



# Have You Heard? Brown is the New Green!

Once again on the forefront of the environmental frontier, ECUA has constructed an award-winning biosolids/composting facility at our Central Water Reclamation Facility. The ECUA Board approved this project in December, 2014, construction began in April 2015, and the first full quantities of compost were available for sale in March 2016.

The Composting Facility processes yard waste, along with the biosolids derived from the water reclamation process into a compost product, which is available to the community. In order to maximize the quality of the composted yard waste, we recommend that customers use brown compostable paper yard waste bags, or reusable plastic cans designated for yard waste, in place of the traditional plastic lawn and leaf bags. Plastic bags make yard waste incapable of being used as compost or mulch because plastic does not decompose. Thus, the yard waste contaminated with plastic bags could end up in a landfill rather than as a more environmentally-friendly compost. Furthermore, disposing of yard waste in the landfill significantly increases disposal costs of yard waste, which in turn could lead to an increase in rates.

Paper yard waste bags are easily found in home improvement centers and large retailers, through online sources and in garden centers and nurseries. Plus, if you ask for paper bags at the grocery store (yes, some local stores still offer this choice!), they'll serve double duty when you recycle them into yardtrash bags!

It's never too early to start, so the next time you find yourself reaching for that plastic bag, remember that now, brown is the new green!

