



**Corporate  
Compost  
Leadership  
Council**

# THE COMPOST OASIS

**USCC's Quarterly CCLC Update On Efforts To Eliminate "Compost Deserts"**

## WINTER 2024

### Editors Note:

When my daughters (now 32 and 27) were middle-school/teenagers, they listened to NSYNC, and I have to admit I had a secret liking for the bee-boppy music this boy band produced. (When you are forced to listen in the car on the way to practice, sleepovers etc., it kind of grows on you).

The issues that keep generators or organic material and makers of compostables challenged at the compost piles and with compost access are not solved, for sure. But after working on this for USCC in various ways for 10 years, I see signs that – with the right people, like those of you in the CCLC, with BPI, and newly with CMA—are more closely “in-synch” -- we are listening, problem-solving, brainstorming and seeking to understand the answer to this issue better than ever.



We've arranged a two-part session at COMPOST2024 that we hope will help “move the ball” on this, with an all-in-one-place discussion of field testing results from several organizations (CREF, Eastman, CMA, Close Loop Partners) and a policy perspective on reducing consumer contamination through better labeling (BPI). Then, we'll gather in roundtables – composters, generators, packaging, municipalities, and others – to see where all of this information can take us. Essentially, the policy will solve consumer education and removal of unlawful greenwashing (proposed in our bill) to get the “lookalikes” out of the piles, while field testing will help us tackle better operational standards so compost manufacturers who choose to accept compostables can succeed.

The session is the last full day of the conference, at 11 am (info presentations) and 2 pm (roundtables), sessions 5C and 6C. We look forward to seeing you there!

## The Latest on the USCC Deliverables

### UNDERWAY

## Best Management Practices

This project is now our #1 Ask. We have a Request for Proposals going out this month and expect to receive bids this spring; we've already had two members pledge a portion of the funds toward the project so we are confident to move forward. There is still \$30,000 to raise.

What is it?

This BMP Guide replaces one written decades ago—which has dropped out of circulation because it had little information on food scrap and compostables as feedstocks---and will bring together the kind of information that is critical for people who run compost facilities (feedstocks, differing practices by system type, safety, moisture, etc.).

This is an important tool because current BMP guides that are put out by groups and states are currently focused geographically and vary in practices—causing uneven information and processes that impact feedstock breakdown, among other things. A comprehensive BMP guide is critical to a more standardized approach to composting in the U.S. and will help us to use what has been learned from lab and field testing about compostability in varying conditions to guide compost manufacturers in varying regions. Extended Producer Responsibility is making this update critical because states are asking for BMP guides.

If you are interested in funding this project, contact Frank or Linda.



[Target Organics Hub](#): The soft relaunch of this resource is coming at the end of this month! It has been refreshed by our committee with new content on Soil Health and Climate Action Planning.

Keep an eye out for the relaunch!

## Member News

### Klingenberg – Industry Thought Leader



Eric Klingenberg,  
Materials Science  
Lead at Mars  
Advanced Materials,

can be found on numerous panels due to his research; last quarter he was a speaker at PHA World Congress, Association for Contract Packagers & Manufacturers Midwest Roadshow (photo), and the BPI Summit.





## Non-Profit Food Rescuers Share Recipes

Chick-fil-A, Inc. released its first cookbook to raise awareness of food insecurity and the importance of reducing food waste. The digital cookbook, which is available at no cost, is inspired by the [Chick-fil-A Shared Table](#)® food donation program and features recipes from local nonprofit partners that repurpose Chick-fil-A® restaurant food donations to help feed their

communities across the U.S., Canada and piloting in Puerto Rico later this fall. To celebrate the cookbook's launch, Chick-fil-A, Inc. is also donating a collective \$1 million in October 2023 to Feeding America®, Second Harvest in Canada, and seven Chick-fil-A Shared Table nonprofit partners working to address food insecurity and hunger.

Find it here: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/introducing-extra-helpings-chick-fil-as-first-ever-cookbook-inspired-by-the-chick-fil-a-shared-table-program-301957140.html>

## Phoenix Area Chick-Fil-A Owner Operators All in for Composting



Chris Gammel

CCLC's own Dawn Rhodes is part of this inspirational story about how Phoenix region restaurants are not only rescuing food, but composting what can't be eaten.

Check it out:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3526124710972824&ref=sharing>



## Club Coffee Wins Reuters Responsible Business Award

Club Coffee, part of ofi, and one of North America's largest coffee roasters, has been recognized at the 2023 Reuters Responsible Business Awards for having the most innovative sustainable packaging solution.



CCLC's Solange Ackrill, center

AromaPak, featuring Boardio technology, uses recyclable paper-based packaging made from renewable, high-quality tree fiber from sustainably managed forests, as certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

It was developed to address high volumes of packaging waste from coffee and was recognized by judges as a “creative, appealing, and practical solution to immediate business and societal needs”. “Club Coffee’s technology is an inspiring solution for a phenomenal problem,” said the judges of the awards, which celebrate the latest progress in sustainable business. “[We are] most inspired by the potential impact this can have across other food categories and sectors.”

