April 2023 NEXT QUARTERLY CHAPTER MEETING: April 27 3 pm.

Zoom link here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9227217690

TOPIC: Don’t Leave Money on the Table! Keep Chapter Rewards Top of Mind!

MISSION: USCC State Chapters are dedicated to the development, expansion, and promotion of the composting industry in their respective states using science, principles of sustainability, and economic viability. They achieve their mission by:

Engaging in advocacy
Encouraging & guiding research
Promoting best composting practices
Educating professionals & the public
Enhancing product quality and markets

CHAPTER LEADERS ROSTER: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TnQr-psXV9oGw8MfLX53J7wPjb3QYiKI/edit#gid=1162666289

CHAPTER STUFF:

Chapter Agreements and Rebates: Thanks, and apologies for the slowness of checks

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your participation, signing and info provision for the Chapter Agreement process! Yes, it was complicated and yes, this is the startup year. In future, you’ll only be reviewing your member list and filling out the Google Check in Form. This process is to protect both you and us to ensure that while we’re busy with our policy and networking projects, we’re still getting the basics done such as 990s etc.

From Linda, my sincere apologies about the difficulties we’ve had with our accounting company and getting your checks to you. Please check in with whomever’s mailing address should have received your rebate check today and let me know if your check has arrived. Again, I am so sorry for this and am working on a resolution for next year.

Chapter Rewards
NEW NEW! You got a glimpse of this new program if you attended the Happy Hour in March, and you can also copy and test it out here. We will go through this in depth at our Quarterly Meeting tomorrow. The CAC is tremendously excited about this program, for which we are asking the Board of Directors an additional $10,000 added to the $24,000 in baseline rebate money to reward your hard work on the most important areas for affiliate chapters. Things like succession planning, working on advocacy and regulation (DOTs, certification etc) will earn your chapter points that can bring in dollars beyond your state USCC membership rebate.

Tune in to tomorrow's meeting at 3 pm Eastern to learn more.

Facebook Group!
Have you come to our USCC Chapter Leaders website group lately? See what’s happening and share your news and photos!

ROI Study Coming Your Way!
You may remember in 2020, we did a study about the value that affiliate chapters like you bring back to USCC—see the results HERE. This study has supported the increased spending that USCC has been investing into the chapters program. Every three years, that study needs to be updated, so you will be hearing from us soon!

STATE NEWS:

ASSOCIATION OF COMPOST PRODUCERS/CALIFORNIA COMPOST COUNCIL, Dan Noble, exec. Director

ACP is working on getting out the word for International Compost Awareness Week through a collaboration with three other organizations across CA-CORC (California Organic Recycling Council); CACC (California Asso. Of Community Composters); and CCC (California Compost Coalition). The group is working to share images from the ICAW social media kit.

ACP has also begun a formal policy committee that meets monthly.

COLORADO COMPOSTING COUNCIL-Dan Matsch/ Monique DiGiorgio, co-chairs

The COCC had its first quarterly call in February discussing the Recycle Colorado Summit and its organics track as well as state legislation. Their next meeting is May 16.

The chapter has been busy working on two bills in Colorado; one on the organics management plan and the second on a compostable labeling bill.

FLORIDA COMPOSTING COUNCIL, Chris Snow, President
The Florida Composting Council is off to a strong start. Since officially becoming an Affiliate Chapter of the US Composting Council the Florida Composting Council (FLCC) has 25 members and several sponsoring member organizations. The Chapter has also held their first in-person meeting in partnership with Recycle Florida Today, Inc. (RFT), hosting two sessions sharing information such as the “Florida Composting Council (FLCC) Kick-Off” and “Managing Florida’s Food Waste Sustainably.” Each session focused on the importance of organics in the State and an Introduction to starting and managing a sustainable food waste diversion and management program, managing contamination in the stream, and complying with local and state laws.

