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## ***Mulch Not Methane Victory: Governor Crist Vetoes HB 569 at Urging of Community Gardens***

(St Petersburg) Florida Governor Charlie Crist has vetoed HB 569, a bill that would have cost more than 800 green jobs, closed up to 264 mulch sites throughout Florida and directed the state's yard waste back to landfills. Thousands of Green Florida supporters, including dozens of community gardeners across the state participated in Green Florida's *Mulch Not Methane* campaign to save the yard waste processing sites that provide mulch, compost, potting soil and other soil amendments to gardeners and landscapers throughout the state.

HB 569 and its Senate companion bill were backed by landfill operators looking to increase profits through fees and increased methane production by rolling back Florida's ban on yard waste being deposited in landfills. Methane capture systems allow landfills to harvest energy to sell, but studies show they release at least as much methane into the atmosphere as they capture. Methane is considered 20-30x more harmful than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

"Measures meant to prevent methane from being released by landfills should not inadvertently create incentives to increase overall methane production," said Andrea Hildebran, Executive Director of Green Florida

Opposition to the bill came from the community gardens within Green Florida's network, and thousands of gardeners who rely upon local mulch sites for community gardens, home vegetable plots, and for sustainable landscaping.

"Florida's mulch sites are the most important mechanism we have for returning organic matter to Florida's soil on a widespread basis," said Hildebran, "Florida needs yard waste to be made into mulch, not methane."

Green Florida is a non-profit organization dedicated to establishing community gardens, providing a network for community gardens within Florida, and helping organize for a green economy. To learn more, visit our website at [www.green-florida.org](http://www.green-florida.org).