August 2021

NEXT QUARTERLY CHAPTER MEETING: Sept 21, 2021 4 pm.

TOPIC: Conference and Chapter Membership!

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

CHAPTERS NEWS:

CAC Listening Tour
The Chapter Advisory Committee spent June and July reaching out to chapters to hear about your current challenges and issues. Not everyone has completed their meeting yet-we are still waiting to meet with Ohio, California, Tennessee and Colorado. For those who have met with us-THANK YOU—your answers and candid opinions are helping us form future policy—including...

New Facebook Group!
We heard that you’re NOT fond of the USCC Chapter Leaders website group so we are migrating to Facebook: click here if you haven’t gotten an invite yet to join the group. And ENGAGE-it’s a great place to ask questions of other chapter leaders!

COMPOST2020: New and Exciting Support from USCC!
This year, in our annual conference in January in Austin, TX, we are offering a three-session educational track to chapter leaders, and a Chapter Showcase Soiree—a networking event for chapters and potential chapter members.

The CAC proposed (and the board approved):
• 1 Chapter Leadership team member to attend the full conference free (must sign up by early bird deadline in Nov. 2021)
• Two leadership team members from each chapter @ 50% off
• MD-DC-(which is still a committee) three steering committee members at @50% off

We’ll be talking about this more at our September meeting (see above). Someone from your leadership team must be in attendance at the quarterly chapter meeting to take advantage of these opportunities.

STATE NEWS:

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

No Report.

COLORADO COMPOSTING COUNCIL-Shaun Bruckman, contact

No Report.

ILLINOIS COMPOSTING COUNCIL  John Lardner, Liaison

The Illinois chapter is thrilled with how successful IFSC’s first annual ICAW Lunch & Learns were! There were a week of composting presentations from some amazing speakers and experts in the field, who taught us all how to grow, eat, compost, and repeat. All five presentation recordings are posted on IFSC’s YouTube channel. Check out the recap link below for details of each day’s presentation, the recording links, and some helpful time stamps in case you want to watch or re-watch a particular section of the event. Each day also has a list of great resources that were shared in the Zoom chat during the presentation or shared verbally by the experts. There are so many ways that you can continue to learn about composting and its vital role in our food system! Full recap here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CEckaD9tqEqXeyGWJCQ2PZgcwH3p6F91SKlb7Rwo8/edit

IOWA COMPOSTING COUNCIL, Jennifer Trent

No report.

MD-DC Committee-Beth Leamond, contact.

The MD-DC Compost Council is working on discussions with state agencies on compost testing requirements, phosphorous limits and regular discussions on compost regulations. The group is also working on raising funds for a white paper on composting issues in the state.
MICHIGAN CHAPTER—Amy Freeman, Kerrin O’Brien, MOC contacts

MOC is working on advocating within state regional meetings on an eight-bill package, HB 4454-4461, being considered by the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee to improve and update Michigan solid waste law. They are also planning an in-person October conference.

MINNESOTA COMPOSTING COUNCIL—Ginny Black, president.

The Plate to Garden Committee held an event at the St. Paul Saints minor league game, where seven cubic yards of compost were given away to patrons of the game. The remaining three cubic yards were used by the Saints maintenance crew.

Replacing the plastic bags used for the Plate To Garden has been discussed for a very long time. The committee is considering more sustainable options such as jute bags and/or 5-gallon buckets.

MNCC also voted to join Kiss the Ground, an organization that focuses on regenerative agriculture.

NEBRASKA Chapter—Heather Creevan, liaison

The Nebraska Compost Chapter hosted the Compost Operations Training Course on August 2-6th in Lincoln, NE.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER—Jairo Gonzalez, President

The NJCC is having a course on ASP Composting, and is extending the member discount to USCC members as well. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fundamentals-of-asp-composting-tickets-158023461427

They are also having the annual Organics Waste Management Summit October 27th at the Rutgers EcoComplex.
NORTH CAROLINA COMPOSTING COUNCIL—Julie Moore, liaison

No report.

OHIO CHAPTER-OHIO ORGANICS COUNCIL—Jason Ziss, President

The Ohio Organics Council is planning an in-person Conference in November, and recently hosted a virtual Compost Facility tour event for their members.

TENNESSEE CHAPTER - New officers were recently elected, as Laura Howard, President; Wayne Koeckeritz, Vice President, Clay Ezell Secretary and Jeff Barrie, treasurer. They are having an official launch of their Chapter at the Tennessee Recycling Conference on Aug. 26.

VIRGINIA CHAPTER—Ryan Duckett, President

Committee Assignments. The chapter’s goal is to convene a meeting prior to Oct 12 to “get to know you” and establish direction/strategy. Communications, Education & Outreach, and Advisory committees.

The group is working on an in-person outdoor venue to meet in October. They will also have a booth at the Virginia Recycling Conference, and is working on final bylaws revisions.

USCC COMMITTEES and PROGRAMS NEWS

Young Professionals Gowri Sundaram, staff

Thank you, state chapters for spreading the word about the Mentoring Program. The mentoring committee successfully matched 23 Mentoring pairs!

Also, YP membership scholarship candidates (receiving a USCC membership in exchange for service to the organization) have been selected for this year. The upcoming YP leaders are very enthusiastic about state chapters and want to get involved in their state Advocacy, Composting events etc. Meet them here; https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:e72b7273-ed14-463f-a1eb-a48958615c76

YPs are on the lookout for a composting volunteer project venue at Austin during the conference. If you have any Young Professional related questions, please reach out to Gowri Sundaram. Tell the YPS in your chapter that the YP happy hour happens every month on the first Thursday @7 pm Eastern time. For info email the Outreach committee - their motto is, the more people the more fun! Join the next happy hour on September 2nd 7 pm Eastern time.

