March 2020

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING: **Tuesday, March 31, 2 pm**

Please forward this to your members if you wish!

Note-any events mentioned in this newsletter should be verified with the contact before attending due to collection of this info before effects of the coronavirus spread and cancellations. **We wish all of you well as you cope with this stressful time. Be well.**

**USCC NEWS**

*Chapter News:*

*On the Horizon* The USCC’s Membership Committee has been working on the structure of the chapters program, which is being revamped as we grow to our next level of chapters (we now have 10 Charter Chapters and 2 committees). A contractor will be coming on board in April to integrate best practices from other organizations to our program and the goal is a new structure to introduce to chapters in June.

*Web Page Service:* This new feature on the Chapter menu of services continues to be available and Chapter Support funding can be used to purchase it. Page launch price is $350. See more details of cost and [application here](#).

*Upcoming Call:* Aside from sharing news, we will have representatives of the Strategic Alliance Committee on the March 31 call to discuss initiatives to encourage cross-communication/collaboration between national and state chapter committees working on the same objectives.

**COMMITTEES and PROGRAMS**
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE  **Linda Norris-Waldt**, membership and communications director
This committee has been focusing on restructuring the Chapters program to meet the July 1 deadline for new structure. A consultant is being hired to help with this process.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
*Credit Cards*: USCC (probably like you) is experiencing high credit card transaction fees taking a big bite out of our budget. We are crafting messaging to encourage members to switch to Direct Deposit for their membership renewal so that more money can go to USCC programs. If you’d like to see our messaging, send an email to Linda.

**Young Professionals Program**
*Emerging Composter poster contest was a hit at the conference; winner was Sashti Balasundaram of WeRadiate.*
*Webinar Committee is reactivating this spring.*
*Steering Committee quarterly meeting is Monday 3/16*
*Mentoring Program applications open in April.*

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES COMMITTEE – **Hilary Nichols**, Staff
Stay tuned for report on 3/31 Call!

**LEAC/Advocacy/Regulations** – **Cary Oshins**, Associate Director, staff
*Please be sure your chapter is participating. 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 cary.oshins@compostingcouncil.org to be on the invite list.*

**CCREF-Training** **Wayne Howard**, staff
Two of our newest chapters, Nebraska and New Jersey, will be hosting Compost Operations Training Courses in 2020.
CCREF-ICAW, Beth Simone, Staff
Magnus Kallas, a resident of London, England, beat hundreds of entries for the winning design for the 2020 International Compost Awareness poster design contest. Beth Simone held a coordinators training Dec. 9; if your chapter doesn’t have a coordinator for the upcoming May 3-9 2020, its time to begin planning!

Watch for announcements on how to hold virtual events!

STATE NEWS:

ASSOCIATION OF COMPOST PRODUCERS/CALIFORNIA COMPOST COUNCIL, Dan Noble, exec. director
ACP 2020 Annual Meeting - Feb 26
a. ACP Compost Hub Program -
   i. Divide the state into six regions (two Caltrans’ 12 districts each); each region coordinated by one of our six ACP Board Members, each region containing one or more of the ACP Supporting Members
   ii. Work with ACP Supporting and National members to learn, teach, and serve the five key Government/Non-profit compost market development throughout California jurisdictions (cities and counties) in each of the six regions.
b. Working with 5 key government and non-profit programs that use compost:
   • SB 1383 implementation by CalRecycle and the California Air Resources Control Board with the Institute of Local Government (partner with the California League of Cities)
   • Caltrans landscape and stormwater management on California’s roadsides - 12 Workshops in each of the 12 districts with Filtrexx, ACP Board Member.
   • CDFA’s Healthy Soil Program with UC Cooperative Extension Technical Advisors, and CDFA staff, on compost database
expansion, and use of compost at farms engaging in the Healthy Soil Program

- **Calfire Program** support; especially “Fire Prevention” and “Resource Management”
- **Carbon Cycle Institute’s “Carbon Farming Network/Hub” program** with California’s Resource Conservation Districts

2. **Compost Operating Training Course, in Santa Rosa, CA** – March 16-20, 2020; ACP is getting additional sponsors and will present the ACP Compost Hub market development program during the Marketing Session of the COTC

3. - **BiocycleCONNECTwest.com-ACP is** Promotional sponsor of the event and helped organize the “Closing Roundtable: Food, Water, Energy, Soil: SB 1383 & Infrastructure Integration”

4. **Legislators Day April 29**
   a. ICAW Posters distributed to all of California Legislator Capitol Building Offices by the third week of
   b. Meet with as many Assembly Members and Senators
   c. See “ACP Legislator's Day April 29 2020 Plan - 2.15.20 Update”

**COLORADO COMPOSTING COUNCIL- Bob Yost, President**

BIG NEWS: The **Organics Management Plan** Bill has passed out of the Colorado State House, set to go before the Senate! The bill requires the Co Dept of Public Health and Environment to “study and make recommendations regarding organic waste management practices to encourage compost use on soil to promote carbon storage.”

Congratulations to the Colorado team that has been working on this for the past year.

**ILLINOIS COMMITTEE- John Lardner, Liaison**

Illinois is holding its annual spring social on March 18th.

**MD-DC Committee- Brenda Platt, contact**
On February 19, the Maryland House Committee on Transportation and the Environment heard testimony for House Bill 589, "Solid Waste Management – Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion – Food Residuals." The bill requires large food waste generators to reduce, rescue, and/or recycle their food waste if there is nearby capacity to accept this material. The MD-DC Compost Council, as well as the US Composting Council, supported the legislation and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance has spearheaded the legislation alongside Delegate Lorig Charkoudian (District 20).

