

# MARIN CENTER

MAGAZINE

## THE FAIR GROWS GREENER

### NEXT STEPS TO ZERO WASTE

**D**URING THE 2008 Marin County Fair – “the greenest county fair on earth” — the North Bay Conservation Corps, Good Green Graces and Marin Sanitary Service collected over four tons of waste, ranging from corn husks to avocado skins, and compostables that included items such as bio degradable paper plates, cups, flatware and leftover food waste.

The Marin County Fair was the first county fair to have pre-consumer waste diversion from food vendors and post-consumer compostable collection from fair guests. All compostables were transported to the Marin Sanitary Services facilities for the



biodegrading process and trial food waste composting program, in which the Marin County Fair was an early participant.

“This is a new composting process that doesn’t produce any emissions,” said Marin Sanitary Service chief Patty Garbarino. “We’re just thrilled,” she continued. “This has been a wonderful project.”

The biodegradable waste was collected by the North Bay Conservation Corps and Marin Sanitary Service at 36 stations at the Fair, including one at each food vendor site. Special sta-



tions were set aside for biodegradable plates, cups and utensils, and other leftover food at the major food courts, staffed by the North Bay Conservation Corps.

From there, the compost was transported and mixed with pre and post-consumer waste with shredded green waste and stored in compost reactor called a *biocell*. After about three weeks, the bio-waste was sufficiently cured and was ready to be used in and around the fairgrounds. The compost will be used in fairground landscaping projects and planter beds, and will be featured at the new Marin Master Gardener Victory Garden exhibit during the 2009 Marin County Fair.

Collaborating on this innovative waste diversion and recycling program is a green essential for a county fair. Working with community leaders and partners such as Marin Sanitary Service and North Bay Conservation

Corps, the Marin County Fair is dedicated to creating even more green features at the county fair for years to come.

