

May 24, 2006

To: Phillip E. Austin, President

From: Rich Miller, Director of Environmental Policy  
Tom Morris, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Science / Chair, UConn Compost Facility Task Force

RE: UConn Compost Facility Task Force Report

On behalf of the members of the Compost Facility Task Force, we are pleased to present you with the group's final report, ***Proposal for the UConn Compost Technology Center: A Vision of Sustainable Waste Management and Cost Savings***.

This report responds to your charge, issued last July to UConn's Office of Environmental Policy (see page 5), calling for a study about the feasibility, costs and benefits of establishing and operating a campus-wide compost facility. It summarizes the findings and recommendations of the task force, which convened in August 2005, and represents a collaborative effort involving faculty, students and administrators in the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, as well as staff in Facilities Operations, Farm Services, Architectural & Engineering Services and Dining Services. This wide range of academic and operational stakeholders speaks not only to the multiple dimensions of this issue but also to the broad-based motivating factors for changing our current practices, including: regulatory compliance, operational cost savings, best agricultural practices for education, research and outreach purposes, environmental sustainability and community relations.

Above all other considerations, the task force worked diligently to estimate and contain the costs of establishing and operating a campus-wide compost facility. Recognizing that the initial investments of capital and equipment raise the highest hurdle to the start-up of a compost facility, the task force is recommending a phased approach to address both immediate priorities and longer-term goals in the most cost-effective way. Nevertheless, the estimated \$270,000 start-up costs of the proposed Phase 1 pilot facility still present a daunting fiscal challenge to the University. Overcoming this challenge will require both an institutional commitment to the vision described in this report and to a funding strategy. We urge the University to make that commitment, and we pledge our support and participation in developing and implementing a timely funding strategy.

Thank you for your consideration of this report. Please contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

cc: Barry Feldman  
Members of the Compost Facility Task Force