

# New Food Waste Recycling Machine Turns Food Waste into Fertilizer

FOR MORE INFORMATION

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Ana, Calif. (November 30, 2010) – The County of Orange and Waste Management of Orange County (WMOC) unveiled today the first food dehydration recycling machine in a County building. Orange County Board of Supervisors Chair Janet Nguyen was on hand to celebrate this important achievement and retrieve some high-quality fertilizer from the high-tech machine.

“It is great to be going green!” said Board Chair Janet Nguyen. “The County is taking steps on all fronts to implement sustainable practices. This is an important milestone for us.”

The dehydrator is hard at work in Bella’s Kitchen, Too in the Orange County Civic Center Plaza, Building 12. Leftovers like spaghetti, salad, bread and fruit are no longer headed for the landfill. The machine’s 180-degree temperature decomposes the food scraps, reducing the total volume by 90 percent. And the ten percent that remains is a desirable commodity: nutrient-rich compost or fertilizer. The dehydration unit will also help cut collection frequency, which ultimately reduces fuel use and green-house gas emissions.

According to OC Waste & Recycling Director, Mike Giancola, the dehydrator unveiled today is part of a new trend. “Thanks to County grants to several cities, we will see more of these in use throughout the county,” said Giancola. “Some cities are using different methods to reduce their food waste, and overall we expect to see this reduction at our landfills.”

Waste Management of Orange County installed the dehydrator. David Ross, Senior District Manager says it is the wave of the future. “Landfill space is finite, and we know that food waste accounts for nearly 16 percent of the overall waste stream in California. This technology is taking us in the right direction,” said Ross.

Joseph DeAngelo, Manager of Bella’s Kitchen Too, is pleased with the results. He likes the fact that his disposal costs are down. And he’s glad to be going green. “It is hard enough to see food waste at all. This way we’re helping two ways: by reducing the waste and making good use of the results,” said DeAngelo.

OC Waste & Recycling partnered with several cities to initiate a regional food waste recycling program. A \$400,000 County of Orange grant has provided for the installation high-tech and progressive food waste recycling machines at Santa Ana’s Bella’s Kitchen Too as well as 3 select businesses in the cities of Irvine, Laguna Beach and Mission Viejo.

### About OC Waste & Recycling

OC Waste & Recycling manages one of the nation’s premiere solid waste disposal systems serving 34 cities and over three million residents. On behalf of local residents and businesses, OC Waste & Recycling has developed a solid waste management system composed of a network of three active landfills and four household hazardous waste collection centers.

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