HB 589 gives food waste generators flexibility to decide how to divert their food waste from landfills and incinerators. The law only applies if an organics recycling capacity exists within a 30-mile radius that is willing and able to take their material. The bill does not require generators to send to that facility, but only to avoid disposal if capacity exists. The idea behind the bill is to spur not only needed infrastructure but close-in facilities. If passed, this new policy would go into effect in January 2021, first targeting those generating 2 tons or more of food waste each week (a typical grocery store). Additional food waste generators would be required to divert in succeeding years. Similar legislation has passed in a number of states, including California, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Vermont.

From left, Brenda Platt, ILSR, (member); Ben Parry, Compost Crew (member) and Adam Ortiz, Montgomery County, prepare for testifying.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER-Amy Freeman, Kerrin O’Brien, MOC contacts

- Michigan has an upcoming (March 16th) Michigan Organics Council General Membership Meeting. Here is the information and our agenda. We are pretty excited to have David McDonald from Soils for Salmon, Washington, as our speaker. We are launching our Landscape for the Lakes initiative patterned after the Soils for Salmon project.
- The Michigan Recycling Coalition's 38th Annual Conference will take place May 5-7, 2020 in Bay City Michigan. A full day tour highlights one innovative Michigan composter and an anaerobic digester that now has depackaging capabilities. Two other conference session will address developing PFAS issues at compost sites and managing food waste in the back of house. Look for more information on the MRC website - michiganrecycles.org
MINNESOTA COMPOSTING COUNCIL—Ginny Black, president.

Event: MNCC is holding the 2nd Annual ICAW/Plate To Garden event May 2nd at the Urban Growler. As a result of the Chapter meeting at the Conference the MNCC is planning a Happy Hour for chapter members and non-member, date to be determined.

Legislation: The MNCC is also sponsoring legislation that requires that no food service ware can claim compostability unless it meets ASTM D6400 &D6868. The legislation also prohibits green washing of products that don’t meet those standards. This piece of legislation is in the Governors Legislative Package, so has a good shot at passing. In addition, the MNCC supports and is monitoring legislation that prohibits “Knowingly adding” PFAS to food packaging and a bonding bill that would award funding to counties to construct compost facilities and a variety of other capital project that would support organics recycling.

NEBRASKA Chapter—Megan Jackson, liaison
No Report

NEW JERSEY COMPOSTING COUNCIL—Jairo Gonzalez, president
NJ COMPOSTING COUNCIL Members, supporters, and colleagues are excited that A2371 has passed!

As this bill goes to the Governor’s desk for signing we want to highlight that in addition to requiring large food waste generators to recycle this bill will:

- Create a Food Waste Recycling Market Development Council to provide recommendations on how to increase demand for products and energy generated by food waste recycling facilities
- Require state departments or agencies that engage in landscaping or construction to use compost, mulch or other soil amendments generated from recycling of organic materials where competitively priced and feasible; and
- Provide a financial incentive for energy generated at a food waste recycling facility by giving the facility a “class I renewable energy certificate” which in turn can be sold on an open market or to energy suppliers and can be used by energy suppliers to meet renewable energy portfolio requirements.

Unfortunately the NJCC had to postpone a members meeting planned for next week due to COVID-19 concerns.
NORTH CAROLINA COMPOSTING COUNCIL—Julie Moore, liaison
In January, NCC held its Annual Strategy meeting, participated in the Green & Growin’ conference of the NC Nursery & Landscape Assoc, and held the first Sustainable Spirits gathering in Durham.
In February NCCC continued consulting with NC churches to establish their composting and organics collection programs. Sponsored the first Eco Cafe at St Paul’s Christian Church in Raleigh, and held a Sustainable Spirits gathering in Raleigh. In March NCCC participated in the Water Resources Research Institute of UNC’s Annual Conference, will table at Cary Arbor Day celebration, is holding a Coffee Break session in the Carolina Recycling Associations Conference And will hold a Sustainable Spirits gathering in Durham.

The Coastal Composting Council, a branch of NCCC, continues its public educational series called What Goes Where. The February session included leaders from the city, county, haulers, and University of NC Wilmington, it was very well attended. Their next meeting is March 12th.

NCCC continued working with Every Tray Counts to develop composting programs in schools throughout NC. Their latest accomplishment is to establish Waste Free Wednesday in New Hanover County schools, and will be hiring their first part time employee this month.

OHIO CHAPTER—OHIO ORGANICS COUNCIL—Jason Ziss, President
*no report

TENNESSEE COMPOSTING COUNCIL—Clay Ezell, president
The Tennessee Chapter
- been approved as a Chapter by the USCC
- Formed a 5-person Board of Directors with the following Officers/Members:
  -- Clay Ezell, The Compost Company, President (Nashville)
  -- Mike Larivee, Compost Fairy, Vice President (Memphis)
  -- Jeff Barrie, TN Environmental Council, Treasurer (Nashville)
  -- Tom Leonard, Sevier Solid Waste (Sevier County, TN)
  -- Robert Wadley, TN Department of Environment and Conservation (Nashville)

We’ve had our first board meeting and will be having our 2nd meeting at the Environmental Show of the South in May in Chattanooga. We are at work now on a website, filing our 501 c 3, and putting together a listserv of potential members, and will look forward to putting out a press release in conjunction with you once we have those two items in place.

VIRGINIA COMPOSTING COUNCIL: Ken Bannister, president.
The Chapter had an in-person meeting during the month of February and a conference call meeting in March.