below.

Platform bioproducts	Versatile biomaterials
Biodiesel and methyl ester	Adhesives and resins
Methanol and Ethanol	Composites
Glycols (polyols)	Lubricants
Lactic and polylactic acid	Pesticides
Levulinic acid	Fertilizers
Succinic acid	Plastics
Synthetic gas (syngas)	
Methane	
Hydrogen	

For more information on the centre see www.chem.monash.edu.au/green-chem/.