



DATE: March 19, 2009

CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215

---

## **ADEQ Approves Revision to Verde Earthworks Waste Reduction Grant to Allow for Production of Compost**

PHOENIX (March 19, 2009) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has approved a revised grant to allow a Verde Valley recycling company near Camp Verde in Yavapai County to produce compost from cardboard and green waste after the recent sudden decline of prices in traditional recycling markets.

Verde Earthworks LLC received a \$319,112 Waste Reduction Assistance program grant last year to establish a new materials recovery facility, an area where recyclables are processed, in the Verde Valley, near Interstate 17 in the community of Rimrock.

But shortly after Verde Earthworks received the grant in June, the bottom fell out of prices for recyclables. Cardboard, which had been \$140 a ton last August, has fallen recently in price to as little as \$20 a ton.

The grant revision permits Verde Earthworks to scale down the size of the proposed 4,000-square-foot materials recovery building and allow the purchase of commercial composting equipment to provide the compost for local use. Grants funded by ADEQ's Waste Reduction Assistance program can be used for waste reduction, recycling and composting.

“Establishing a composting facility will provide a local market for the cardboard which will be composted along with green waste from local businesses,” said ADEQ Acting Director Patrick J. Cunningham. “This is a win-win situation for the Verde Valley. Offering compost will provide an alternative to the cost of storing cardboard and will help prevent the material from ending up in the landfill.”

The materials recovery facility is scheduled to start producing compost in May and it is expected to be available to the public in July. In addition to cardboard, the compost will be made from grass, brush and tree clippings; horse manure; culled produce from grocery stores; and construction debris.

For more information, visit [www.verdeearthworks.com](http://www.verdeearthworks.com) or call (928) 284-3778.