June 2020

NEXT QUARTERLY CHAPTER MEETING: **Wednesday, July 22, 2 pm**  
**TOPIC: ADVOCACY REPORT OUT**

**USCC NEWS**

*Chapter News:*

*On the Horizon*

- **USCC’s Consultant report** on restructuring of the Chapters program will be presented to state chapters in late summer, depending upon whether the USCC Board requests revisions when they receive the report in July. Thanks to those of you who provided information in interviews with Wendy Scott!
- We were excited to hear one early theme (just a peek for us) is that you all REALLY want to work together so our quarterly meeting in July will focus on report-out time focused on ADVOCACY—the table that had the largest number of people at our conference Chapter meeting.

*TY To North Carolina Composting Council* who invited all chapter leaders to attend their virtual annual meeting, which you can find here. At least three chapters were “listening in”. If you would like to hear the meeting “after the fact”, here is the link: https://www.dropbox.com/s/dady3cogzqf8qt/NC%20Composting%20Council%20Zoom%20recording.mp4?dl=0

**COMMITTEES and PROGRAMS**

**COMPOST USE/ STA Certified Compost** - **Hilary Nichols**, Market Development Coordinator and STA Certified Compost Manager

Reminder STA Certified Compost [renewals](#) are due by the end of this month, June 30!

The US Composting Council is pleased to support the Michigan Recycling Coalition/Michigan Organics Council (MOC)’s application for the EGLE Recycling Market Development Grant. The MOC’s Landscape for the Lakes campaign aims to increase the diversion of organics to compost manufacturing in Michigan by promoting the use of organics end products to targeted industries, and providing technical information about compost application to meet specified needs. If your organization is
interested in partnering to reach out to specifiers, please contact Hilary Nichols, USCC Market Development Coordinator.

The USCC is partnering with the Rodale Institute to promote Victory Gardens.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** Linda Norris-Waldt, membership and communications director
Discussion of new Joe Lamp’l video, membership workplan; member portal have been focus for the last few months.

**MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**
*The Compost Pages:* Get a preview of our beta version of our Products and Services directory here; listings are kicking off with equipment and product providers. [https://www.compostingcouncil.org/search/custom.asp?id=5536](https://www.compostingcouncil.org/search/custom.asp?id=5536)
*It’s Renewal Season! We are actively in renewal; all memberships end June 30 2020. Renewal rate has a direct relationship with USCC members who are active in your states! Do you want to help us with bringing in lagging renewals in July/August in your state? Email Linda!*

**Young Professionals:**
*YP Perks Program Open:* The Young Professionals Steering Committee and leaders are getting ready to start their new year. They are actively looking for committee members, if you’d like to send out an eblast, newsletter item or social media post, direct people to this page to find out how to volunteer for a YP Committee. They may be able to get a free membership in exchange—and active YPS in your state may be what you need to kick off your own YP event! Also, introducing staff member Megan Hester who is taking over the YPS program— you can contact her at mhester@compostingcouncil.org.

**JUMPING INTO A COMPOST CAREER! WEBINAR NEXT WEEK—PLEASE PROMOTE!** Felipe Pedrazzi, head of the webinar committee, has organized a webinar coming up next Thursday morning!
FIND INFO HERE: [https://www.facebook.com/events/1056283598099495/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1056283598099495/)

**MENTORING PROGRAM –** This year there are MORE THAN 30 PAIRS of mentor-mentees!!!!! The program kicks off next month!

**STAFF NEWS:** Welcome to new USCC staff member Eric Hudiburg, who will be working out of the Raleigh office as marketing and communications manager.

**LEAC/Advocacy/Regulations**- Cary Oshins, Associate Director, Linda Norris-Waldt, 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 lnorriswaldt@compostingcouncil.org to be on the invite list. See latest LEAC news here.*

**TARGET ORGANICS COMMITTEE**- Hilary Nichols, Linda Norris-Waldt staff
The committee has been divided into two sub-committees, the Target Organics Hub led by Susan Thoman and the Target Organics Roadmap led by Sarah Martinez.

**CCREF-Training Wayne Howard, staff**

Staff is working to move COTC training over to online training until it is possible to find venues and participants who can travel to the classes. Stay tuned! Watch for new 1-to-3 day training options for chapters to be announced soon.

