

Undergraduate Research Symposium 2012

CHARLES E. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Municipal Solid Waste (Landfills)

Victor Arcaya

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Daniela Popova

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “In 2010 Americans generated about 250 million tons of trash and recycled and composted over 85 million tons of these material. On average, we recycled and composted 1.51 pounds of our individual waste generation of 4.43 pounds per person per day.” Therefore, it is important to think about new methods of recycling and to com- post all the garbage that we produce. In addition, the population has been increasing rapidly in the last few years, due to increased immigration of people from all over the world. The EPA encourages practices that reduce the amount of waste needing to be disposed of, such as source reduction (waste prevention), recycling (recovery), and composting (organic waste). Everything that is collected every day goes to a special pre-engineered place, known as a “Landfill,” that complies with certain rules and is designed to protect the environment.