Chapter Leaders Roster [here](#); please REVIEW AND UPDATE if you have changes.

**CHAPTER LEADERS FACEBOOK GROUP:** [https://www.facebook.com/groups/542256670306345](https://www.facebook.com/groups/542256670306345)

**USCC Chapter Program Mission Statement**

**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

**STATE NEWS:**

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

The California Chapter suffered the shocking loss of Kathy Lynch, their longtime lobbyist. She and her husband died in late winter, and Dan Noble, executive director, spoke at and attended services marking their passing. The chapter’s Policy Committee is evaluating new lobbyists in the busy legislative landscape that is California.

The Chapter held a Healthy Soils Summit in May bringing together programs and thought leaders from the state (which is leading the country in healthy soils...
legislation) and working on stakeholder development and collaboration around the issue throughout the state via ACP’s newly formed and curated “Calif. Healthy Soil Network”, at HealthySoil.org.

The chapter had a presentation by co-Marketing Committee chair Anthony Myint about the efforts of his company, Zerofoodprint.org (ZFP), to assist municipalities in the state in their efforts to meet the new SB 1383’s compost procurement requirements. ACP and ZFP are beginning to pilot a new “California Compost Connector” program to support California Jurisdictions to come quickly and cost-effectively into compliance with the Article 12-Procurement requirement in SB 1383. This means more compost being produced and used in California!

COLORADO COMPOST COUNCIL

The COCC worked with its parent organization, Recycle Colorado, and lobbyist as well as members to secure several legislative victories:

Extended Producer Responsibility bill (HB22-1355) requires manufacturers packaging products in plastic, glass, metal, and cardboard to pay into a Producer Responsibility Organization to support statewide curbside recycling. The bill is intended to improve Colorado’s status as a state with one of the lowest recycling rates in the nation. While the bill does not cover statewide curbside composting, compost infrastructure is included in the list of applicable uses for the fund, as is contamination cleanup.

Circular Economy Development Center bill (HB22-1159) establishes a research and development effort to establish recycling end-markets in Colorado, thus creating circular economies for the materials collected in the state. Composting is listed as an applicable end-market, and a composter will be invited to participate on the advisory board to oversee the creation of the program.

COCC also sent a letter to NRCS in June in support of adoption of Rule 336 to list compost and biochar as fundable agricultural conservation practices nationwide.

RECYCLING SUMMIT: Chapter leaders have worked hard to extend Recycle Colorado’s annual conference by an extra day with organics content, such as Climate and Soil solutions; Starting a compost hauling business; Compost Operations; Seal of Testing Assurance (STA); Compost equipment exhibitors on Organics. The full event will be held Aug 22-24, with the Organics content on August 24th. Eco-Cycle 45th Anniversary
Colorado’s Eco-Cycle, one of the oldest and largest non-profit recyclers and Zero Waste organizations in the U.S., celebrated its 45th anniversary +1 (2021 was the 45th year but the celebration was postponed to June 2022 due to covid), with special guests Congressman Joe Neguse, Governor Jared Polis, and First Gentleman Marlon Reis. Congressman Neguse is the sponsor of the current Recycling and Composting Accountability Act in the US House of Representatives and joined as a cosponsor of the Compost Act in the House after a request by COCC. Photo (Eco-Cycle Executive Director Suzanne Jones hugs Congressman Neguse). Photo courtesy of Eco-Cycle.

IOWA COMPOST COUNCIL

The Iowa Composting Council combined a service to the compost industry in the state with a membership drive by sponsoring a Compost Operator Training Course of classroom and field training in April. It was hosted by Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency and partners, Iowa Waste Reduction Center, Compost Research & Education Foundation, Iowa Recycling Association, and Soil Solutions, LLC!! The chapter combined a membership incentives with training registration and recruited new members.

Photo: Iowa Training

The IACC is meeting this week for its first annual members meeting at Vermeer Manufacturing at 1710 Vermeer Road East, Pella, IA. The meeting included a lunch, a tour of the Vermeer Facility and Museum and meeting following. The IACC announced its new board of directors. A special thanks goes out to Vermeer for providing lunch and its facilities for the IACC.

