



December 2019

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING: **Wednesday, January 29, 6:45 am**

North Charleston Convention

Center Charleston SC

USCC NEWS

***Chapter News:**

***On the Horizon** Several states/regions in the Midwest, Northeast and upper Midwest are looking at possible chapters, and the State of Tennessee is poised to become a new chapter!

***Web Page Service:** This new feature on the Chapter menu of services is available and Chapter Support funding can be used to purchase it. Page launch price is \$350. See more details of cost and [application here](#). Event management services will be unveiled in 2020.

***Support Funding:** We have heard from Colorado, Michigan, Virginia, and North Carolina who have approved their chapter lists and checks are being processed. Other charter chapters are still reviewing their lists.

COMMITTEES and PROGRAMS

COMPOST USE/ STA Certified Compost - [Hilary Nichols](#), Market Development Coordinator and STA Certified Compost Manager

--Working with CO and NY specifiers to update their compost use specs

--Added DOT compost use specs to USCC website

--By Feb new "Compost Use" sections coming to USCC website

--Signed new contract with Joe Lamp'L of PBS's Growing a Greener World

--New Administrative Assistant Megan Hester started and is a go-getter

--Standards and Practices Committee soon to be formed as a collaboration between CCREF and USCC

--89% of renewals are done for the STA Certified Compost program this year.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE [Linda Norris-Waldt](#), membership and communications director

This committee has been focusing on benefits, a 2020-21 restructuring of memberships, and beginning a strategic Chapter Plan.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

***Social Link:** The USCC has expanded its new Member Portal to include the first phase of Social Link, allowing members to post to their "wall" (like a Facebook or LinkedIn post wall) so that other members can see what you're up to, awards, new products, etc.

***Young Professionals:** The **Young Professionals NEED YOUR HELP next week** to encourage applicants for their Emerging Composter Poster Competition at COMPOST2020.

Please post this to your chapters social media and use the photo attached to this email!

Do you know a college student or young professional who might want to develop a poster around a project, program, research or entrepreneurial idea at COMPOST2020? They could win cash prizes!

<https://www.compostingcouncil.org/page/COMPOST2020Poster>

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES COMMITTEE-[Hilary Nichols](#), Staff

--Created Standard Operating Practices (SOP's) for USCC committees to use for creating Memorandum of Understandings (MOU's) with strategic alliances

--Reviewed several MOU's for new alliances

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.

CERTIFICATION NEWS: Cary Oshins, staff

Two new certification commissioners have been appointed: Sharon Barnes, Barnes Nursery; and Scott Gamble, Waste Management. Welcome and thank you to two outgoing commissioners who worked hard to launch the certification program: Scott Subler, Climeco; and Mark Rose, LETCO/Living Earth. Thank you for your service!

For more information or if you have questions, contact Cary Oshins, Director Certification, director@certificationsUSCC.org, 301-897-2715 x1521



TARGET ORGANICS COMMITTEE- [Hilary Nichols](#), staff

Survey was sent out, 78 responded, but some states did not respond, and do not have their perspectives represented. There's still time to ask composters you know to

participate- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TargetOrganics2>

Participation in Survey

9 - WI, CA

8 - NJ

- 5 - NY, MN
- 4 - MO, CO
- 3 - TX, OR, IA
- 2 - TN, MI, MA, MD, GA, FL
- 1 - WA, VA, VT, PA, NE, MT, LA, IN, IL, ID, DE, AR
- 0 - WY, WV, UT, SD, SC, RI, OK, OH, ND, NC, NM, NH, NV, MS, ME, KY, KS, HI, CT, AZ, AK, AL

CCREF-Training [Wayne Howard](#), staff

Two of our newest chapters, Nebraska and New Jersey, will be hosting Compost Operations Training Courses in 2020.

Watch for new 1-to-3 day training options for chapters to be announced soon.



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!

COMPOSTCONFERENCE: The **Chapter Meeting** will be at 6:45 am on Wednesday Jan 29 with breakfast available. Final room TBA: Meeting Room 14 or Ballroom C1.

STATE NEWS:

ASSOCIATION OF COMPOST PRODUCERS/CALIFORNIA COMPOST COUNCIL, [Dan Noble](#), exec. director

The ACP compost producers market focus theme for 2020 will be "Compost is the Solution", with a specific sub-focus on the solutions of:

- **Healing fire-ravaged lands**
- **Water conservation** on landscapes and agricultural lands
- **Carbon Sequestration** on gardens, farms and natural & working lands

This compost market focus will be used as a foundation for the 2020 Objectives of:

- *Implementation* of SB 1383 - building on the compost producer foundation
- *Increasing Awareness* of compost specification & use by municipalities
- *Compost applications* education for water conservation and repairing damaged lands

COLORADO COMPOSTING COUNCIL-[Bob Yost](#), President

The Colorado Composting Council (COCC) has spent much of the year working on a bill that will require multiple studies by the CO Dep of Public Health and the Environment in collaboration with the Dep of Agriculture looking at composting infrastructure and end markets (with a special focus on the agricultural sector), as well as the development of a statewide Organics management plan to promote compost use. This was proposed to and approved by the Zero Waste interim committee at the state legislature.

The committee selected their proposed bill to go forward and the chapter is ready to advocate for the bill, called "Concerning the Development of A Statewide Organics Management Plan to Promote Compost Use",

https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/committees/2017/bill_b_20-0311.pdf.

ILLINOIS COMMITTEE-[John Lardner](#), Liaison

See the Illinois Committees new website:

<https://www.compostingcouncil.org/page/NewsMediaTips>,

MD-DC Committee-[Linda Bilsens](#), contact.

The Maryland-DC Compost Council is working on upgrading its Committee status to Charter Chapter and investigating potential partnerships with the Northeast Recycling Council as a potential fiscal sponsors; and is beginning to monitor legislation for the upcoming (January) General Assembly session.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER-[Amy Freeman](#), MOC contact

The Michigan has newly elected leaders and they are working on an initiative called Landscape for the Lakes, inspired by Soils for Salmon, focusing on compost use.

MINNESOTA COMPOSTING COUNCIL-[Ginny Black](#), president.

Minnesota's Legislative Committee is working on legislation to expand the compostable bag labelling law, requiring testing and prohibiting the term "biodegradability", and to expand it to cutlery and packaging. They are working with potential sponsors and getting industry support. The chapter is also having a membership drive.

NEBRASKA Chapter-[Megan Jackson](#), liaison

Nebraska is looking forward to working on the COTC scheduled for August 2020 in their state; they are working on a feedlot composting program that is in partnership with municipalities, assessing factors needed to replicate it in other areas.

NEW JERSEY COMPOSTING COUNCIL-[Jairo Gonzalez](#), president

New Jersey held a very successful Organics Summit this fall attracting excellent speakers and 130 attendees. They are working with universities on a higher education grant.

NORTH CAROLINA COMPOSTING COUNCIL-[Julie Moore](#), liaison

The North Carolina chapter again hosted the COTC course this fall, and also attended Farmers Markets, young farmers events and a Food waste Summit in Asheville. They held their annual Loader Safety Training Dec. 11

OHIO CHAPTER-OHIO ORGANICS COUNCIL—[Jason Ziss](#), President

*no report

VIRGINIA COMPOSTING COUNCIL: [Ken Bannister](#), president.

No report.