

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:58 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026041

Recommendation # 2026041

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026041 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	Titusville Garden Club Tree Farm
Name	Thomas H Perez
Address	3025 S Washington Ave, Titusville FL 32780 3278
Phone	(240) 285-6189
Email	tntsservice@gmail.com
Alternate Email	tntsservice@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026041
Recommendation Title	Resumption of making "the fines" from yard waste
Areas Affected	Brevard County
Department Affected	Solid Waste Department
Current problem	<p>Over the years, Brevard county has dispatched our yard waste into huge piles of chipped up logs, limbs and branches. A byproduct called "the fines" was previously produced by the County, but was stopped in the fall of 2022. Currently, the County website claims that residents can get "free mulch" at the following locations: Central Disposal Facility, Cocoa 633-1888 Mockingbird Mulching Facility, Titusville 264-5009 Sarno Landfill, Melbourne 255-4365 However, the claim on the website is not true. The yard waste that is chipped up and called mulch, simply isn't. The stuff that comes out of the grinder is very course and unsuitable for gardening. The product contains small logs and limbs that make it through the single-pass process rendering the resultant material too rough for most circumstances. To produce a usable product, "the fines", the course material needs to be run through the process a second time using a finer screen to further reduce the course materials and timbers. This second grind creates "the fines" which are infinitely more useable. Put another way, the course material produced from the first grind will take years to break down and become useful to the soil as an amenity, whereas the fines can be put to service directly.</p>

Recommendation

We propose that the County resume the production of the fines and make it available in all three county facilities. Gardeners can use the fines to create compost, “gardeners black gold”. The fines are a very usable and sustainable byproduct from our county’s yard waste clean up operations, and residents want it. For the gardener the process of composting the fines takes a few months. It requires a small amount of land to rest the pile, and some maintenance (e.g., turning the pile over weekly, and occasional watering). In 6 months, this mulch product is turned into compost which is a gardener’s best friend.

Attachments

Brevard Compost Final.pdf
NotRenderingCorrectlyInIE.docx
TEST.txt

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.

Request for the County to resume making the “fines” from yard waste.

Many government composting programs focus on reducing organic waste in landfills and promoting sustainable practices. These programs often include community composting initiatives, curbside organic waste collection, and educational resources to help residents compost effectively.

That’s a big step from where we are today in Brevard County. However, sustainable practices like composting, low impact development and low impact living help reduce the sources of muck heading into the Indian River Lagoon. Who knew leaf litter equates to muck?

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Thomas Mulligan, Solid Waste Management Department Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026041

CEER #2026041, titled *Resumption of Making "The Fines" from Yard Waste*, was received by the County from Thomas H. Perez.

Citizen Statement:

Over the years, Brevard County has dispatched our yard waste into huge piles of chipped up logs, limbs and branches. A byproduct called "the fines" was previously produced by the County, but was stopped in the fall of 2022. Currently, the County website claims that residents can get "free mulch" at the following locations: Central Disposal Facility, Cocoa (321-633-1888) Mockingbird Mulching Facility, Titusville (321-264-5009), and Sarno Landfill, Melbourne (321-255-4365). However, the claim on the website is not true. The yard waste that is chipped up and called mulch, simply isn't. The stuff that comes out of the grinder is very course and unsuitable for gardening. The product contains small logs and limbs that make it through the single-pass process rendering the resultant material too rough for most circumstances. To produce a usable product, "the fines", the course material needs to be run through the process a second time using a finer screen to further reduce the course materials and timbers. This second grind creates "the fines" which are infinitely more useable. Put another way, the course material produced from the first grind will take years to break down and become useful to the soil as an amenity, whereas the fines can be put to service directly.

Citizen Recommendation:

We propose that the County resume the production of the fines and make it available in all three county facilities. Gardeners can use the fines to create compost, "gardeners black gold". The fines are a very usable and sustainable byproduct from our county's yard waste clean up operations, and residents want it. For the gardener the process of composting the fines takes a few months. It requires a small amount of land to rest the pile, and some maintenance (e.g., turning the pile over weekly, and occasional watering). In 6 months, this mulch product is turned into compost which is a gardener's best friend.



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Staff Analysis:

In past years, the Brevard County Solid Waste Management Department held a contract with WIN Waste Innovations, commonly known as Wheelabrator, to purchase processed vegetative material to be used as fuel at their Wheelabrator Ridge waste-to-energy facility located in Auburndale, Florida. The vegetative material, primarily the material disposed of at the Mockingbird Way Mulching Facility in Titusville, was double processed to create a fine mulch suitable for use as fuel in the power plant (first processed to a four-inch mulch, then processed a second time to produce a fine mulch). The Wheelabrator contract offset the additional costs incurred by the second processing of the vegetative material to create suitable fuel, that was only processed specifically for Wheelabrator. Only the residual material that was left was made available to the public.

Once Wheelabrator shut down operations at the facility on December 31, 2018, the cost for double processing vegetative waste became an unnecessary expense and was discontinued. Vegetative material disposed at our Titusville, Cocoa, and Melbourne facilities is currently processed to a four-inch mulch and used in a 50/50 mix with dirt as daily cover at the Central Disposal Facility Class I landfill in Cocoa. The mulch is also available to the public from all three facilities at no cost.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026041 because it does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.