

S-2 May 25, 2009

# Scrap Report

## Del. facility to compost food, yard waste

By Joe Truini

Peninsula Compost Company LLC has begun construction on a Wilmington, Del., organic waste recycling facility that will compost food and yard waste.

The \$20-million Wilmington Organic Recycling Center will use an in-vessel process to recycle organics from businesses and residents in the region. It will occupy a 28-acre site next to the Port of Wilmington and will be able to process 160,000 tons of material a year.

"The WORC will be the largest state-of-the-art food and yard waste composting facility on the

East Coast," said facility director Brian Schaffer. "It will economically benefit businesses in Delaware and the region by lowering waste disposal costs compared to landfills and provides significant environmental benefits."

Peninsula Compost Co. expects construction to be completed in December. The plant will serve food and yard waste generators, such as government institutions, schools and universities, supermarkets, restaurants, contractors and landscapers.

The facility will be the first consistent high-volume opportunity to divert food waste in the Mid-Atlantic region, said Judy Ward,

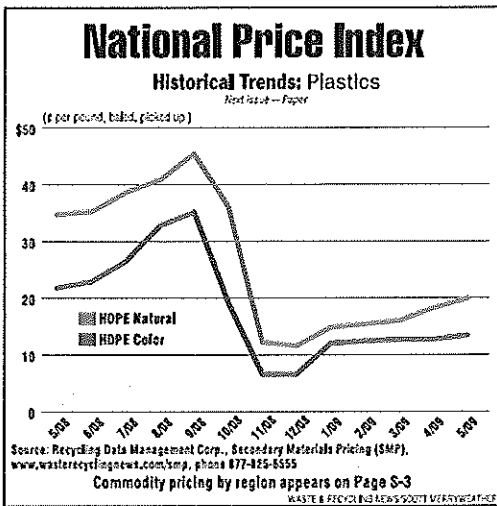
CEO of Advanced Enviro Systems. "Our clients in the Mid-Atlantic region, especially in the food service and hospitality sectors, are clamoring for further opportunities to reduce their waste and increase their rates of recycling," she said.

Peninsula Compost Co. is a partnership between three companies — Peninsula Compost Group LLC, an organic waste processor, EDiS Company, a regional green construction company, and Port Contractors Inc., a material handling firm. ■

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RECYCLING GROUNDBREAKING: Delaware Gov. Jack Markell addresses the crowd gathered for Peninsula Compost Co.'s Wilmington Organic Recycling Center groundbreaking.



## Dell

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vention has deemed nonhazardous or working equipment or parts that are going to be donated, reused or resold rather than recycled or disposed of. It also doesn't include equipment or components being returned to the original manufacturer under warranty.

"Even though U.S. laws don't restrict most exports, Dell has decided to go well beyond these inadequate regulations," said Jim Puckett, executive director of the Base Action Network.

But some in the electronics industry see Dell's plan as misguided. Internet access is developing 10 times faster in nations with 10% of the United States' income, said Robin Ingenthron, founder of the World-Reuse, Re-

pair and Recycling Association, also known as WR3A.

"They aren't doing it with new computers," he said. "And they won't stop getting online. They will get the computers elsewhere — from back alleys if necessary, laced with TV junk if they have to."

Dell's definition of electronic waste doesn't even jibe with the Basel Convention's, Ingenthron said. The company refers to electronic scrap as nonworking parts or devices, while the Basel Convention bases its definition on whether the materials contain toxic substances, he said.

Dell's policy possibly could exclude recycled components that can replace raw materials, which would require more mining and refining, two of the most toxic human activities on the planet, Ingenthron said. He said he proposes a similar fair-trade solution developed to improve the lives of coffee farmers in developing countries. Boycotting coffee

would have made the farmers poorer, just as restricting access to refurbished computers only will hurt the poorest people in other nations, he said.

"We need the same strategy to address the demand by legitimate overseas repair and refurbishing factories," Ingenthron said.

Two issues make it more difficult for domestic electronic scrap processors to compete with processors overseas — environmental concerns and the cost of labor, said Larry Schipper, president of International Alloys Inc. He also serves as an ambassador to the United States for the Bureau of International Recycling in Europe.

"There are environmental constraints here that are not in certain countries, but the bigger portion is the cost to do it," he said.

And some overseas scrap electronics processors operate legitimate and high-tech businesses, he said.

"Sometimes I look at these from a different perspective and say that there's a lot of these companies in China, Mexico and different islands around the world where people are just waiting to get a job," Schipper said. "There are plenty of reputable companies, and that's who you have to find." ■

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## TV

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visions, Schneider said.

The measure is backed by local governments, environmental groups, Goodwill Industries of Texas and even some industry groups, such as Tech America. It also has gained support from faith-based organizations, including the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. ■

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