Solange Ackrill, VP of Strategy & Marketing at Club Coffee, says AromaPak brings the company closer to its aim of making all packaging either recyclable, compostable, or reusable by 2030. “With an estimated 2.25 billion cups of coffee enjoyed every day, there are steps we can all take to help minimize waste and improve the environmental footprint of our daily caffeine hit,” Ackrill says. “We are delighted to be recognized for our sustainable packaging solution that delivers both environmental benefits, convenience, and the fresh coffee that consumers expect. This has been an incredible journey and collaborative process through the entire value chain, from field to cup.”

AromaPak replaces multilayer bags and cans traditionally used to package coffee beans and grounds that tend to contain plastic or metal. Coffee products have generally been packaged in this way, but cans and bags can present problems for recyclers, and often end up in landfills.



### *Dart Gets Rights to Red Leaf Wheat Straw Pulp*

Dart Container Corporation, one of the world's leading manufacturers of food and beverage packaging, has become a strategic equity partner in Red Leaf Pulp Ltd. The investment secures Dart’s exclusive rights to use Red Leaf’s alternative fiber generated from wheat straw residuals for its molded fiber food service packaging.

Red Leaf, a private Canadian company, is scaling up a proprietary and cost-competitive process to convert residual wheat straw into market pulp and next-generation bio-products. Their innovative and low-carbon process addresses the supply of materials for the growing market for sustainable packaging, tissue/towel, and specialty paper products.

The agreement also provides Dart access to significant capacity from Red Leaf’s initial conversion facility, scheduled for completion in 2026 in Regina, Saskatchewan. Terms of Dart’s investment will not be publicly disclosed.

“Dart is excited to partner with Red Leaf as part of our strategy to expand our molded fiber product line and offer additional packaging that earns our ProPlanet™ Seal,” said Dart CEO Keith Clark. “Red Leaf is an innovative and environmentally focused company, and their disciplined approach to the development of this and ensuing fiber projects gives us confidence in their abilities to become a major raw materials supplier.”

Red Leaf CEO Martin Pudlas stated that “the successful commissioning of our demonstration plant by our dedicated team was key to producing fiber that met Dart's stringent quality and sustainability requirements. Collaborating with Dart's tremendous technical and leadership teams over the past several months was incredibly rewarding and has deepened Red Leaf's understanding of our fiber's capabilities.

“We look forward to expanding our partnership with Dart as we advance toward the final detailed design and financing of the Red Leaf Regina project,” Pudlas continued. “We're also excited about the planned next steps for further testing of our alternative fiber and bio-products with foundational customers in other market segments.”



Novolex®, a leader in packaging choice, innovation, and sustainability, recently announced that two of its brands, Eco-Products® and Vegware™, have earned coveted awards for their innovative solutions in [compostable packaging](#).

[Eco-Products](#) and [Vegware](#) were each honored with the [Foodservice Packaging Award](#) for Innovation in Manufacturing, tying for first place. Eco-Products earned the award for making high-quality digital print a reality on molded fiber packaging. Vegware was recognized for creating a compostable paper cutlery solution for markets that need fiber solutions across all packaging categories.

Eco-Products was recognized for creating a superior method of printing on [molded fiber products](#), allowing operators to prominently display their brand and their commitment to sustainability.

“Printing limitations have made it difficult to effectively brand and message molded fiber items,” said Nicole Tariku, Director of Product Development for Eco-Products. “This breakthrough will help operators deliver an elevated brand experience and make it easier for consumers to identify the products as compostable.”

Eco-Products' new printing technology, for example, allows operators to better highlight their brand on food containers, as well as provide more prominent directions on how to properly dispose of the product. With the industry facing ongoing challenges with contamination at compost facilities, better labeling represents a significant innovation that will help keep organics out of landfills.

## Eco-Products' Green Line Complies with New Labeling Laws and Fights Contamination



Eco-Products continued its focus on contamination mitigation strategies by launching its [Veridian™](#) line of items designed to meet new labeling requirements in Washington and Colorado, making it easier for composters, generators, and end-users to identify products as compostable.

Last Fall, the company launched its [CIRC Program](#) – an open-sourced effort to bring systems thinking to contamination mitigation that

aims to drive process and stakeholder accountability across Procurement, Operations, Communication, and Composter & Hauler Engagement. If you are attending the USCC COMPOST2024 conference this February, you can talk about both of these projects and more with the Eco-Products team in Booth #601.



[NatureWorks](#), a leading manufacturer of polylactic acid (PLA) biopolymers made from renewable resources, announced the appointment of Erik Ripple as the company's new President and Chief Executive Officer. Ripple will succeed interim President and CEO, Jill Zullo,

who has served in the role since March 2023 when former CEO, Rich Altice, retired from NatureWorks.

