



(For Immediate Release)

GVB RECYCLES PAPER TO GUAM FARMERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

(Wednesday, April 28, 2010; Tumon, Guam) Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) has donated 15,584 pounds of shredded office paper to the Guam Farmers Cooperative Association to use as compost for the Department of Agriculture's (DOA) Organic Demonstration Farm in Mangilao.

In an effort to reduce spending on storage, GVB contracts with Dewitt Moving and Storage Guam to destroy documents beyond the standard retention period. Once destroyed, old documents are either transported to the Guam landfill or sent to a paper recycling plant in Hong Kong.

"Anything that was once alive can be recycled. We want to avoid just dumping paper waste in the landfill," said GVB Acting General Manager Ernie Galito. "By giving it to the farmers cooperative, all of that shredded paper can be reused as compost. We try every day in our office to reduce our own carbon footprint and remain green conscious. This recycling donation is part of that effort."

GVB participates annually in a phone book round-up program, and recycles used printer paper and newsprint.

"Using shredded paper at the Organic Demonstration Farm is part of our effort to reduce the amount of material sent to the landfill," said John Borja, chief of agricultural development services at DOA. "Reusing it as mulch also gives us a way to control weed growth, increase soil retainment of moisture, enhance earth worm activity and maintain our organic farm."

Applying mulch – like that made from shredded paper – and other soil conditioning practices are done at the farm by volunteer senior citizens, who apply their skills in return for learning new ones through the further understanding of traditional farming methods, Borja said.

Okra, tomato, cucumber, papaya, corn, guava, sweet potato, banana, basil, oregano, sweet sop, avocado, lemongrass, and a number of other crops are grown at the farm.

Annual harvest usually coincides with May Fest, a celebration of local farmers and homegrown foods at the Department of Agriculture. This year the celebration is planned for May 11, 2010, at the DOA Mangilao office. For more information, contact DOA at (671) 735-3942.



(Above) From left, Joe Acfalle, agriculture management specialist; Joaquin Naputi, deputy director of Guam Department of Agriculture; and John Borja, chief of agricultural development services; stand near the rear of the department's Organic Demonstration Farm.



(Above) Shredded newspaper, like that donated by Guam Visitors Bureau, is used as mulch for rows of corn and other vegetables at the Department of Agriculture Organic Demonstration Farm.

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