

## **MONDAY MORNING**

March 5, 2012

## HIGHLIGHTS

## FCI McDowell's Recycling Program Utilizing Cutting-Edge Technology



In 2011, FCI McDowell began an innovative, cutting-edge recycling program – the largest sorting and recycling operation in the Bureau. In addition to recycling paper, plastic, and aluminum, FCI McDowell is using a High Volume Organic Decomposition System to reduce food waste. The system

uses micro-organisms or "enzymes" to break down food into water with no leftover byproducts; the machine is capable of breaking down any food waste, including chicken bones, into gray water.

Recycling Technician Michael Austin researched the food waste digester and was able to obtain funding for this state-of-the-art program. The recycling program currently employs 100 inmates and has generated an estimated cost-savings of \$77,000 per year by reducing waste tonnage.

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