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 Benefits for Chapters focus
The Chapter Advisory Committee is studying the benefits USCC provides Chapters and how best to communicate them, both to make sure you as existing chapters know what is available, and so that prospective Chapters are clear about reasons for forming. A new, completed BENEFITS document will be available at COMPOST2022.

New Facebook Group!
We now have 28 of you on our Facebook Group. We are going to be posting more and more documents and info there, so please join if you haven’t yet. The link is here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/542256670306345

COMPOST2022: 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.

So far we have attendees who have registered for the free/reduced price from COCC, IACC, NCCC, MNCC and VCC. The link to request the code is here.

STATE NEWS:

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

ACP Working Group Activities

• Healthy Soil - How best to marry the biology of soil health (e.g. Healthy Soil Management Plans, and SoilFoodWeb.com) with the physical & chemical parameters of “Certified Certified Compost” (STA)
• Education - We launched a new “ACP Education Workgroup” this fall, chaired by Zahra Kelly, with Recology, and Craig Kolodge, ACP Board Member, San Pasqual Valley Soils. They are developing the ACP Education Plan for 2022, focused on the message, webinar & events that help marry the "we build healthy soil" category of value, with the use and application of compost. Dan Noble is scoping and accessing extra-membership funding for these projects based on the $600 million budget in California for organics management, recycling, and carbon sequestration initiatives.
• Communication - Board Members, Jeff Ziegenbein, IERCA.org, and Cindy Liles, HDR, Inc. with support from Marcus Coulombe IERCA.org, continue to publish ACP Spotlights, on a regular basis keeping our membership and other stakeholders abreast of California compost production and use expansion
• Alliances - ACP is working with other associations to extend and expand the value and volume of compost being used in California, e.g. California Organics Recycling Council, California Climate & Agricultural Network, etc.

COLORADO COMPOSTING COUNCIL-Shawn Bruckman and Dan Matsch, contacts

• COTC training is this week in Fort Collins!
• COCC’s Quarterly meeting is coming up on Dec 7th from 3-5 pm.. This will be a big meeting as we will be discussing the 2022 work plan and budget, leadership positions/elections, and the new membership structure.
• COCC has had interest from legislative champions on any bill ideas supporting the statewide organics management plan. COCC had a very preliminary meeting
to discuss making the path to Class 3 (food waste and manure) permitting easier but do not yet have a solid idea. The state Organics Management Plan/Study consultant will be Tetra Tech. Broadly, the RC policy committee has been working on EPR stakeholder work in advance of the 2022 session. This will hopefully including organics management in relation to compostable packaging, however bill language is still in process.

- COCC lobbied successfully for passage of a state "Healthy Soils Program" to encourage and assist farmers, ranchers, and land managers in adopting soil-building practices including using compost. We will participate in a working group beginning in January to make that compost/soil health connection stronger.

**ILLINOIS COMPOSTING COUNCIL, John Lardner, Liaison**

Saturday 11/6 there were 58 locations around Illinois hosting Pumpkin Smash events: [https://www.scarce.org/pumpkins/](https://www.scarce.org/pumpkins/) We'll have the stats on the success of the events next month, but for now we can share some press about it:


Illinois is beginning to put together our planning group for our Illinois ICAW and would love to hear what others are planning :)

**IOWA COMPOSTING COUNCIL, Jennifer Trent**

The Iowa Waste Reduction Center gave a $10,000 sponsorship to the Iowa Recycling and Solid Waste Management annual conference that took place in early October. For this, Iowa got to host two sessions that focused on the state of composting in Iowa and the Iowa Composting Council. Iowa also got a booth in the exhibit hall and also hosted a cooking competition using food scraps (see photos at left). One of Iowa's permitted compost sites gave away baggies full of compost in our booth with a sticker on the baggie that had the IACC's logo. We also gave away ICAW posters and stickers in the exhibit hall booth. We had a sign-up sheet as well. During the sessions the chapter passed around a sign-up sheet to get people involved in the IACC.

"Since we are just 1 year old and have spent the last year structuring the IACC, we just finalized by-laws at the October meeting, we are working on a header with our logo, and a template for our future newsletter as well as a fee structure. Iowa has a slew of compost operators who need re-certification by next June according to Iowa's
regulations. We have discussed the need for training for these people and want some estimates as to how much this will cost to hire USCC and/or CREF. Also, there is some interest in a “train the trainer” compost event in Iowa.”

The plan is to have everything set by the end of the year so in January to provide benefits and implement a fee structure.

**MD-DC Committee-Beth Leamond**, contact.

The MD-DC Compost Council heard from Paul Tukey of Glenstone Museum in suburban Maryland, who has been working on lawn top dressing with compost, about state rules on phosphorous in compost. The group is also exploring incorporation, and working on its legislative agenda for 2022, as well as quarterly meetings with state regulators to monitor previous state legislation as it has become regulation-based.