ILLINOIS COMPOST COUNCIL
The Illinois Compost Council held an annual meeting virtually this spring, which included a presentation from Elgin during the June General Body meeting. The presentation was by Elgin’s Sustainability Analyst, Mikala Larson (who used to work for the Minnesota Composting council!) and Chair of Elgin’s Sustainability Commission, Tom Armstrong from Elgin Sustainability Commission.

The International Compost Awareness Week celebration in Illinois was a smashing (virtual) success for the second year in a row with activities throughout the week. One included drone footage and narration of a drone video of members Christiansen Farms’ compost facility and an Illinois farm, Tulip Tree Gardens, and the work they do. See all the videos on Illinois’ Youtube channel here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7ZU3c1BqJ9byiZZgv19UUQ

Longtime USCC member and chapter leader Benjamin Krumstok was elected chair of the board of the IFSC, which serves as USCC’s Illinois Composting Council chapter.

MD-DC COMPOSTING COUNCIL

The MD-DC Chapter organized a Happy Hour in June at a Washington DC venue that is using in-vessel technology from an MD-DC steering committee member, Jeffrey Neal of Loop Closing. The group has also continued its meetings with the Maryland Department of Environment to follow regulations and actions resulting from the state’s organics planning group and the 2021 Organics Diversion law. The group is also recruiting members for its first board of directors as it prepares to file for 501C status.

MICHIGAN ORGANICS COUNCIL

The Michigan Chapter is organizing a Compost Tour week across the state in Michigan with a webinar follow-up about using compost. Stay tuned!

MINNESOTA COMPOSTING COUNCIL

The Minnesota Chapter held several Plate to Garden community education events for International Compost Awareness week, at St. Paul Saints Stadium, and at the Urban
Growler. Member Tom Halbach was honored for his contributions at the Saints game. He threw out the first pitch (see video here) and was honored with the MNCC Excellence Award because of his many years of dedication to the composting industry in MN. He is a founding member of the MNCC and was a Professor at the U of M as well as the Midwest Composting School. During those years, he conducted research, wrote over 50 Journal of Extension publications and taught about various topics related to compost. Congratulations Tom! See the video he produced for MNCC here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4XNzmjGJ_g&fbclid=IwAR3hfP36W4JvFSg_aiksd3BwMd9zDGxn8BhKqOCOpudnym3UbWVuhDuq9k

NEBRASKA COMPOSTING COUNCIL

The NCCC has a new Executive Director-Haley Nolde! Welcome!

NEW JERSEY COMPOSTING COUNCIL

The New Jersey Composting Council has created a virtual Compost Café, during the late winter/spring, led by the NJCC Education and Outreach Committee. The Compost Café provides an opportunity, for its members and invited guests, to present a short story on composting and then for members to network and discuss the topic. Previous discussions have included opening compost facilities in NJ and residential food scrap pickup/drop off access. The Café has gotten between 20 and 40 folks per session.

A highlight of NJCC advocacy work is a document that the Education and Outreach Committee developed after passage of the New Jersey Organics Ban. The document, published in 2021, has been an excellent guide for their members and followers. Find it here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z2vAvj6XqAeHnwmfSbR-Otoikncb_RN/view,

NORTH CAROLINA COMPOST COUNCIL

NCCC held their annual meeting virtually in June with lots of attendees and some great speakers, from, Plantd’s agricultural manager; Union Grove farm talking about the vineyard’s use of compost; the Town of Cary’s food waste recycling drop-off with the non-profit Toward Zero Waste and synergy between the Coastal Composting Council (a regional committee of the NCCC) in finding an advocate in New Hanover County government, which eventually led to the Wilmington Composting Company.
The NCCC has lost a stellar board member who was also a steadfast Legislative and Environmental Affairs Committee member for USCC. From president Muriel Williman: Carl Sigel has been an absolute giant on the NCCC.

