



*Leaders in Resource Renewal*

*A non-profit association that provides statewide proactive leadership on waste reduction and recycling through education, advocacy, collaboration, programs and services.*

## For Immediate Release

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## State Recycling Association Celebrates Composting in Wisconsin

*International Compost Awareness Week: May 2-8, 2010*

**Madison, WI (May 5, 2010)** – The Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) is celebrating International Compost Awareness Week from May 2 – May 8 to heighten understanding about composting and organic materials diversion from the waste stream in Wisconsin.

“AROW is committed to increasing the use of compost and the diversion of organics, such as yard debris, food scraps, and other compostable materials from landfills in Wisconsin. We are proud to celebrate Compost Awareness Week to support both the public and private initiatives emerging in the state,” says Toral Jha, AROW Executive Director.

According to the US Composting Council, composting can reduce the amount of materials discarded to landfills by up to 50%. If landfilled untreated, these organic materials will breakdown to release leachate and methane, a potent greenhouse gas. In 2009, AROW issued a policy paper, “AROW Policy Statement on Yard Materials and Landfills,” asserting that composting of yard material is environmentally preferable to landfilling and that keeping organic material out of the landfill can eliminate the methane this material otherwise would have generated.

Composting yard materials, food scraps and other compostable materials is a better alternative than disposing in a landfill. Soil enriching composts have been found to improve the structure of soils allowing them to retain moisture and nutrients longer. Furthermore, compost helps to maintain healthy plant growth and soil-enriching composts provide the nutrients necessary for healthy plant growth throughout the growing season.

“There are many large scale composting facilities in the state producing a variety of compost products” says Joe Van Rossum, AROW’s Organics and Composting Committee Co-Chair and UW-Extension’s Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center’s Co-Director. “but, we can all compost in our homes by either starting a backyard compost pile or by using a worm-bin to compost food scraps from our kitchen.”

To find local compost demonstrations, sales, compost bin sales, and yard debris collections visit [www.recyclemorewisconsin.org](http://www.recyclemorewisconsin.org).

For compost and organics resources visit <http://arow-online.org/composting.html>.

For more information about International Compost Awareness Week visit the US Composting Council at [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org).

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### About the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW)

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