**CCREF-ICAW, Beth Simone, Staff**

**International Compost Awareness Week has a New Committee Chair**

After many years of chairing the ICAW committee, Teri Sorg-McManamon decided to step down from that role. Teri dedicated an amazing amount of time and effort to helping the program grow throughout the years. Her dedication to ICAW is greatly appreciated by all the ICAW committee members, ICAW volunteers and the CCREF Board of Trustees and staff. ICAW committee member and Michigan Chapter rep, Amy Freeman, has agreed to take on the committee chair role. Amy brings a wealth of experience to this role. She is the Organics Maven and Composting Specialist with Country Oaks Landscape Supply and Composting and with Iris Waste Diversion Specialists, Inc. She is the Composting Technician with the Michigan Food and Farming System (MIFFS) Women in Agriculture Farm Development Center and is currently a mentor for the USCC Young Professionals.

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Amy Freeman

**COMPOSTCONFERENCE**: We are still on schedule for January 2021 (Compostconference.com) in Ontario, CA. Stay tuned for latest COVID-19 details. Exhibitors and sponsors are actively registering and we thank Ohio member Ecoverse for being this years Headline Sponsor!

**STATE NEWS:**

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

ACP has changed their newsletter format to ACP Spotlights. A recent spotlight focuses on California's Healthy Soils procurement requirement [https://healthysoil.org/Announcements](https://healthysoil.org/Announcements) and Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. [https://healthysoil.org/resources/ Documents/What%20is%20MWELO%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf](https://healthysoil.org/resources/Documents/What%20is%20MWELO%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf)
The California Chapter is currently partnering with USCC for a special Member Drive!

COLORADO COMPOSTING COUNCIL- Bob Yost, President
The Colorado Composting Council (COCC) is planning a member call in June. Day/Time TBD
- Policy update – Our Organics mgmt. plan bill has been pulled for this session. Hopeful that we can revisit in 2021 Legislative session. We are hoping to still work with our state agencies on some components of the bill this year and next.

ILLINOIS COMMITTEE- John Lardner, Liaison
The Illinois Food Scrap Coalition (IFSC), the Illinois Committee to the USCC, installed its new Executive Committee and eight new board members (of 16 total) during its phone meeting on June 2, 2020.

On April 20th, an IFSC Communications & Outreach Committee chair and leader of the Chicago Sustainability Task Force http://www.chicagosustainabilitytaskforce.org/, (CSTF) offered a webinar Dive into Composting in Chicago. More than 60 attendees heard from a local representative of a national food waste collection and compost company, Organix, and a local municipal hauler, Lakeshore Recycling Systems. Key actions and takeaways from the presentations include strong interest for a follow-up webinar featuring the experience of representatives from other large metro cites and compostable service ware manufacturers and certifiers; policy changes for Illinois to support organics recycling; how to sustain year-round markets for compost; and more information and education in general about composting. To view the YouTube of the webinar, see https://youtu.be/Hw8zzl3iQRg. To get in touch with CSTF, contact eco@brightbeat.com.

CSTF is working with the IFSC to arrange a follow up discussion that includes certifying bodies (BPI, OMRI, CMA), manufacturers, and stakeholders from other cities. CSTF Website: http://www.chicagosustainabilitytaskforce.org/. All interested parties are welcome! To get in touch with CSTF, contact eco@brightbeat.com

Another IFSC member, SCARCE (School and Community Assistance for Recycling and Compost Education) held its annual food scrap amended compost sale in mid-May. Using Covid-19 distancing recommendations, they exceeded sales from previous years in part due to interest in gardening during shelter in place restrictions.

In response to many inquiries received by the IFSC about where to buy compost locally, the Market Development Committee prepared a Where to Buy Compost tab for the IFSC website. Click the Where to buy Compost tab at http://illinoiscomposts.org/using-compost/. Member compost producers were asked to complete a survey of the products they make to assist interested purchasers learn where and how to buy compost locally.

An IFSC board member will participate in a zoom webinar on Regional Approaches to Fuel Local Circular Economies: Great Lake Region on June 18, 2020. Register at: https://recycle.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zb-EkJAoSXayMlgZ5gU0Vg
MD-DC Committee—Linda Bilsens, contact.
  o DC members are working on advocating for compost grants; ILSR converting backyard composting training to online; in MD ILSR is working on an effort on policies that support on farm composting through Million Acre Challenge/Healthy Soils Advisory Council. Steering Committee members are working to define chapter strategy.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER—Amy Freeman, MOC contact

Last week, House Bills 5812-5817 intended to update Michigan's solid waste/materials management laws, were introduced by a bipartisan team of lawmakers, including House Natural Resources Committee Chair Howell and Vice Chair Sowerby.