Career Center:

Are you looking to post a job? Use the membership benefits by encouraging your chapter members to post jobs with USCC, a project being worked on by the Young Professionals.
accept any jobs related to composting in the field of Business Development, Education, Engineering, Finance, Internship, Labs, Marketing Communications, Non-profit, Operations, Quality Control, Research and Sales.

The YP leaders hope to improve the Career Center to find employment resources for upcoming industry professionals, including networking and gaining a foothold in the industry.

To post a job, members can sign in > go to my profile > quick links > Job Posting Form > submit.

LEAC/Advocacy/Regulations - Linda Norris-Waldt

Thank you to the State Chapters who are participating in our COMPOST Act Lobbying Campaign. In this campaign, a coordinator(s) from the participating states (see below) is working to schedule calls with target Congressional staff to ask their congressperson to COSPONSOR the Compost Act.

Thank you to our coordinators for their hard work: Dan Noble and Craig Kolodge (ACP); Dan Matsch (COCC); Liz Kunkle (ILCC); Ben Parry (MD-DC); Ginny Black (MNCC); Carl Sigel (NCCC); Isaac Bearg (NJCC); Angel Arroyo-Rodriguez (OHOC); Tom Leonard (TNCC) and Marshall Hall, Rich Reidel and David Holcomb (VCC).

NOTE: You CAN earn PDH credits towards CCOM and CCP by participating.

Contact your state coordinator or Linda for more information.

Campaign To Differentiate COMPOST from Fertilizer SUCCEEDS!

We reached out to targeted chapters whose states had members on the American Association of Food and Plant Controls Committee (AAPFCO). Ron Alexander, who represents our industry on this group, spearheaded this initiative upon noticing that compost was being blocked from use on turf by being lumped in with fertilizers as a phosphorous releaser, even though compost is water extractable and slow release. Working with test labs, he presented AAPFCO with a test that could prove slow release so compost could be labelled differently from fertilizer—and with the help of letters from these chapters and members from those states, the oversight committee approved the change in labelling for compost like products!

Thank you to:

Association of Compost Producers (CA), Colorado Composting Council, Illinois Composting Council and Michigan Organics Council for your letters and support!

MEMBERSHIP/STA News Eric Hudiburg, ehudiburg@compostingcouncil.org

ADVOCATE MEMBERSHIP: This membership launched FRIDAY AUGUST 13!
After hearing from chapters and participants in the advocacy focus group, this new membership is designed with advocacy and chapters in mind; chapters have told us that activists, local schools and non-profits are some of their most active supporters, but with USCC’s lowest non-student membership at $155, and most of these folks interested primarily in local issues, it was difficult to encourage them to join. The new membership is $75 and comes with a number of benefits targeted at activists.

If you have state chapter members who would like to be involved in USCC work but don’t need the full suite of USCC benefits, send this email along to them!

USCC has developed an Advocates Toolkit including Letter to the Editor templates, training in testifying and grassroots organizing information that will be available to this member level (as well as higher levels).

TWO WAYS TO UP Your Rebate Payment at Year End!
1. Contact un-renewed members—a few calls on your end to remind expired members in your state that they need to pay could mean rebate $$ in October for you! Let Eric Hudiburg (ehudiburg@compostingcouncil.org) know if you want to see who is on your state’s expired list.
2. Participate in the upcoming membership drive—details to come at the Chapter meeting (see top of bulletin in yellow).

STA CERTIFIED COMPOST/COMPOST USE: Hilary Nichols, STA Manager
hnichols@compostingcouncil.org
Chapters told us in the ROI study that they don’t always promote STA on web pages and facebook; we want to be sure you have tools for this important program! Get the word out:
The Seal of Testing Assurance “STA” Certified Compost Program is an information disclosure tool. STA increases communication between end users and compost manufacturers. We are excited about the tools we have built to increase that communication.

- Website information to share with end users
  - Using compost
  - Template Specifications
  - How to buy quality compost
- Marketing tools for you to use
  - Brochures
  - Videos on using compost
  - Social media copy (members only)

The number of specifiers requiring STA has increased dramatically this year! Apply today so you are ready for your next big bid.
- The STA Requirements are found here.
- Contact Hilary Nichols, STA Program Manager

CREF, Beth Simone, Wayne Howard, Staff
1. ICAW 2022 Poster and Video Contests start on September 1st. The deadline is November 1st. Details on contest requirements and the online entry form can be found here: https://www.compostfoundation.org/ICAW/ICAW-Poster-Contest. It would be great if all the chapters could help get the word out about these contests.

2. In early August, Lincoln, Nebraska hosted the first Compost Operations Training Course (COTC) held since November 2019. It was a great success. The next COTCs are scheduled for Raleigh, NC in September and Fort Collins, CO in November. You can find the latest information on those trainings here: https://www.compostfoundation.org/Education/COTC Little known fact: COTCs are a FOUNDATION program, not a USCC program!!

3. Look for an education survey coming soon from CREF. The Foundation is working hard on increasing the number and type of education opportunities it provides and wants your ideas and thoughts on what would best suit your needs. Please take a few minutes to respond to this survey.