

# Compost Australia Policy Statement

## *Response to Human Induced Climate Change*



**The members of Compost Australia, a Division of the Waste Management Association agree that:**

1. The release of Greenhouse Gases (GG) into the atmosphere is causing climate change, resulting in higher temperatures, more droughts, rising sea levels and more extreme weather;
2. Climate change is caused by human activities and therefore requires a change in the way humans live, do business and work together as citizens;
3. Australia should act without delay to reduce the emission of GG and adapt to the inevitable changes already built into the climate system;
4. Australia, as a rich and stable society, should encourage the rest of the world to act without delay by demonstrating how a country can move to a low carbon economy;
5. That Australia requires a GG Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) that recognises the environmental costs of climate change within the Australian economy and therefore provides incentives to reduce GG emissions;
6. Organic recycling prevents the production and release of significant GG such as methane and nitrogen oxides from landfills.
7. The application of quality, fit-for-purpose recycled organic products to agricultural can reduce the use of oil-based farming inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides as well as reducing energy used in tillage, irrigation and harvesting.
8. A soil protection policy that increases agricultural soil organic matter by small amounts annually is a economically and environmentally preferable option for offsetting Australia's GG emissions in the short to medium term.
9. A policy of increasing soil organic matter allows farming systems to adapt to climate change by building resilient soils, capturing and using water more efficiently, reducing erosive runoff, modifying soil temperature, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and reducing tillage.

### **Recommendations:**

1. That an Australian ETS recognizes that organic recycling reduces GG emissions from landfill and therefore provide a price incentive to encourage additional diversion of organic materials from the waste stream for organics recycling.
2. That an Australian ETS recognizes that changed land management practices, including application of compost to land, can reduce agricultural emissions and sequester carbon.
3. That land holders should be given a price incentive to store and maintain carbon in their soil.
4. That Soil carbon sequestration be eligible for funding via the CCAF fund.