Carl Sigel has been an absolute giant on the NCCC Board of Directors and in particular as a member of the Access and Advisory Committee—he wrote and moved forward the Healthy Soils Bill, and Compost Procurement Legislation in North Carolina, he curated collaborations with the policy teams at Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, RAFI, and he has carried water for the USCC LEAC, including setting up an NC lobbying team for the Compost Act. He brought the story of Compost directly to the NC State House with a stakeholders group he culminated through extensive communications and collaboration to find common ground. He has read voraciously, researched exhaustively, written reams of recommendations, advised, guided, and taught us all how to bravely navigate the legislative juggernaut. He introduced the NCCC to the incredible network of the Interfaith Creation Care Coalition of the Triangle, culminating in a webinar featuring Frank Franciosi that will have ripples across the land—all in his tireless pursuit for Climate justice. And, that has all just been in the past year! We cannot express our admiration, or gratitude, strongly enough. He is an incredible soldier of hope and faith, and we are with him in spirit as he takes on the next challenge. In Carl’s own words: DON’T QUIT AND KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING! We shall try! “

OHIO ORGANICS COUNCIL

Ohio’s chapter is working on relaunching its website! Watch for the new site soon. The board has also started the work of creating an Education Committee and an Advocacy Committee, as well as planning for the annual fall Compost Conference.
TENNESSEE COMPOST COUNCIL

In April, the Compost Company hosted Tennessee chapter members, and in May, members from the City of Knoxville visited Hoffman Composting.

TEXAS COMPOST COUNCIL

The Texas Composting Council is holding its inaugural board meeting July 7th!

VIRGINIA COMPOST COUNCIL

Great Compost Use Education:

board member Dominion Energy typically donates “compost credits” from USCC member / VCC member NOPE to local schools and community gardens. “I am happy to hear since we had gigantic crops last year! Whatever was in the soil was magnificent! We will need the same amount (if possible, or whatever you can provide) as last year, nine bags,” from school nurse Donielle Thorward at Alternative Paths Training School.

Dominion also sponsors Riverrock, an annual sports and music festival in Virginia; the VCC had a booth there in May (post-ICAW) with a planting activity for kids at Riverrock, (see the video here: https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaCompostingCouncil/videos/305477148454050)

For the activity, they set up a mini planting station, with small (compostable) cups that kids can fill half/half with topsoil and compost.
A WORD FROM USCC

Greetings Chapter leaders!

I sense everywhere, but especially with you, our volunteers, that the reopening of all of our workplaces in the past two quarters has placed stress on all of us as we readjust to hybrid workplaces and juggling zoom meetings with in-person transit to office and meetings.

For that reason, for this summer Chapter Bulletin I decided to play “reporter” and find your news rather than ask you to contribute. Having done that, I’m afraid I’ve missed some things, so I may do some kind of “hybrid” of this process next time— it’s so important to share with this whole community what each of you is doing. (Quick Reminder- if you’re not already on our Facebook chapter leaders group it is here, for sharing news and questions:

The Chapter Advisory Committee (Jenny Trent, IACC chair, Jairo Gonzalez, NJCC, Kate Sullivan, NCCC, Ryan Duckett, VCC and Wayne Koeckeritz, TNCC) will be hosting a TOWN HALL on the afternoon of July 20th to get your feedback on new Chapter Agreements and an information checklist to help inform our the new Chapter Rewards program (replacing the rebate program) that will kick off in Q4. Please make it a priority for someone from your leadership team to attend. It’s critical that we get your feedback on this project which will affect all chapters.

ADVOCACY There is a lot going on in the government affairs arena to update you on. Keep an eye out for an optional “chapter lunch and learn” for your advocacy teams to attend; we’ll talk about federal legislation, farm compost use national expansion, and EPR in the states!

MEMBER/PROSPECT LISTS: Following this newsletter, you’ll receive your mid-year list of USCC members and prospects. Use this to recruit folks to your chapter, events and webinars. Also, July is renewal month— here is a graphic to put on social media or an e-newsletter (or if you are on the canva team, here is the link to edit this graphic yourself.)
Have a wonderful summer vacation—we all need the time off to go explore somewhere/someone we have missed since March 2020.

Best,

Linda

Chapters Director