Continuing the momentum, we have two upcoming events planned for membership and industry professionals. A tour and training at Florida Crystals on May 11th titled, “Compost Production Training and Florida Crystals Agricultural Composting Facility Tour.” The program is approved for 3.0 Professional Development Hours for Certified Compost Operations Managers and Composting Professionals. The Chapter’s first summer conference takes place as a one-day conference on Wednesday, June 21st in Bonita Springs, FL in conjunction with the RFT summer conference. In addition to providing our members education, the FLCC is working with industry professionals to progress organics. The FLCC is working with the USCC on Florida Department of Transportation STA Initiative and as a Chapter with Florida Universities and IFAS Compost Research to discuss - Past, Current, and how to expand future compost research initiatives.

**The FLCC Visits Capitol Hill - 2023 Tallahassee Legislative Outreach Tour**

On Thursday, March 30th, members of the Recycle Florida Today, Inc. (RFT) executive committee and chair
of the Florida Composting Council traveled to Tallahassee for a 2023 Legislative Outreach Tour. The Florida Composting Council (FLCC), an affiliate Chapter of the US Composting Council and Chapter sponsored by Recycle Florida Today, Inc., focused talks on the importance of composting and organics in the state. The FLCC shared that the State and Legislature must include organics and food waste as a recoverable and recyclable material, not as waste or garbage. With the support of the FLCC board, discussions focused on bringing awareness to the FLCC Chapter being organized to exclusively promote the composting industry and the reduction, reuse, and recycling of the organic component of Florida’s waste stream through support of infrastructure development, quality control and ethical operations, operator training, legislative and regulatory advocacy, and general public education. (Pictured: Rep. Holcomb, Carmen Bruno, Chris Snow).

In addition, information was shared on the economic and environmental benefits and impacts of composting and that composting is a jobs creator, bringing economic growth locally and to the State as well as reducing materials that go into the landfill, thus keeping Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) disposal lower. The FLCC aims to work with State and local governments to local governments to expand private sector food waste composting opportunities; and for legislation to include organics and food waste composting.
RFT and FLCC leadership visited several offices discussing the issues and providing legislative primers for reference and follow-up. Carmen Bruno, RFT Chair and Chris Snow, RFT Treasurer and FLCC Chapter Director, led the meetings and discussion focusing on key items with bill tracking support provided by the RFT Legislative Committee. Meetings and discussion with Representative Holcomb, Representative Brannan, Representative Buchanan, and Senator Gruters focused on:

- That the State and Legislature must include organics and food waste as a recoverable and recyclable material, not as waste or garbage.
- **HB 675 / SB 1254** Specialty License Plates
  - Discussion included: an overview of the license plate and goal to bring innovative grants back to the state to support for recycling education, supporting state and local public and private partnerships focused on recycling, community projects, and education focused on recycling and sustainability, food insecurities and the reduction of food waste, K-12, college, and university education and economic impact studies including advocacy for educating students on the benefits of recycling, reduction of greenhouse gases and carbon footprint emissions, and compost and economic impact studies, infrastructure using recycled content. RFT action required: Approve and pass this bill.
- **SB 506 / HB 1427** Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan
  - Discussion included speaking on the benefits of having industry feedback, expertise, and support when establishing a new recycling plan and goal. RFT action required: Utilize Recycle Florida Today, Inc. members from all sectors of the industry (public, private, non-private, and institutional) for professional expertise and guidance for the technical advisory group when developing a new recycling plan and or goal.
- **CS/SB 1030 / HB 691** Recycling of Covered Electronic Devices (identical) / **SB 1032** Fees
  - Discussion on the benefits of recycling electronics and to bring awareness that there may be challenges for some smaller counties to implement and may need support.

The tour was productive in bringing focus and awareness to the benefits of recycling, sustainability, and composting to legislative leadership and giving our industry a voice.

**ILLINOIS COMPOSTING COUNCIL** John Lardner, Liaison

Advocacy—the Illinois Chapter is working on state legislative initiatives around compost use, as well as federal work on the Compost Act.
In 2022, the Illinois chapter, operating under the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition, changed its name for a bigger emphasis to composting. They are now the Illinois Food Scrap and Composting Coalition (IFSCC). They also have a new fiscal sponsor, Ecologistics.

