

## Encouraging Private Composting of Food Waste

**After eight years of promoting food waste recycling, the nation now recycles an amount of food waste equivalent to the volume of waste processed daily in two 900-tonne incineration plants. The EPA is seeking cooperation with private compost treatment facilities and professionals that use specialized composting technology to process food waste into high quality organic compost.**

The EPA began promoting the recycling of food waste in 2001 with outstanding results. The daily volume of collected food waste has risen from 80 tonnes to 1,917 tonnes, equivalent to the amount of waste processed each day in two 900-tonne municipal waste incinerators. To accelerate the promotion of food waste recycling and solve the problem of finding uses for organic compost made from food waste, the EPA is actively soliciting existing private compost treatment facilities with extra treatment capacity and specialized composting technology. Use of these services is expected to reduce the government's investment in building food waste composting plants and related operating costs.

Of the methods used to treat food waste, about 75% undergoes steam treatment to make pig feed, while 24% enters composting systems and 1% undergoes other processes. Composting is used for food waste unsuitable for feeding to pigs, such as nut shells, clam shells, durian shells, as well as various other organic matter including slashed vegetation and branches. Most of these materials are mixed together with garbage and sent to the incineration plants. However, zero food waste can be achieved if decomposition processes are employed to turn these materials into compost, which can be used to beautify our environment and grow fruit trees.

The EPA has announced it will select one private company with treatment equipment and capability to enter a joint supply contract with the EPA to recycle food waste and organic matter. The EPA will provide 2,000 tonnes of compostable food waste from each county and city to the contracted business for treatment. This will not only help local governments recycle food waste, but this cooperation model will also encourage the private sector to invest more technological and marketing resources to transform the nation's recycled food waste into resources in the form of top quality compost that conforms to specifications for fertilizer products.