The State of MD is holding a Food Waste Summit on Dec. 1.

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

The Michigan Chapter had a booth at the Michigan Recycling Conference where they promoted composting and membership. The USCC donated The Humanure Handbook as a raffle prize, won by raffle winner Sarah Archer from Iris Waste Diversion Specialist/5 Heart Worm Farm. USCC member Greg Mankowski helped at the booth along with Gowri Sundaram, USCC staff, and Amy Freeman, MOC liaison (see photo at left). Thanks to the MRC for providing a booth to the chapter!

**MINNESOTA COMPOSTING COUNCIL-Ginny Black**, Chair

The MNCC is pleased to announce that it has hired Mary Cich as an Administrative Assistant to assist the Board of Directors (see Mary’s photo at left). Mary comes to the chapter with extensive experience in the development of membership, the management of professional events and meetings, various social media platforms, website management, and other communications skills in several electronic media. In addition she is a graphic artist. She participates in the Minneapolis organics collection program, composts in her backyard and is an avid gardener. She is excited to learn more about the broader world of composting. And yes, she is a dog lover.
MNCC’s Legislative Committee discussed tinting of products in connection with the compostable packaging labelling bill. Outreach is underway to the Minnesota Grocers Association and WinCup, the two opponents of the bill, to see if language modifications would leave the purpose of the bill intact, but remove their objections. Efforts need to be directed to finding a Republican author in the Senate.

Marketing Committee will hold a February 2nd webinar on the topic of jumping worms. The issue of spreading jumping worms through the use of compost and mulch has arisen with regulators. As a result, it has become a concern for composters and mulch producers.

**NEBRASKA Chapter-Heather Creevan, liaison**

Nebraska has a new program director who will be working with the chapter, Kaya Smith. Kaya is a lifelong storyteller. Through her experiences as a Mexican-American and her work within non-profit and retail business models, she has learned that she feels at her best when she can share and connect with others. She also has a strong background in agriculture that will be essential when connecting with communities and cropland producers. Kaya is serving the Nebraska Recycling Council as Program Director. She is most excited for the opportunity to work with feedlots, waste collectors, and farmers to create a valuable composting network. As program director, Kaya will also be instrumental in promoting and advocating for waste reduction and sustainability throughout Nebraska using community-based social marketing techniques to design, develop, and implement programs for material management.

Nebraska Chapter and USCC member Jean Waters received the Advocacy Champion Award from the Nebraska Recycling Council this year for her work in advancing resource recovery through #feedlot #composting in Nebraska. Congrats Jean! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZnG3MXtJxo&ti=3s

**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER-Jairo Gonzalez, President**
NJCC just finished their October Organics Waste Management Summit last week with 70 participants registered through an Eventbrite platform with the majority in person and a small group by request/invitation only through the zoom streaming platform. Additionally, they had 8 exhibitors and 6 sponsors (see photo at left). There were four great panels, plus a compostable products update from Rhodes Yepsen at BPI, and a keynote discussion with the Deputy Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

The event was held at Rutgers University EcoComplex so NJCC followed their guidelines which are the state guidelines - so masks were required, vaccination/testing was not required but they kept a log of participants for potential contact tracing.

NORTH CAROLINA COMPOSTING COUNCIL- Muriel Williman, president, Julie Moore, liaison
In September, phone meetings were held by NCCC members with staff from the offices of Representative’s Adams, Price, and Rouzer to review The Compost Act (HR 4443 and SB 2388) and to request that the 3 Representatives sponsor the Act. While there are currently 17 sponsors for the Act in the House so far, no NC Representatives have become sponsors as yet. NCCC is encouraging members and allies to utilize the US Compost Infrastructure Coalition website at: www.compostinfrastructure.com (click on the “Take Action” tab to generate a letter of support to House or Senate members) to ask them to be co-sponsors of The Compost Act.

The NCCC BoD is also working to develop a Farm Bill/Compost Act Legislation Education Session MASHUP, to be held on-line November 16, 4PM-5:15PM, featuring USCC’s own Linda Norris Waldt and Carolina Farm Stewardship Advocacy Coordinator Nick Wood! Stay tuned for registration information.

NC COTC, held in person this year, September 13-17, at NCSU, was a big success! Significant Covid-19 precautions were necessary both through the State University’s rules and regulations and best practices put forth by CREF. Class size was reduced to half to allow for sufficient social distances, all 24 students, and all presenters and volunteers were required to be vaccinated and wear a mask while indoors. Even with all of the restrictions, participation was energized, interested and dynamic! There was a strong sense of connection and desire to network amongst the participants. Post-session evaluations were largely positive, with the request for more time and opportunities to network—after being in lockdown, it seems people are ready to meet up and get active. More women than ever (percentage wise) were present.

