April 2021  

NEXT QUARTERLY CHAPTER MEETING: April 28, 2 p.m.

TOPIC: NETWORKING! And—THE POWERFUL ROI OF USCC CHAPTERS—Our first annual study!

CHAPTER STUFF:

Join in the ICAW Chapter-wide Celebration—with Kiss the Ground’s Finian Makepeace!

Thanks to the North Carolina Chapter, all 13 USCC chapters are marketing this webinar on May 5 to their members; and five chapters have underwritten the event!

For marketing info contact Kate Sullivan, ksullivan@mcgillcompost.com.

Have you logged into the Chapter Leaders Portal lately? Here are two SHORT videos to help you navigate:
Part 1: https://youtu.be/l1Q07FKpMF4

Part 2: https://youtu.be/pyFoWJu7AXs

Templates: We have added NEW TEMPLATES to the Chapter Templates Page:

COVID-19 Friendly Golf Tournament download here
Virtual Meeting Success Guide download here
Webinar Event Flyer download here. Find it here:
https://www.compostingcouncil.org/page/chaptertemplates

**Chapter Advisory Council IS LOOKING FOR COMMENTS!!!**

**CHAPTER PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT:**
The Chapter Advisory Committee has proposed a Mission Statement for the Chapters program within USCC and would like your feedback:

Draft USCC Chapter Program Mission Statement
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

Email Jennifer Trent, chair, with comments: jennifer.trent@uni.edu

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USCC COMMITTEES and PROGRAMS NEWS

*Young Professionals Gowri Sundaram, staff*
MENTORING PROGRAM: USCC’s Mentoring Program Application is now open, until April 30th! If you’re a veteran in the compost manufacturing, organics recycling, or compostable products field and ready to share your knowledge, apply to be a mentor! This is one way of adding Professional Development Hours for certification maintenance.

If you know anyone who is new to the compost community, and looking for professional guidance in the first five years of their career, we strongly encourage you to recommend them to apply to be a mentee. The Mentoring Program is run by members of the USCC Young Professionals program who matched over 60 mentors and mentees during the 2020 application cycle. For more information on the application process and eligibility, as well as testimonials from recent participants, please visit the Get Mentored section of our website.

LEAC/Advocacy/Regulations- Linda Norris-Waldt

Please be sure your chapter participates in LEAC. Even if YOU can’t make it, please send someone involved in your Chapters’ Advocacy to represent your state. We need to hear from you! The calls are on the second Monday of each month, 2 pm Eastern. Email lnorriswaldt@compostingcouncil.org to be on the invite list. Next meeting is THIS MONDAY, April 19, 2 - 3:30 p.m. State reports for the agenda should be recorded here:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fElSNmpBnRE3Lwdk1PdSCYOdKEiowl1UkZQ1iz477D0/edit#gid=885837696

Zoning and Permitting Best Practices Brief Released

Finding suitable zoning for compost facilities has been one of the biggest obstacles our members have found in expanding and starting compost facilities. USCC’s Zoning Task Force has been working for the past year on a Model Zoning Template to supply to cities and counties across the country to proactively adopt practical zoning for compost facilities, and it should be completed in the next several months.

Meanwhile, USCC hired the Sustainable Cities Development Code, to publish a Composting Brief in conjunction with the USCC. It provides an overview of the ways that composting is often placed in government codes, from zoning to state permitting and other applications. It is intended as a high-level view to help municipalities begin thinking about how to add zoning for composting to their local zoning codes. The USCC Model Zoning Template will be added to the document when it is complete.
Read the full Sustainable Development Code Composting Brief.

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

RENIAL TIME: Invoices are heading out to members in your states (and all states!) in the coming month for renewal for 2021-22. After several years of the current fees, STA and USCC membership fees are going up this year. Renewal to stay in good standing for the coming year ends on June 30, 2021.

**ADVOCATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP—Responding to YOU!**  
After hearing from chapters and participants in the advocacy focus group, the Membership Committee recommended and Board of Directors has approved a new Advocate Membership taking effect July 1, 2021. 
This membership was 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. USCC is developing 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). The new membership is $75. Watch for the info in July!

**STA CERTIFIED COMPOST/COMPOST USE:**  Hilary Nichols, hnnichols@compostingcouncil.org

The STA Program renewal notices will be coming in May. STA Participants in your states should be hearing about new benefits and additional STA updates soon.

