WORC 2018 Annual Conference
Thursday, November 15: America’s Car Museum
2702 East D Street, Tacoma, WA 98421

On the Road to the Future of Organics

7:30  Registration opens
8:15  Welcome message from President, Michele Riggs
8:20  Icebreaker
8:30  From the Top of the Compost Pile, Frank Franciosi, USCC
9:15  Networking Break – see equipment and exhibitors
9:45  Growing a Compost Facility, Bob Yost, A-1 Organics
    The story of Colorado’s A1 Organics is a lot like James Michener’s classic novel “Centennial”. Like the Centennial saga, A1 Organics history is based in Colorado. The Family history was founded in the late 1800’s, is pioneering in its foundational spirit and journey, has met and overcome many foreseen and unforeseen challenges, and continues to write its future in an ever changing cultural and environment. This presentation will recap that history and touch on some of the most difficult challenges A1 Organics has faced and overcome, and some of the numerous victories it has been blessed with as well. Knowledge is gained through the council of many…..hoping to share some of ours with you.
10:30 Recycled Nutrients – Feeding the Soil that Feeds You, Maile Lono-Batura, NW Biosolids & Andy Barry, WSU
11:00 Compost Facility Capacity, Mary Harrington, Ecology & Michele Riggs, Natural Connections
11:30 Marketing and Sales – Getting Your Finished Compost Out the Door and on the Ground, Susan Thoman, Compost Manufactures Alliance & David McDonald, Seattle Public Utilities
12:00 Network as you get your lunch from the buffet
12:30 Annual Meeting, President, Michele Riggs
1:00 Awards Presentation and Celebration
1:15 Short Break – visit our exhibitors
1:40 Soil Quality Improvements with Biochar and Compost, Doug Collins
    Biochar, a solid source of thermally conserved organic carbon, is produced as a by-product of biomass pyrolysis and can be used as a soil amendment. With Washington State’s woody biomass and agricultural land resources, biochar production may be a future energy and agricultural industry. To evaluate the effects of biochar amendment on agricultural soils, researchers at Washington State University are testing whether soil applications of biochar, compost, and compost produced with biochar influence soil nutrient availability, water holding capacity, and carbon dynamics. Research plots are in Mt. Vernon and Puyallup & cropped to potatoes & strawberry, respectively.
2:00 Rotating Breakout Sessions
    • Selling Compost – getting it out the door and on the ground
    • Capacity Concerns
    • Air, Permitting and Regulatory Issues
3:00 Break
3:15 Report Out and Discussion
4:00 Tour America’s Car Museum, Network & Get Your Fun Photo Included in your Registration
5:00 President’s Reception
7:00 Dinner on your own

Friday, November 16th Option Tours of Hidden Valley Compost Facility and TAGRO
9:00 Hidden Valley Compost Factory Tour, a fully enclosed state of the art compost facility, owned and operated by Waste Connections. 17925 Meridian E, Puyallup, WA 98375.
10:00 Leave to TAGRO
11:00 TAGRO Tour, short for “Tacoma Grow,” is an award-winning, soil amendment produced with Tacoma’s Class A biosolids. 2301 Cleveland Way, Tacoma, WA 98421.
12:00 Tours Conclude.