

**NO ACTION**



AGENDA

Open Discussion

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

Board of County Commissioners Chambers

201 S. Rosalind Avenue Orlando, FL 32801

1. Commissioner Edwards, District 5, would like to have a discussion on an Orange County Composting Initiative.

**NO ACTION**



To: Mayor Teresa Jacobs  
From: Commissioner Ted Edwards, District 5  
Date: March 27, 2015  
Re: **Orange County Composting Initiative**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted", positioned to the right of the recipient information.

As you know, yard trash and food waste make up a significant portion of Orange County's waste stream. These materials made up over 305,000 tons, or 13.7 percent, of all waste collected in Orange County in 2013, the last year for which data is available. The Orange County Solid Waste Division uses yard waste to produce compost; the compost is available free to the public at the Orange County Landfill. This compost is useful for home gardening and horticulture. The location of the landfill may make it difficult for some Orange County residents to easily access this compost.

The City of Orlando recently began an initiative to distribute backyard composter units to single family residences at no cost. Homeowners may request a composter by filling out a one page application. Once delivered, the bins can accommodate up to 80 gallons of food and yard waste. These bins are unobtrusive, keep out pests such as snakes and rats, and maintain an odor free environment for homeowners. The city conducts training seminars on the use and maintenance of their composters through homeowners association and community meetings. The program has been very popular among city residents. Staff reports the program has exceeded their expectations.

Orange County now has an opportunity to divert waste headed to our landfill and encourage reuse in our resident's homes. I request that staff study the feasibility of implementing an urban composting program in unincorporated Orange County and search for funding mechanisms for such a program including state and federal grants.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Cc: Board of County Commissioners  
Ajit M. Lalchandani, County Administrator  
Eric Gassman, Deputy County Administrator  
Randy Singh, Assistant County Administrator  
Jon Weiss, Manager, Community, Environmental and Development Services  
Lori Cunniff, Manager, Environmental Protection Division  
Ray Hanson, Director, Orange County Utilities Department  
James Becker, Manager, Solid Waste Division