

# WSU PUYALLUP HIGHLIGHT

October 27, 2006

## Annual compost training puts research findings to work



(Above left: Compost operators and managers build their own compost piles for end-of-week evaluation; middle: chimney-type pipes provide oxygen and aeration; at right: group examines test compost piles; bottom left: Correct temperatures are a critical component of a successful compost pile; bottom right: (L-R) Craig Cogger, Andy Bary, and Liz Myhre.)

For six years, the Washington Organic Recycling Council, Washington State University and the Washington Department of Ecology have partnered to conduct a Compost Facility Operator Training week of classes and hands-on activities. This year, 33 operators, managers and end-users attended the five-day program led by six instructors: Craig Cogger and Andy Bary from WSU Puyallup, Leslie Cooperband, Jeff Gage, Peter Moon, and Holly Wescott. Attendees learned all aspects of composting including recipe development, odor management, compost biology, site design, and marketing. The students broke out into groups to build compost piles which were monitored and measured throughout the week. Groups used materials from the Puyallup Fair, yard waste, chicken manure and dairy solids.

At the end of the week, each pile was evaluated by training instructors. Evaluation criteria included temperature, odor, and the moisture content of the pile. And, because this was



a class, each participant had to also take a test at the end of the week. Some of the topics covered included: Biology of the Compost Pile; Regulations; Compost Facility Management; and Compost Use in Agriculture and Horticulture.

## WSU Puyallup: Solutions for the Region; Programs for Its People

Weekly Highlights is provided by the people and programs of WSU Puyallup. To include a highlight in an upcoming announcement, please contact either Tanyalee Erwin, [terwin@wsu.edu](mailto:terwin@wsu.edu), 253-445-4504, or Jon Newkirk, [jnewkirk@wsu.edu](mailto:jnewkirk@wsu.edu), 253-445-4568. If your email is set to text messages only and you wish to see the graphical version of this Highlight, please email Tanyalee and she will send this Highlight as an attachment.