

UKULHAS COUNCIL PRESENTS LOCALLY PRODUCED COMPOST TO THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

25 December 2012

The Island Council of AA.Ukulhas has presented the Minister of Environment and Energy Dr Mariyam Shakeela with a sample of the compost that is now being produced by the Council locally.

This effort was initiated on 20 June by the Co-Task Team Leader (World Bank) Dr Sumith Pilapitiya, who takes a keen interest in waste management, as part of the activities of the Maldives Climate Change Trust Fund. The composting was begun on Ukulhas with the assistance of the Ukulhas Council, which has taken a keen interest in managing waste on their island, and which has hired 5 expatriate staff in addition to having a well-managed island waste management centre equipped with a pickup truck.



Dr Sumith conducted an intensive training session for the staff of the island waste management centre as well as for the council members who closely supervise and even participate in the waste management efforts. This included hands-on training in how to put together piles of leaf-based waste as well as the organic (food) waste into an aerated pile, which is turned once a week for about 8 weeks until the compost is ready.

The composting process carried out at the island waste management centre contributes towards the management of organic waste that is produced on the island, and helps the environment by enabling the use of the waste in an efficient manner.

This is locally the first significant effort at composting for waste management, and this method of composting, it is believed, will enable islands to ensure that food waste is managed appropriately and also enable the generation of a commercial end product that would be useful in gardening as well as farming. The activities in Ukulhas will be replicated in the North Region under the MEMP project.