Spring 2022

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 [here]; please REVIEW AND UPDATE if you have changes.

STATE NEWS:

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

In California, the chapter has been doing a great deal of strategic work. If you would like to know more about the actual handouts, contact Dan!

- "ACP Compost is the Solution 2022" - We completed this handout that we developed to introduce both ACP and why compost is important for policymakers and local leaders, accompanying a personal letter to them … and modified for them for the particular focus of their office and their respective staffs. This will also be an attachment during our ACP Marketing Program this year, along with the CREF ROI documents that Ron Alexander put together last year, and posted on [https://compostfoundation.org/Return-on-Investment](https://compostfoundation.org/Return-on-Investment)
- "ACP 2021 Annual Report - 2.21.22" This is an "outline report" of what we did last year through January 2022.
- "ACP 2022 Calendar + Annual Plan 3.7.22/ACP 2022 Calendar" We put together our Calendar for this year on this worksheet within the Calendar workbook.
- "ACP 2022 Calendar + Annual Plan 3.7.22/ ACP 2022 Annual Plan" We put together our ACP 2022 Annual Plan, with Objectives and Key Performance
Indicators (KPI's). Each of the 15 KPIs has its own operational steps to implement.

COLORADO COMPOSTING COUNCIL - Dan Matsch / Monique diGiorgio, contacts

New Newsletter! The Colorado Composting Council sent out their inaugural Newsletter (see it here). Congratulations!

After much work, the chapter has also inaugurated its Membership program. Check out their flyer here.

Their new leadership team is: Co-Chairs, Dan Matsch and Monique DiGiorgio, Financial Liaison Julie Mach; Recorder, Naomi Curland, Board Liaison, Jessica Lally, Staff lead, Ally Byzewski Recycle Colorado,

ILLINOIS COMPOSTING COUNCIL  John Lardner, Liaison

The Illinois chapter had four leadership team member attend the Fundamentals of a Strong Chapter training and is brainstorming ways to grow the chapter. Kila Hardwick attended the USCC conference chapter training on behalf of the chapter.

IOWA COMPOSTING COUNCIL, Jennifer Trent

The Iowa Composting Council (IACC) is hosting a one-day compost operator training course designed to meet training recertification required in Iowa. This course has been approved by the Iowa DNR for April 12th and will include both classroom lectures and hands-on field exercises. Composting expert Bob Rynk from the Compost Research and Education Foundation will teach at the Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency Compost Facility

MD-DC Committee

The MD-DC Compost Committee has been holding regular dialogues with representatives from Maryland’s state regulatory agency, Maryland Department of Environment, to provide feedback on rollout of Maryland’s new organics diversion law, and other topics.

The group also endorsed several bills about composting in the 2022 General Assembly, including a fund that would result from a tipping fee surcharge for recycling and composting endeavors, including composting and compost use grants. Some of the fees would go to municipalities for litter prevention and recycling as well as composting.

MD-DC continues to pursue non-profit status with some members preparing governing documents, and soon will be recruiting its first official board.
MICHIGAN CHAPTER - Amy Freeman, Kerrin O’Brien, MOC contacts

MOC is hosting a Compost Operations Training Course with the Compost Research and Education Foundation in July 2022, and is working to recruit sponsors.

MINNESOTA COMPOSTING COUNCIL - Ginny Black, president.

In February Minnesota held a webinar on jumping worms, and invited other chapters to participate. They discussed jumping worms and strategies for preventing their spread at compost and mulch sites.

NEBRASKA Chapter

No report

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER - Jairo Gonzalez, President

The New Jersey Chapter is finalizing a 2022 Compost Operations Training Course in the state in June with the Compost Research and Education Foundation.

The chapter also held an Annual Meeting and Compost Cafe on March 10; and are planning the third annual Organics Waste Management Summit October 27th at the Rutgers EcoComplex.

NJCC is also working with Kean University on a grant received to implement food scrap recycling on campus, starting with a waste audit. It includes an educational campaign with training on the benefits of composting and utilization of compost, webinars and media outreach to raise awareness across campus. Following the campaigns two additional audits will be conducted to measure the success of the campaign. See the release here.