**MARKETING MARKETING STA and Compost Use—FREE WEBINAR coming:** The Market Development Committee is presenting tools you can use to promote compost products with PRE CREATED content!! April 28, 11 am EDT—register here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_meAJjVMLQ22nHLOc3ktDr](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_meAJjVMLQ22nHLOc3ktDr)

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION,** Cary Oshins, cary.oshins@compostingcouncil.org

Chapters—Don’t forget to Offer Professional Development Hours!
If you are hosting an educational event, such as a webinar, roundtable, or part of a meeting, Certified Compost Operations Managers and Composting Professionals can earn PDHs by simply attending and completing the appropriate form. On the promotional materials for your event, please include a line like this: “This [educational event] will qualify for Professional Development Hours from the US Composting Council. To learn more about the USCC’s Professional Credential Program go to [www.certificationsUSCC.org/FAQ](http://www.certificationsUSCC.org/FAQ)"
The number of PDHs is usually the length of the program, rounded to the nearest quarter-hour. Please call if you have any questions. Cary 484-547-1521

**CREF, Beth Simone, Wayne Howard, Staff**

ICAWS 2021 starts May 2nd! If you need any help with your plans or anything else about ICAW, contact Beth Simone, bethsimone@compostfoundation.org

**Carbon Sequestration Webinar—Mark Your Calendar and join CREF:**
June 16 at 2 p.m., this webinar will look at compost and carbon sequestration. With all the buzz in the news about carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions and soil health, it is imperative for compost operators, compost marketers, municipalities and consultants to understand where composting and compost itself fit into climate change issues. Register here:


**STATE NEWS:**

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

The California Chapter is in the midst of Legislator's Month, holding: Virtual Legislator Meetings, for the entire month of April; and in May, will be making daily “compost tweets” to all legislators for International Compost Awareness Week.

ACP is also hosting and looking for sponsors for the Compost Manufacturing Principles & Practices Course, the “Hybrid” version of COTC, on June 8 - 10, 2021. Want to join us? Go to: [https://www.compostfoundation.org/Education/COTC](https://www.compostfoundation.org/Education/COTC)

**COLORADO COMPOSTING COUNCIL—Shawn Bruckman,** contact

The Chapter hosted the Compost Principles and Practice Virtual training and demo day in March and it was a huge success. The Chapter also has a big social media campaign planned for ICAW and will be doing a compost webinar with SWANA the week of ICAW as well.

**ILLINOIS COMPOSTING COUNCIL John Lardner,** Liaison
An energetic group from the Illinois Composting Council (subsidiary of the Illinois Food Scrap Council) has been planning daily activities for their celebration of International Compost Awareness Week! Anyone can attend the virtual events:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtdOirqj0vGdG2Q891uFtFiUjjlx6dK9WU

IOWA COMPOSTING COUNCIL, Jennifer Trent

The Iowa Composting Council is working on organization of new board members, committees and relationship with its fiscal sponsor, the Iowa Recycling Coalition.

MD-DC Committee-Beth Leamond, contact.

The MD-DC Compost Council worked with a coalition to advance a statewide bill requiring large food waste generators to divert their material from disposal if capacity exists within a 30-mile radius. The bill, called Maryland Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals, passed the House (HB0264) and the Senate (SB0483) and is now on its way to the Governor's desk. In preparation for its implementation and the need for strong source separation requirements, we've started dialoguing with reps from the Maryland Department of the Environment. We are also working on a White Paper to provide a framework for local governments to prioritize organics recycling objectives and measure success. For ICAW and to bring people together, our Networking group is organizing a tour of Greenbelt, Maryland's community composting initiatives as well as a tour and workday at ECO City Farms' urban composting site.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER-Amy Freeman, Kerrin O'Brien, MOC contacts
Michigan Recycling Coalition’s Spring Conference coming in May is focusing on the “big picture”—how the materials management approach includes organics as well as cans and bottles; and how everyone can win with grants. Register at: https://www.michiganrecycles.org/spring-2021/

MINNESOTA COMPOSTING COUNCIL- Ginny Black, president.