The last Sustainable Spirits of the year was held in October at a brewpub in Durham, NC and featured a Plant Swap and great conversations. We have a check-list of HOW TO initiate and run a Sustainable Spirits event, if anyone, anywhere would like to echo this outreach and networking extravaganza.

The Fall Farm Festival, McLeansville/Greensboro, Oct 16, was a great success (see photo). Julie Moore manned a table and Muriel Williman taught backyard composting throughout the day at the City of Greensboro, NC new Compost Demonstration Site featuring over 10 styles of home composters, a vermicomposting system, and BSF
pod. The Demonstration site was funded in part by a grant from NC DEQ and is managed by the City’s Parks and Rec Community Garden Coordinator, Juliet Hale. We hope to be collaborating more with the City and their Compost advocates in the future.

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

The Ohio Organics Council is working on their November 12 in-person Conference in November.

**TENNESSEE CHAPTER** - Laura Howard, President

The chapter officially launched their Chapter at the Tennessee Recycling Conference on Aug. 26.

**USCC COMMITTEES and PROGRAMS NEWS**

**VIRGINIA COMPOSTING COUNCIL**—Ryan Duckett, President

Four VCC members including David Holcomb, Marshall Hall, Chip Hall, and Ryan Duckett, president, attended the Virginia Recycling Association conference in Williamsburg in early October, and rolled out a new booth and banner (see photo). They have also purchased a table runner for future events but it didn’t arrive in time, but it will be used at future events. Many thanks to McGill, who donated the banner and allowed David to staff the booth on behalf of VCC for the duration of the event, who also got VCC shirts made for those who wanted them in the Council. This photo is taken of the booth prior to its finalization. Compost samples from across the Commonwealth were presented at the table, representing a good portion of the product generated by the compost industry in Virginia.

At the conference David and Marshall did a great job introducing the Council to the Manager of the Office of Pollution Prevention at VDEQ, and she is now our first regulator to sign up for our listserv distribution. As announced in the attached email, Marshall connected with a fellow graduate of his high school who happens to be a Member of the US Congress (Abigail Spanberger), and who subsequently co-sponsored
the COMPOST Act House Bill after discussing the benefits of compost. VCC members Craig Coker and Greg Evanylo each represented the organics management industry at the first meeting of the VA Governor’s Waste Reduction and Diversion Task Force as members. It was formed by executive order and will help plan for and carry forward sustainable materials management strategies and goals for the Commonwealth, including developing composting infrastructure and diversion programs. Chip also attended the meeting. Craig has been serving as a technical advisor to the USDA/NRCS pilot test for a new Conservation Standard (#808) that will pay farmers for the use of compost as a soil regeneration/carbon amendment-use-in-agriculture measure.

The VCC has had their first committee meetings (Communications, Education & Outreach, and Advisory committees), started a sharable events/coordination calendar, and set new bylaws into effect at our October Member’s Meeting and later in the day held an in-person social in a community garden in Richmond (first in over a year and a half). We’ve added a handful of new members to our distribution list, including several new names from Southwest Virginia. They will also be the featured organization at a sustainable drinks environmental networking event coming up in Mid-November on 11/18 (RVA Green Drinks). Some next step goals include rolling out a website, among other procedure setting and administrative progress.

LEAC/Advocacy/Regulations- Linda Norris-Waldt

The COMPOST Act continues to gain cosponsors for a total of 17 now—4 resulting directly from meetings with you, our chapters! Thanks to all chapters who have been working hard at meetings. We are waiting for the final word about how much money is currently in the Reconciliation Build Back Better bill for infrastructure, inspired by The COMPOST Act. If the Act does not “take off” on its own, due to the educational efforts of USCC’s chapters and advocates, as well as the Compost Infrastructure Coalition, Congressional staffers are encouraging about the opportunity to include composting as a major discussion in the Farm Bill, which is normally built over a two year period beginning next spring.

An EPR Task Force with representatives from USCC, BPI and CMA is working on getting on the “radar” of legislators who sponsored EPR bills in 2021 in hopes of lobbying for funds for composting when compostable products are part of the bill. Stay tuned for opportunities for Chapters to be part of this work!

FREE ADVOCACY WEBINAR FOR MEMBERS!
With our very own Marshall Hall VCC and Dan Matsch COCC!
Register now:

**MEMBERSHIP News** Eric Hudiburg, [ehudiburg@compostingcouncil.org](mailto:ehudiburg@compostingcouncil.org)

**COMPOST IS LOCAL Campaign:**
The campaign was extended until November 19, and we are doing one more eblast/social media this week to get your teams more leads to call. With 11 new member total so far, here are the [dashboard leaders](https://www.compostingcouncil.org/) for the contest to date:

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<th>Rank</th>
<th>State Chapter</th>
<th># of new members joined</th>
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