NORTH CAROLINA COMPOSTING COUNCIL - Julie Moore, liaison, Muriel Williman, president

The NCCC is pleased to announce the election of new Board Member Erika Fye! [Photo attached] Erika works at the Energy Foundation where she assists in grant-making and strategic communications to nonprofits focused on climate change and environmental justice work. She has been bringing her environmental champion skills to the table for the NCCC for several years, volunteering at events and then stepping up in July of 2021 to Chair the Education and Outreach Committee. Sincere thanks and big congratulations and to Erika for her leadership, dedication, and service!
Event season won’t wait in North Carolina! Education and Outreach Committee (EOC) members led drop-in sessions on backyard composting at two of the Wake County Public Libraries in January as part of their “Renew” series. This coincided with a recent donation of books to the libraries on composting and other eco-friendly activities.

The first NCCC Sustainable Spirits event of the year was held in person in February at The Optimist, a coffee and tea shop in Raleigh, NC. A great group of 20 attended; for many, it was their first Sustainable Spirits event ever! The NCCC EOC is excited to be working on a partnership with The Optimist to host future compost-related events at their venue. The NCCC is also looking forward to Sustainable Spirits events growing throughout the state, and the rest of the year.

USCC/NCCC Silver Member The Town of Cary has instituted their first pilot food scrap drop-off in Cary, NC. They are partnering with the private hauler, Compost Now for the collection service, and have volunteers from NC Toward Zero Waste (also USCC/NCCC members!) screening material and educating participants. This pilot has taken off, filling all of their containers to capacity in the first week.

OHIO CHAPTER-OHIO ORGANICS COUNCIL—Jason Ziss, President
The Ohio Chapter met to elect officers recently: President: Jason Ziss, Kurtz Bros.
- Vice Pres.: Bob Schanz, Barnes Nursery (and liaison to USCC)
- Secretary: Steve Mack, Ohio University
- Treasurer: Marcie Kress, Reworks of Summit County

Committees were formed for the following duties:
- Membership
- Annual Conference (November 4, 2022 at OSU Campus - Columbus)
- Education (Two day training event March 30-31, 2022 at OSU campus - Wooster)

There was lengthy discussion on an Advocacy emphasis for 2022.
Two targets were chosen for this year:
1. Compost use in Ohio agriculture.
2. Making our Chapter and USCC the number one compost information resource for regulators, legislators, solid waste agencies, and businesses
TENNESSEE CHAPTER - The chapter held its first Composting Conversation series (see photos). One session was at Johnson City, TN at the Yee-Haw Brewery. We had great composting conversations with Board Members (Brad Miller, Laura Howard and Wayne Koeckeritz) and several representatives from Eastman, Hoffman Composting and residents who compost.

The chapter’s first lunch and learn was on Thursday, March 10 and members were able to get in free. See their info here;  [Sevier Solid Waste Compost Lunch & Learn - Tennessee Composting Council](https://flipcause.com)

Virginia Composting Council, Ryan Duckett, president

Ryan Duckett, president, represented VCC was part of a panel of "hometown heros" on a webinar by the James River Association; the theme was stormwater improvements. Ryan focused on these points;

- Reduce need for fertilizer by encouraging healthy soil with mulch and compost
  - Why is fertilizer detrimental to the health of our local waterways?
  - What is composting?
  - How does compost encourage healthy soil at home?
Virginia Composting Council was the featured group for the Richmond, VA-based “RVA Green Drinks” event in November, a monthly meet-up group focused on sustainability. A local brewery sponsored outdoor space for the Council and the public to attend the event. VCC set up a table with free compost-related handouts, samples of different composts from around the Commonwealth, and other educational displays. VCC leadership also gave a presentation about composting and its benefits for the attendees, and answered questions into the night. The event drew several dozen attendees, and resulted in 14 new sign-ups for our mailing list, as well as exposure for our Facebook group.

RVA Green Drinks brings together sustainability/environmentally-oriented people and organizations in relaxed settings (see photos). Below was their Facebook post recapping the event:

“A fabulous time in #RVA #networking and learning about #compost Väsen Brewing Company. The science and benefits to our environment are amazing. We could have listened for hours. Thanks to the Virginia Composting Council for an amazing night and awesome food from Stella’s. Thanks for attending!”

Five VCC members attended and presented, including David Holcomb, Lisa Curll, Marshall Hall, Bruno Welsh, and Ryan Duckett. Big thanks to McGill Environmental Systems, which donated appetizers and snacks for all to enjoy.

