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One Of The Newest, Most State-Of-The-Art, Large Scale Commercial Food & Yard Waste Composting Facilities in North America Fully Operational on Earth Day

Event Announcement Highlights:

- *U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin – EPA/WORC Sustainability Agreement Signing*
- *DNREC Secretary Collin O'Mara – State of Delaware / WORC Organic Recycling Program Partnership – Pilot Effort With Schools*
- *City of Wilmington 4th District Council Member Hanifa Shabazz – Community Benefits Agreement Successes*
- *Elbert-Palmer Elementary School Students – Earth Day Ambassadors / Garden Beautification*

WILMINGTON, DE - Peninsula Compost Company, LLC (PCC) takes great pride in celebrating Earth Day 2010 by introducing the fully operational Wilmington Organic Recycling Center (WORC). The Earth Day celebration is on April 22, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the 612 Christiana Avenue site adjacent to the Port of Wilmington in Wilmington, Delaware. Tours will be provided.

According to David Hill, Legislative & Environmental Affairs Committee Chair for the US Composting Council, "The WORC is one of the newest, most state-of-the-art, large scale commercial food and yard waste composting facilities in North America."

Scott Woods, Peninsula's CEO says, "Our facility economically benefits businesses in Delaware and the region by lowering waste disposal costs anywhere from 20 – 50% while providing significant environmental benefits including a reduction in landfill volumes, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, the generation of carbon credits and the life-cycle sustaining return of soil nutrients to the earth." He added, "This is truly a win-win for business and the environment. It has just taken off."

Partners in the WORC include Peninsula Compost Group, LLC, an innovative organics solutions company; 102-year old EDiS Company of Wilmington, a regional leader in green

construction and Port Contractors of New Castle, one of the premier material handling specialists in the nation.

Developed by the Peninsula Compost Group, LLC, the facility sits on a 27- acre former brownfield site across from the Port of Wilmington strategically located for waste haulers and generators from Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The project was developed over a three-year period at a cost of \$20 million. Ground was broken in May 2009 and construction was complete in December 2009. EDiS Company managed the construction.

WORC uses Gore™ Cover System technology to convert 160,000 tons of source separated food discards and yard wastes into 100,000 tons of high-value, nutrient rich organic compost. 40,000 tons of additional organic material is blended with the compost to produce a total of 140,000 tons of compost and soil products per year available for use in agriculture, horticulture, landscaping and home use. Restoring and replacing soil nutrients helps perpetuate a sustainable closed-loop organic lifecycle.

WORC serves pre- and post-consumer food and yard waste generators and haulers such as state, federal and municipal institutions, schools, hospitals, universities, supermarkets, importers, restaurants, food processors and convenience stores as well as landscapers and contractors.

According to the U.S. EPA, approximately 25% of the prepared food in the United States becomes food waste. Roughly 31 million tons of food waste ended up in the trash in 2008. Once that trash is taken to a landfill, it rots and releases methane gas. Landfills account for 23% of the methane emissions in the US. Methane is 72 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period and 23 times more potent over a 100-year period. Sending food and yard waste to WORC rather than a landfill results in the avoidance of methane emissions. It is the equivalent of removing 8,800 automobiles from area roads per year.

Restoring and replacing soil nutrients with the nutrient rich organic compost and soil products created by the WORC helps address the urgent problem of soil erosion in the US. One billion metric tons of topsoil erodes from croplands in the United States annually and yet new soil forms very slowly; 1 inch of topsoil can take anywhere from 20 to 1200 years to form.

