



US Composting Council®

USCC 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION FORM

Submission Deadline: *September 20, 2022*

Three seats are open for election to the 2023 Board, which is seated January 1, 2023, for three-year terms for two Compost Manufacturers and one Affiliate.

The prospective nominee should review “Board Member Roles and Responsibilities” and “Code of Ethics Policy” before submitting his or her nomination.

Please submit via email to: nominations@compostingcouncil.org. This is the only valid email address where the official Nomination Form can be accepted. Upon receipt of your nomination, you will be asked to complete a short video introducing yourself and your goals for the industry.

Questions: Eileen Banyra, Nominations Committee Chair, via email at eileen@communitycompostco.com

Nominee	
Name	Jennifer Trent
Company/ Organization	Iowa Waste Reduction Center University of Northern Iowa
Member at least one year?	Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/>
Address	8120 Jennings Drive, #113, Cedar Falls, IA 50614
Phone	319-273-6584
Email	jennifer.trent@uni.edu
Gender	Woman Do so here
Age Group	45 - 54 use arrow keys
Ethnicity	White

Please Check Off which member type you are (Login at top right corner of compostingcouncil.org, go to Profile, Payments, View Membership Card and check your member type):

- Compost Producer Member** (member types: Compost Manufacturer, or a Public Agency that runs a compost facility)
- Affiliate Member** (all other member types that are not one of those under compost producer.)

Note: Individuals, students and advocates are not eligible to run for board seats.

Submitted by: (may self-nominate**)			
Name	Myself - Jennifer Trent		
Company/ Organization	Iowa Waste Reduction Center University of Northern Iowa		
Address	8120 Jennings Dr., #113, Cedar Falls, IA 50614		
Phone	319-273-6584	Fax	
Email	jennifer.trent@uni.edu	Website	iwrc.org

**Self-nominating candidates must submit two letters of recommendation, with at least one being from a USCC member in good standing.

The Nominee should complete each of the following questions:




INTEREST IN THE USCC: Briefly explain why you choose to run for the Board.

I am running for the board because I fully believe in the USCC as the nation's driver to influence positive change in growing the industry, solving complex problems, and promoting the many benefits of both manufacturing and using compost. I am passionate about getting organics out of the landfill for composting to impact climate change, cleaner waters, and healthy stable soils while creating jobs and a skilled work-force. The USCC is that driver and being a part is exciting and rewarding, not to mention all the great people!

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE: Overview of your history of involvement in the US Composting Council, compost industry, positions held, educational background, etc.

MA - Geography (studied Quaternary Soils). My role at my job has been to build a program focused on reducing organic waste in the landfill, which lead me to the USCC in 2015 when I took the COTC in Pomona - I was blown away by the best training I've ever taken. Since then, I have been pivotal in hiring CREF trainers on three occasions, formed a USCC chapter in Iowa (I serve as Director), and ran and won a USCC board seat in 2020. Currently, as Vice President of the USCC, I work on four committees as Chair of the Chapter Advisory Committee, Co-Chair of Nominations (I've recused myself for this election), and also the Executive and Finance Committees. As I've tried to get food and organic waste out of the landfill, I noticed a massive deficit in the Midwest for composting infrastructure and really bad regulations and have worked diligently to make changes that promote composting. I have worked tirelessly with colleges and universities, K-12 schools, municipalities, compost manufacturers, residents, and state government to provide compost training, planning, and implementation of compost projects. Currently I am a part of a small team in Iowa that is re-writing compost regulations. After years of hounding on my part, the Iowa DNR is starting this rewrite and I hope to impact positive change in the industry while protecting the environment. I am also wrapping up a project right now, where I've been traveling across the Midwest to provide compost training with a goal of reducing organic waste in landfills. The communities I have been working in lack resources and expertise with populations less than 5,500 and poverty rates of 20% or greater. This is not the low hanging fruit and never has been, but the challenge to grow composting across the nation has become my first and foremost passion and I will continue to work hard to positively benefit the compost industry.

RECOMMENDED QUALIFICATIONS AREAS (Please check off any that apply):

-  Service on USCC or Compost Research and Education Foundation committees or service as a USCC volunteer (a recommendation from a committee chair is not required but is helpful)
-  Previous leadership experience on boards, in compost industry or other organizations
-  Attended at least one US Composting Council conference

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES: List any relevant memberships and activities, present or past, including committees and volunteer service in related or non-related groups. Recommendations from committee chairs may be attached to your application email.

Memberships include ISOSWO (Swana), BioCycle, IACC, IRA, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Brewers Association

I am also an elected official (second term) working on the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District. I held the Chair position for the Region 7 P2 Roundtable
USCC Committees - VP of the USCC, CAC, Nominations, Finance, and Exec Comm
Household Hazardous Waste Collection / Food Bank - volunteer

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Please disclose any prior relationships with any USCC board members, members or staff. Disclose any business related legal issues – pending and past. Is there anything else you feel you should disclose that could be viewed by members as a conflict of interest?

Disclosure of Any Conflicts of interest (If none, please write “None” below). *Failure to fully disclose all conflicts of interest irrevocably gives the USCC Board of Directors the right to nullify either or both the candidacy and/or election of the nominee.*

None

COMMITTEE INTEREST: If you were asked to serve as the Chairperson of any of the USCC committees, which committee would you choose and why? Score 1-5. [Committees \(compostingcouncil.org\)](http://compostingcouncil.org).

I would like to continue to chair CAC, and co-chair Nominations (I'd be happy to chair as well) I am also interested in CCLC and I am aware this is not a committee. Finally, I work with many municipalities on compost initiatives and would love to be a part of Target Organics

VISION AND OBJECTIVES: Describe up to three programs or activities you would like to implement to improve the USCC and why.

A huge industry deficit in the heartland is getting farmers and producers to use compost rather than traditional fertilizers. To grow the compost industry, I would like to see a push/program/pilot project that addresses this deficit. Now is a great time when fertilizers prices are so high, to sway farmers towards using compost. We could work with state chapters and/or potentially partner with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to promote using compost as a sustainable alternative to traditional fertilizers. Other organizations exist to partner with include each state's rural conservation organization, Farm Bureau, community supported agriculture organizations, community gardens, etc.

I would also like to see some funds raised to sponsor studies that focus on the science of PFAS within compost including, 1) feedstocks to avoid, 2) what happens to PFAS during the process, 3) methods to remove PFAS from compost, 3) identify testing methods, 4) how to address PFAS in compost, 5) should we be testing for PFAS when there are no regulations, etc.

Finally, this last idea is a bit futuristic maybe. But, I have heard from many people at my job who are asking about sustainable alternatives to landfilling textiles. There doesn't really seem to be many alternatives to landfilling old textiles; but are there any compost sites that take textiles? I'd like to see a bit of research done on textile composting....similar to food waste composting, but focusing more on recycling textiles through composting. It would be nice to have a webinar about this topic. This might seem far-fetched, but according to the US EPA, landfills receive 11.3 million tons of MSW textiles while only 15% gets donated and 85% goes to the landfill.

Full length of application materials should not exceed 6 pages using no smaller than 11 point.