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New Food Wastes Recycling Effort Takes Off In Franklin

FRANKLIN – Joining a growing number of North Carolina supermarkets looking for better ways to manage compostable food wastes, BI-LO LLC Grocery Stores has entered into an agreement with the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance (DPPEA) and the Macon County Solid Waste Management Department to divert unusable food from its branch location at Macon Plaza Drive in Franklin to the county's composting site.

Food wastes generated by the produce, deli/bakery and meat departments, along with paper from the administrative offices, will be separately collected and hauled to the county's composting site. There it will be composted with sawdust from Zickgraf Hardwood Flooring Company and culled tomatoes from a farmer's cooperative to make a high quality soil amendment for landscaping use.

"We finished construction of our new landfill in 1998, and we are excited about this new recycling opportunity to help us conserve space," said Larry Lackey, P.E., director of Macon County Solid Waste Management. "We will use part of the compost produced to establish vegetation on the closed portions of our landfill."

"BI-LO LLC is committed to being a good environmental steward, and this new project in Franklin is very important to us," said Mark Van Osterbridge, R.S., manager of food protection/safety. "Not only is it the right thing to do, but we believe we can save money by composting our food wastes." BI-LO joins Winn-Dixie, Wellspring Grocery and Food Lion as North Carolina grocery stores now diverting food scraps from landfill disposal to composting.

Macon County Solid Waste Management received an organic wastes recycling grant in 1999 from DPPEA, a non-regulatory technical assistance agency that helps North Carolina residents, businesses and industries with waste reduction, recycling and pollution prevention.

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