U.S. EPA Region III Solid Waste Specialist, Mike Giuranna said, "I am very excited about the opening of the WORC. It will result in the diversion of a very large amount of organic material from disposal into compost, which will enrich the soil, prevent pollution, reduce the need for water, fertilizers and pesticides and can also be used to cleanup contaminated soil. I'm especially

excited that the WORC is composting food waste which the EPA is working hard to have beneficially reused as most of it is being landfilled when it can be made into compost. "

Peninsula Co-Founder Nelson Widell says the WORC provides optimal conditions for backyard composting just on a much larger scale. He said, "What we do is help speed up Mother Nature's natural process. It might take nature one to two years to complete a composting cycle. Using Gore technology, we're able to do it in eight weeks." He continued by explaining the process, "The waste is dumped and inspected inside a high-tech Tip Building under negative air pressure. The air is run through a biofilter to scrub it of odors. Next it is placed under the Gore™ Cover System where the natural decomposition process is assisted by aeration and cyclic turning. In addition to accelerating the composting process, the Gore™ Cover System performs two very important functions; it controls odors and separates leachate from storm water to prevent groundwater contamination." Widell further explained that temperatures rise to 140 - 170 degrees Fahrenheit under the stacks. He said, "In order to kill pathogens, the stacks must reach at least 131 degrees Fahrenheit for three consecutive days." The Gore™ Cover System helps to both generate the heat and protect the stacks from the elements.

Increasing landfill disposal rates and the public's increased education and sensitivity to the environment has made commercial composting a realistic and timely business solution. Peninsula CEO, Scott Woods says Peninsula has built a strategic business model based on providing environmental solutions that make economic sense. With the team's 100-plus years of experience in the waste, composting and technology businesses the company provides next generation organics recycling solutions as well as consultative support in green environmental infrastructure technology. "We are proud of the fact that our business model is one that is based entirely on private capital and does not rely on any subsidies or stimulus funding," Woods said.

Support for the WORC has been strong. According to Governor Jack Markell, "We want to make waste recycling a part of our institutions and to that end, we are working with the Wilmington Organic Recycling Center on a pilot project involving school waste to roll out this fall. The goal will be to promote organic recycling and reduce school waste disposal costs while educating young people about how to make environmentally-friendly and agriculturally beneficial use of food and yard waste."

According to Marvin Thomas, neighboring Southbridge Civic Association President, "Peninsula has come through as promised." Speaking at the event, City of Wilmington 4th District Council Member Hanifa Shabazz said, "The Community Benefits Agreement, created as part of

WORC's development plan, pledged to provide "green jobs" during construction to minority contractors and permanent staffing positions during operation to candidates from the community. Additionally, Peninsula promised to reroute trucks around the community and staff a 24-hour hotline to respond to any potential odor complaints." She continued, "Peninsula has been a good neighbor. Not one complaint has been received from the hotline. Our relationship is solid and it is fruitful for the community." Peninsula stated that one of the deliberate reasons for creating a state-of-the-art process to control odors and emissions was to empower WORC to be a considerate neighbor.

Two of WORC's enthusiastic waste generator customers are Whole Foods and the University of Pennsylvania. Both environmentally enlightened organizations have publicly applauded Peninsula for developing the composting facility.

According to Mark "Coach" Smallwood, Whole Foods Mid-Atlantic Green Mission Specialist, "Watching the progress has been exciting and long overdue in our area. Whole Foods is excited to be sending our food waste from 7 stores in the Philadelphia metro area. We take great pride in diverting over 70% of our waste from landfills, the vast majority of that being food waste. We could not do it without the WORC."

The University of Pennsylvania is currently sending about 4 tons of organic waste per week to the WORC, or about 80% of the food waste being produced in Penn's dining facilities. According to Marie Witt, Vice President of Business Services which oversees Penn's dining program, "One of the goals of Penn's Climate Action Plan, which was launched in 2009, is to increase its recycling rate and minimize our waste production. Working with a local company like WORC to compost our food waste is important to the success of our effort."

WORC produces all natural, nutrient-rich compost and manufactured topsoils. The company will sell and distribute these environmentally friendly soil amendment products in the retail, professional and agribusiness markets. End-use customers include landscapers, nurseries, farmers as well as home gardeners.