These bills are also now scheduled to move very quickly. Natural Resources Committee Chair, Rep. Howell plans to take testimony starting this week in House Natural Resources Committee, scheduled for 10:30 am tomorrow morning, June 2, 2020. The House Natural Resources Committee hearing will be broadcast on House TV at www.house.mi.gov. Look for the House TV section along the blue banner across the top.

You can download the latest MRC developed fact sheet, Why Michigan's Solid Waste Law Needs Reform, to review how the legislation would improve our solid waste laws.

EGLE has also developed some informational modules on the topics below:

- Re-TRAC  https://youtu.be/zm_pRl_w1w4
- Benchmark Recycling Standards  https://youtu.be/w-ugLerRnz4
- Compost Operations and Anerobic Digesters  https://youtu.be/DRMTjr0IrWE
- Financial Assurance Requirements for Solid Waste Facilities  https://youtu.be/Bhh1Jt5Sl0

If you can show your support on Tuesday in committee, please email committee clerk, Amy Rostkowycz at arostkowycz@house.mi.gov with your name, organization and position on the bill. There is also an option to submit written comments or to give live testimony over Zoom, or in person if you so choose. If you have additional questions about providing comments or testimony, the clerk will be able to help you.

One last item not related to Part 115 changes but important none the less. Gov. Whitmer has reestablished Michigan's Bottle Deposit Return Program beginning on June 15, 2020. You can read the notice here.  https://www.michigan.gov/taxes/0,4676,7-238-43551_84521-530569--00.html

MINNESOTA COMPOSTING COUNCIL—Ginny Black, president.
Events Upcoming/Meetings/webinars
COVID has made it difficult to hold in-person events, so none have been planned this year. For the past 3-years the MNCC has co-sponsored a three-day compost operator training at the U of WI Stevens Point. Unfortunately that also was canceled due to COVID.

**Legislative/Policy Activity**

For the past 4 years the MNCC had been working with the regulatory agency and the Governors office to develop language that would enhance the states existing compostable plastics labeling bill. COVID derailed that legislation. We will be trying again in 2021 along with other potential initiatives.

**Things to shout about 😊**

The MNCC turned ICAW week into a month long celebration of composting. Using social media we posted links to gardening on the U of MN Extension and links to the MN Arboretum website. We also video taped a BY compost videos and broke it up in to segments. It is posted on the MNCC website.

**COVID news of any sort**

The Twin Cities area has 2 large YW/SSO compost facilities serving the area, one of the facilities closed for about 2 weeks because of COVID. It illegal to throw recyclables into a landfill, so the regulatory agency had to issue variances to hauler to dispose of SSO at landfills because there wasn’t enough capacity at the existing facility. Things are back to normal now.

**NEBRASKA Chapter-Megan Jackson, liaison**

No report.

**NEW JERSEY COMPOSTING COUNCIL-Jairo Gonzalez, president**

The NJ Composting Council will be hosting a Food Waste Collection, Contamination, and Composting Webinar on June 16th at 11am. We’ve lined up a fantastic group of speakers to talk about their experiences running statewide compost collection programs, setting up proper compostable products programs, and large scale food waste processing into high quality compost.

LINK TO REGISTER: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nEFZ2YTjQ9qQBYlBTy7KYA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nEFZ2YTjQ9qQBYlBTy7KYA)

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

The NC Composting Council is very excited to present its Annual Members & Supporters Meeting on June 9th via Zoom. The meeting will feature four speakers that will discuss composting in our State, Churches, Schools and beyond. We invite the Board members of other state chapters to join us, please register on
Over the past several weeks we have had to cancel the multitude of events that were scheduled for spring, as we all have had to. But, with the cancellation of in-person meetings we have turned our Website and Sustainable Spirits Newsletter into places where our followers can find great webinars, blogs articles and other online education about composting and other environmental science.

Our Board, staff and volunteers continue to work on legislative issues, coordinating meetings and interviews online and by phone.

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

*no report*

**TENNESSEE CHAPTER – Clay Ezell, President.**
The Tennessee Chapter, The Tennessee Composting Council, had its 2nd official Board Meeting this month. We have added a new board member, bringing our number to 6registered with the State and raised the funds needed to apply for 501c3 status. Meanwhile, we're working on a Chapter website, and are looking forward to a press release announcing our founding. Once announced, we will begin our membership drive!

**VIRGINIA COMPOSTING COUNCIL: Ken Bannister, president.**
Not a whole lot to report from Virginia. We held our monthly meeting in May and another in June, and some of our members are attending the NC Annual Meeting (virtually). Hopeful that we will be getting some activities going by end of summer, depending on the COVID situation.

**CHAPTERS THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR THE INDUSTRY AND USCC!!**