For ICAW, Illinois is working on six counties in Illinois for ICAW with the theme Adventures in Composting. On site with demos, farm tours, library displays etc. on Sunday May 7. International Café will tell stories about what's happening around the world with compost.

IOWA COMPOSTING COUNCIL,
Jennifer Trent

The IACC has been hard at work promoting compost use and compost manufacturing in Iowa!

• The IACC toured the Iowa State University's compost site late last fall during our monthly meeting that we hosted on-site.
• Four IACC Board members are part of a group of 13 stakeholders working to rewrite Iowa's Chapter 105 (organic materials composting facilities). The proposed changes to the rule will allow businesses to thrive and grow in the compost industry. This work has been halted however, due to the Governor's Executive Order 10 - administrative rulemaking moratorium, that requires state agencies to review each rule. Chapter 105 isn't slated to be reviewed until 12/2025. Due to the long wait time - the IACC is writing a letter to the governor to push this timeframe up.
• Additionally, the IACC has been advocating for Iowa US senators and representatives to support the Compost Act. Phone calls have been made to the following legislators:
  ▪ Senator Joni Ernst
  ▪ Senator Charles E. Grassley
  ▪ Representative Randy Feenstra
  ▪ Representative Ashley Hinson
  ▪ Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks
  ▪ Representative Zach Nunn
• The IACC is also going to ask membership to use the USCC's handy form to send legislators emails asking them to support the Compost Act. A link to the form will be displayed on the IACC's website and social media
• The IACC toured a new state-of-the-art MRF facility owned and operated by Metro Waste Authority in Des Moines with the MRF located in Grime, Iowa
• The IACC is ramping up for a membership drive and is actively developing marketing material for this.

**MD-DC Committee** - [Kristie Blumer, Linda Norris-Waldt]

- MD-DC Committee members worked hard on several during the 2023 General Assembly session and were successful in enlarging the footprint available to on-farm composting operations in agricultural zones.
- From a blog by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, where MD-DC leaders Brenda Platt and Linda Bilsens lead the composting initiative: “Maryland has been a national model for advancing on-farm composting since the state’s composting permit regulations were updated in 2015 with carve-outs for farms and small composting operations. Those rules - which ILSR championed - created a tiered permitting structure and exempted on-farm and small sites from needing a full composting facility permit for processing certain feedstock types in particular quantities, including off-site food scraps (COMAR 26.04.11.06). In its 2023 session, Maryland’s legislature created a new, expanded exemption by passing SB262/HB253, “On-Farm Composting Facilities—Permit Exemption.” This new law requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to adopt regulations that more than double the area allowed for food scrap composting - from 5,000 sq. ft. for space used “in support of composting,” to 10,000 sq. ft. for “active composting.”
- A bill designed to fund compost infrastructure through tipping fees failed to pass, but another bill expanding compost usage requirements from the DOT law passed in 2017 to all state agencies passed as well.
- For ICAW, the chapter will visit Glenstone Museum’s composting area, where a dedicated program supplies compost to the sustainable landscaping on the museums’ acreage.

**MICHIGAN CHAPTER** - Amy Freeman/Lindsey Walker MOC Co-Chairs

- The Michigan Organics Council has new officers: Cochairs Amy Freeman Rosa and Lindsey Walker of Emmett County; Bill Whitley, Spurt Industries, Treasurer, Abby Morris, Presidio, Secretary. Michigan is also gearing up for their annual conference in May: [https://michiganrecycles.org/2023-michigan-recycling-coalition-annual-conference/](https://michiganrecycles.org/2023-michigan-recycling-coalition-annual-conference/).

**MINNESOTA COMPOSTING COUNCIL** - Kellie Kish, chair
A Big Big change to the Minnesota Composting Council is the retirement of its longtime and only chair, Ginny Black. On the occasion of the MNCC’s 10th Birthday, she is handing the reins of the MNCC over to Kellie Kish of the City of Minneapolis. Congrats on your retirement from the chair position Ginny and we all wish Kellie the best!

Photo at COMPOST2023: Kellie, left, wishing well to Ginny, right.

