

# Mid-Atlantic Organics Summit

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
Beltsville, MD

Dear Participant,

On behalf of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) and the Mid-Atlantic Consortium of Recycling and Economic Development Officials (MACREDO), I wish you a warm welcome. Today's event will bring you up-to-date information on model food scrap composting practices in and outside our region and provide a forum to discuss how to build the organics recovery infrastructure in the Mid-Atlantic Region. While our barriers may no longer be technological, we face entrenched ways of handling garbage, low landfill fees, lack of permitted facilities to handle food discards, shortage of adequate land to site facilities, transportation issues, and the ever-present "ick" factor when we talk about separating food discards. Thank you for attending this Organics Summit. Your active participation today will help address these important issues and pave a path forward.

Thanks to all our speakers who came from near and far. We are also grateful for the support of EPA Region III, which made this event possible, and to the Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation for funding ILSR's local efforts to promote composting and some of our staff time to organize this event. We extend a special recognition to the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center for hosting the Summit and agreeing to compost our leftover food scraps and biodegradable food serviceware at its compost demonstration facility.

Please help us reach our goal of a zero waste event by placing your recyclables and organics in the appropriately marked containers.

In order to assist with future planning of events of this kind, please kindly complete the evaluation form in this packet during the course of the conference and return it to the registration desk before you leave.

If Linda Knapp or I can be of assistance to you during the conference, please do not hesitate to approach us or another ILSR staffer.

Wishing you a very enjoyable and informative meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Brenda Platt  
ILSR Co-Director