Market Development Update
The MNCC’s Market Development is pulling together the third in a series of three webinars on compost market issues. This session will focus treating storm water with compost BMP, the Benefits and Cautions. The webinar is scheduled for July 28th from 1:30 to 3:00. Two speakers have committed, Ron Alexander of Alexander and Associates and Dr. Britt Faucette. a third speaker maybe added. More details to come.

ICAW- MNCC’s Plate to Garden program
The Minnesota Composting Council will be celebrating International Compost Awareness Week all week long (May 2nd-8th) with different compost-related activities, ending in a Plate to Garden event on Saturday, May 8th at the Urban Growler in St. Paul. At the event, you can grab a bag of compost for use in your garden, on your lawn, or for spring planting. We’ll have prizes to give away, education about compost programs in Minnesota, and free bags of compost!
Visit the MNCC’s ICAW webpage to stay up-to-date with the week’s activities. http://www.mncompostingcouncil.org/international-compost-awareness-week.html

Legislative Update
MNCC is continuing to work to get a compostable product labeling bill passed at the State level. The bill extends the State’s compostable bag labeling to include food service items and packaging. The bill (HF1176) has passed several committees in the house and is included in the House omnibus bill. A companion bill was introduced in the senate (SF1396) but did not receive a hearing before the deadline. MNCC is working to gather bi-partisan support from legislators so that the bill stays in the omnibus bill and is passed in conference committee this session. For more information visit the MNCC’s Advocacy web page.

NEBRASKA Chapter- Megan Jackson, liaison

The Nebraska Compost Chapter is hosting the Compost Operations Training Course on August 2-6th in Lincoln, NE, info here: https://www.compostingcouncil.org/event/NECOTC2021 and has been working on organizational tasks with CREF and recruitment of sponsors.
Nebraska and USCC just completed their second joint membership drive with two new members brought to both groups.

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER- Jairo Gonzalez, President

The NJCC is staying busy on the educational and advocacy front. In light of NJ recently legalizing recreational marijuana, we held a webinar on Compost and
Cannabis. We featured experts on New Jersey, and national policy as well as composting technology. On the advocacy side New Jersey has been been hard at work on a number of efforts but one of note: **S2515 which aims to mandate post-consumer recycled content in plastics.** The NJCC lobbied to ensure that compostable plastics are excluded from this language - the end product of recycled compostables, should be compost! However, as importantly as the bill itself, we are using it as an opportunity to build relationships with and educate state environmental groups (who were skeptical), the state Department of Environmental Protection agency and even unlikely allies such as chemical manufacturers who make the materials for compostable products and the Chemistry Council. We look forward to building on those relationships in the future!

**NORTH CAROLINA COMPOSTING COUNCIL—Julie Moore, liaison**

North Carolina is hosting Virtual Sustainable Spirits is a casual monthly gathering on Zoom hosted by the NC Composting Council & Climate Action NC on April 22. It’s free, unstructured, and open to everyone interested in anything from renewable energy and civic engagement to green building, organic farming, and beyond!

**OHIO CHAPTER—OHIO ORGANICS COUNCIL—Jason Ziss, President**

The Ohio Organics Council is working on their annual summer compost facility tour, which is going virtual, as well as beginning plans for an in-person November conference. Stay tuned for news!

**TENNESSEE CHAPTER—Clay Ezell, President.**

The TNCC has recently added five new board members, bringing our total to 11, and is onboarding them now for Committee Assignments to get to work on the Four Pillars of our newly-adopted Strategic Plan: Advocacy, Outreach, Sustainability and Market Development. We now have truly statewide representation on the Board, and look forward to conducting our first Member Drive in July.

**P.S. Resources!!!**

1. SEE A USCC or CREF eblast, news or program you want to share? Contact Linda, Beth or Eric and we can provide it in a format you can use for your members/community!

2. Next Week is Volunteer Appreciation Week—THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO TO ADVANCE THE COMPOST INDUSTRY!

We have developed graphics for you—if you ask for it quickly, we can set these up for YOUR chapter (these are samples).
Thank you!
to our board volunteers!

HAPPY NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK!

from the

COMPOSTING COUNCIL
STATE CHAPTER OF THE
U.S. COMPOSTING COUNCIL
Thank you!

We LOVE our Chapter Volunteers!
Happy National Volunteer Week!

Linda Norris-Waldt, USCC Advocacy and Chapter Relations Director
lnorriswaldt@compostingcouncil.org

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Proud Member
I'm a Soilbuilder!