MNCC just released their third Economic Impact Study of the composting industry in Minnesota conducted by the MNCC and its GreenCorps staff. See the study here.

NEBRASKA Chapter- Nash Leef, President

The Nebraska chapter has just seated its board after a year or so of transition. Welcome;
Nash Leef-President-City of Lincoln
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER - Jairo Gonzalez, President

Check out NJCC’s newly branded newsletter, the Compost Scoop!
https://mailchi.mp/8c7019111919/the-compost-scoop-newsletter?fbclid=IwAR2nbJ8fmCzJtzWtRG2FLpGX8LY5lg1x_UEvTwggyiCK8wXhrAgLR7uDs4l04

The NJ Education and Outreach Committee’s (EOC) vision is to accelerate organic waste reduction and recycling in New Jersey by identifying and sharing best practices and knowledge. EOC has developed several resources to promote awareness and momentum around composting. Finalized documents include the New Jersey Food Waste Recycling Law FAQ and Guidance and Combating Climate Change by Composting. EOC also hosted five Compost Cafes since 2022. Agenda topics ranged from residential food waste hauling, guest speakers from Virginia Composting Chapter, and general networking. Join us at 10:00 am Monday, May 8th for our next Compost Café which will be hosted by EOC member, Virginia Lamb.

NORTH CAROLINA COMPOSTING COUNCIL - Muriel Williman, President

The NCCC had a strong presence at the annual Carolina Recycling Association conference held this year in Wilmington, NC March 27-30. In collaboration with the Coastal Composting Committee, there was a tour of the aerobic digester at the New Hanover County Solid Waste Management facility that composes food waste from UNCW, a tour of the Wilmington Compost Company’s facility where they are in the process of converting an old LCID into a permitted large-scale composting facility. There was a session on compostable plastics that featured staff from USCC (Eric H), EcoProducts, member of the BPI Board, and a McGill facility manager. There was also a hands on session demonstrating food waste reduction and other important environmental lessons, a session featuring several successful food scrap drop-off programs, and a conversation table all about creating composting networks. It was a big time for Organics at the Recycling conference.
(Photo NCCC tour at CRA conference)
In cooperation with NCDEQ, the NCCC co-hosted a webinar on Property Tax Rebates available to composters and others.

The NCCC participated in the International Compost Awareness Week chapter training. The NCCC is once again a sponsor of that event and we are planning daily one-hour Compost Conversations on Zoom for the Compost curious in our communities.

**OHIO CHAPTER-OHIO ORGANICS COUNCIL—Jason Ziss, President**
The Ohio Organics Council is has applied for an Ohio EPA grant to fund a number of upcoming events, and expects to hear later this spring if it is successful.

**TENNESSEE CHAPTER - Laura Howard, President**
TNCC will hold its first ever organics recycling-only conference in Nashville, TN on Oct. 18. (Recently they’ve had SRO at their sessions at the Tennessee Recycling Conference). Stay tuned for more!

**TEXAS CHAPTER - Sam Forester, President**
The Texas Chapter is in the midst of planning a membership campaign. More info coming!

**VIRGINIA CHAPTER—Ryan Duckett, President**
Virginia Composting Council is in the process of exploring a VCC “membership” program and we are partnering with USCC to do so, potentially piloting the roll-out of their integrated national and state “membership” signup and payment. One condition of this collaboration is we must form a committee to decide on member levels, benefits to provide, potentially cost by level, and other aspects. It is all fairly up in the air because to my knowledge this particular state chapter has never had a such an initiative but as our activities increase it is becoming apparent some sort of structure is needed.

This opportunity is in effect a temporary expansion of the Communications committee which I chair (and which I think I’m the only member! If you’re interested in general marketing/communications/organization, we could certainly use more experience). There’s no ongoing obligation to remain on the committee after we square aware the membership issue though would love to have you. It will likely be a commitment of two or three meetings over the next two months or so and the group’s decision will be voted on in the June or August board meeting.
Lisa Curll of Dominion Energy and David Holcomb or McGill Environmental Systems, VCC’s Education and Outreach Chair and Secretary, respectively, at a spring event at Augusta Center.