Ripple comes to NatureWorks from Nexxon, Ltd. in the United Kingdom, a manufacturer of silicon carbide composites for electric vehicle batteries. As Chief Strategy Officer, he led the commercial, engineering, and program teams enabling the launch of their first commercial product to battery manufacturers.

## Compostable Coffee Capsules Made with NatureWorks' Ingeo Biopolymer Score Highest Sustainability Marks in New Study by Wageningen University & Research



A New study from Wageningen Food & Biobased Research found that compostable coffee capsules made with Ingeo biopolymer are the most sustainable option for single-serve coffee.

A [new study](#) reveals that coffee capsules made with Ingeo™ PLA biopolymer from [NatureWorks](#) outperform aluminum, conventional plastics, and other compostable capsules when it comes to sustainability performance. The independent study conducted by Netherlands-based Wageningen Food & Biobased Research, a part of [Wageningen University & Research](#) (WUR), assessed the environmental impact and circularity of single-use coffee capsules made from compostable biobased materials, aluminum, and conventional plastics through multiple end-of-life scenarios including industrial composting, recycling, incineration, and landfill. The study also accounted for the fate of the spent coffee grounds within these capsules, finding that compostable capsules keep both the coffee grounds and capsule materials in the loop via organics recycling, making them the most sustainable option. The thermoformed Ingeo-based capsules used in the study were produced by NatureWorks' partner and food packaging producer, [Flo SpA](#).

This study meticulously assessed different combinations of materials and disposal methods emphasizing their global warming potential over a 100 years in carbon dioxide equivalents as well as their [Material Circularity Indicator](#) (MCI). "The MCI integrates critical factors such as recycling rates, recycled content, recycling

process yield, biobased content, reusability, and average product lifespan,” said Erwin Vink, Sustainability Director, NatureWorks. “Originally developed by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and tested by leading European businesses with real product data to ensure its robustness and relevance economy-wide, the MCI is the most comprehensive tool for measuring the circularity of materials and offers scientifically based insights for guiding sustainable material choices.”



Printpack’s Sustainability Packaging Report is Out

Check out the Printpack 2024 sustainable packaging report:

[https://www.printpack.com/2024-consumer-](https://www.printpack.com/2024-consumer-packaging-trends-report/?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=linkedin&utm_campaign=)

[packaging-trends-](https://www.printpack.com/2024-consumer-packaging-trends-report/?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=linkedin&utm_campaign=)

[report/?utm\\_source=hootsuite&utm\\_medium=linkedin&utm\\_campaign=](https://www.printpack.com/2024-consumer-packaging-trends-report/?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=linkedin&utm_campaign=)



## Sabert Has New CEO



Sabert Corporation announced the appointment of Paul McCann as Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. McCann joins Sabert with over 25 years of experience in the packaging and process industries and a strong track record of transformational leadership and business growth.

In this role, McCann will lead all aspects of Sabert's global business operations and strategy. He will oversee the company's North American, European, and Asia Pacific business units and supply chain operations.

Sabert founder and CEO Albert Salama will shift into a new role as Executive Chairman and partner closely with McCann to ensure a smooth transition to continue the Company's growth trajectory and market leadership position.

## What’s Your Hope for the Compost Industry in 2024?

Ryan Cooper, Rubicon Global:

My hope for the composting industry in 2024 is that composting service is available everywhere that a company is looking for it.

My hope for the composting industry in 2024 is that the composting concept is familiar to all employees and customers of the CCLC.

Linda Norris-Waldt, USCC Staff

My hope is for a state legislature to take up the elements of the [Compostable Labeling Principles/Template](#) in 2024, including the prohibition on greenwashing – and for the bill to pass!!!!

**Solange Ackrill, Club Coffee:**

Biggest challenge: Managing the major headwinds and uncertainty with the geopolitical state we live in to focus on what is in our control and delivering meaningful results

Biggest hope: Working with positivity and purpose and hoping we are all kinder to each other, ourselves, and our planet!

**Megan Jorgensen, Eco-Products:**

We hope to see a world with increased landfill diversion of organics to compost as a strategic climate mitigation strategy through enhanced compost infrastructure, access, and recovery of food scraps and compostable foodservice products. So, in 2024 we will continue our work to remove contamination from compost streams, provide innovative products to the market that meet compliance needs and assist in consumer education and sorting efforts, and collaborate with composters and industry experts to ensure our products not only arrive to a compost facility but are recovered into compost as well. Then, we get to driving end-market demand with making sure that finished product is purchased from composters and applied to land to achieve its full climate potential. Yea, it's a lot. But we have big hopes for 2024 and beyond.

**Paula Luu, The Composting Consortium, Closed Loop Partners:**

My biggest hope is that we can educate investors and pass policy to help scale food waste composting across the US!

**Orientation**

If you are getting this newsletter and are interested in seeing what the CCLC and USCC's deliverables strategy is all about, let us know. We'd like to give you an orientation to our work! Contact Linda at [lnorriswaldt@compostingcouncil.org](mailto:lnorriswaldt@compostingcouncil.org).

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2 PM EASTERN**