**USCC NEWS**

**COMPOST USE:**

Attend the upcoming webinar about the STA Program, Tighten Your Use of the STA Brand, to Sell More Compost, focused on how to describe the STA program with Clarity, Consistency and Confidence! We heard you - and developed easy-to-understand messaging and tools you can use TODAY to increase the brand awareness (and sales!) of your STA Compost. Registration link is [here](#).

**COMPOST FOUNDATION:**

Have you looked at the ROI of Compost documents released by the Foundation? They are specification use factsheets (spec sheets) that provide instructions for use and explain the ROI for very specific applications. These would make a great handout at
your chapter meetings or in a Chapter eblast. Contact Beth if you’d like more info about them.

Click here to find them.

**ADVOCACY**

**NEW FEDERAL BILL**

A new bill, S3743, the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act, has been introduced in the US Senate that would task the Environmental Protection Agency with gathering data on recycling and composting infrastructure; studying infrastructure needs for recycling and composting; and studying markets. It is a bipartisan bill and was formally introduced the first week of March. Stay tuned for Chapter action on the bill.

**REACHING YOUR GRASSROOTS ADVOCATES**

A committee including state and Chapter representatives Isaac Bearg (NJCC) and Natasha Duarte (Composting Association of Vermont) has been reviewing software platforms that can be used to launch grassroots campaigns for and against regulations, bills and policies, and track legislation and legislators at the state and federal level. The hope is to have the USCC pilot the winning platform in Q2; pilot its use in one- to two- chapters in Q3 and Q4, and have it ready for the 2023 legislative session. The Chapter Advisory Committee is being tasked with developing a framework for contribution by participating chapters through support funding to help support the cost of the platforms.

**CAC Compliance Guidelines**

The Chapter Advisory Committee is undergoing a revision of compliance guidelines over the next few months, and once completed, USCC will be meeting with chapters for renewing Chapter Agreements.

CAC: Jennifer Trent chair (Iowa chapter); Ryan Duckett (VCC) Jairo Gonzalez (NJCC)
Wayne Koeckeritz, Jorge Montezuma (board), Kate Sullivan (NCCC)

**Fundamentals of a Strong Chapter**

This course, originally planned for COMPOST2022, was given virtually to more than 30 chapter leaders in February 2022. Attendees had high praise for the information given by Jairo Gonzalez, also president of the New Jersey chapter, about structure, boards and other topics. To hear the recording, click here.

**Communicating in our Facebook Group!**

We now have 34 leaders on the [USCC Chapters Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/usccchapters/) if you haven’t joined the group. And ENGAGE-it’s a great place to ask questions of other chapter leaders!
Welcome to Texas!
The new Texas USCC Chapter was launched officially at COMPOST2022! Welcome! You may be hearing from some of the leaders: Sam, incoming president; John Soules, of Texas Organic, which funded the chapters 501C3 development; and Risa Weinberger, who helped recruit board and committee leaders. Please reach out and offer them a warm welcome!

Potential New Chapters
Two states are gathering stakeholders to determine whether to form a chapter: Georgia and Florida! Please help them out if they reach out to you with questions. (Thanks to USCC board member and former NCCC president Gary Gittere for giving a “testimonial” on chapters at Georgias meeting!)

COMPOST2022:
TRAINING:
We had chapter leaders representing about 75% of our chapters at the training at COMPOST2022..thanks to those who came. You can now view the recordings here. Canva Tutorial https://www.dropbox.com/s/ocl64yqi5g2fng8/Compost2022--Canva%20Tutorial--Growing%20Your%20Chapter%20Financial%20Resource%20Bank--Marketing%20%26%20Fundraising.mp4?dl=0

Fundraising https://www.dropbox.com/s/l0hqsv92y40la7u/Compost2022--Sorg-McManamon--FUNdraising%20for%20Non-Fundraisers.mp4?dl=0

Growing your Chapter Resource Bank - Vols & YPs https://www.dropbox.com/s/vvvxpguk52r7ytI/Wednesday%202PM%20Growing%20Your%20Chapter%20Human%20Resources%20Bank%20Volunteers%20Young%20Professionals.mp4?dl=0
SOIREE:
What a great first time networking event for our chapters! Thanks to all who participated, and to Texas Organic Soil for sponsoring!