

Illinois Food Scrap Coalition  
September 16, 2014

Funded through a grant from  
the Illinois Department of  
Commerce and Economic  
Opportunity



# Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois

Thank you to the IFSC  
Forum Planning Committee!

# Agenda

- I. Food Scrap Composting Across the Country
  - a. Case Studies
  - b. Ohio
  
- II. Food Scrap Composting in Illinois
  - a. Policy and Infrastructure; Governor's Task Force
  - b. Generators/Haulers/Composters/End Users
  - c. Snapshots: A Partnership in Action

BREAK

- III. Breakout Sessions – Illinois Challenges and Solutions

# Breakout Sessions

1. Agriculture and Commercial Composting
2. Education / Training / Communication
3. Education / Training / Communication
4. End Product (Quality and Metrics)
5. Compost Facility Infrastructure
6. Permitting
7. Policy and Economics

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## Food Scrap Composting Across the Country

Presenter: Jen Nelson  
Seven Generations Ahead  
IFSC Founding Member

# Lost Resources

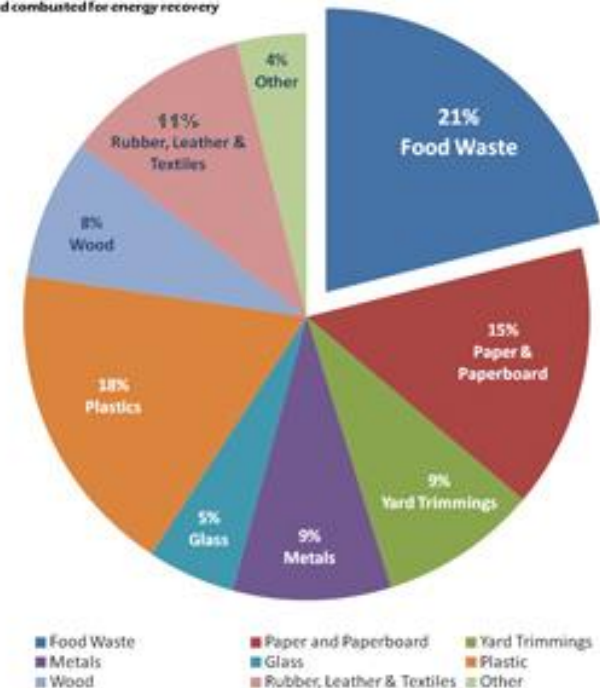
**36 million tons of food waste**

**Less than 5% diverted for compost**

**3500+ compost facilities in the US**

- 60% of yard trimmings
- Less than 5% of food residuals

**Food** makes up the largest percentage of waste going into municipal landfills and combusted for energy recovery



Data from the 2012 Municipal Solid Waste Characterization Report

# Our Focus Today

Commercial Food Scrap Composting/  
Organics Recycling

Policies and programs with statewide  
impact



# Cities, Counties & States Take on Food Scraps



## West

Boulder, Colorado  
San Francisco, California  
Portland, Oregon  
Seattle, Washington

## East

Connecticut  
Massachusetts  
Maryland  
New York City, New York  
Vermont

## South

Charleston County, South Carolina  
San Antonio, Texas

## Midwest

Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Oak Park, Illinois  
Ohio  
St Paul, Minnesota





# Advances in Food Scrap Composting



Organics Banned From Landfill

Landfill Diversion Rate Mandates

Pilot Commercial Food Scrap Composting Programs

State Level Investment in Food Scrap Composting Infrastructure



# Organics Banned from Landfill

# Food Scrap Composting on the East Coast



- Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont all have passed laws banning organics from landfills effective in 2014
- Focus on large generators (over 1 or 2 tons per week)
- Exemptions if not close to a compost facility
- Rhode Island considering similar legislation

# Vermont

- Bill mandates separation and collection of leaf and yard residuals by 2015
- All Food scraps recycled by 2017
- Exemptions if not within 20 miles of a compost facility
- Scaling up year by year
- State mandated coordinated education and outreach component



[www.burlingtonfreepress.com](http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com)



[www.growcompost.com](http://www.growcompost.com)



# Landfill Diversion Rate Mandates

# San Francisco, California



- 1989: state law to divert 50% from landfills by 2000
- San Francisco goal: 75% diversion by 2010 and zero waste by 2020 (currently at 80% diversion)
- Decades of voluntary programs, financial incentives and pay-as-you-throw
- Moved to mandatory recycling and composting to achieve goals
- 2009 city mandate for residents and all commercial establishments to separate food scraps, recyclables and trash (ability to impose fines)
- 8400 (of 8500) apartment buildings now have composting and recycling services



San Francisco Collection Containers

# Pennsylvania

- 1990: prohibited yard trimmings in landfills
- On-farm small-scale food scrap composting, and exemptions from the requirement to obtain a permit
  - Less than 5 acres
  - No more than 500 tons (1,000 cubic yards) per year of food waste
  - No more than 3,000 cubic yards of total material





# Pilot Programs



# Charleston County, South Carolina



- 2011: pilot targeting commercial food waste generators
- 2,000 tons of food waste diverted from landfill over 6 months
- 2011 compost sales totaled \$54,000
- Program was a success and scaled up in 2012
- 58 businesses participate
- 2016: targeting mandatory organics recycling program
- 2030: goal to divert 75% of all solid waste
- Financial model



# NYC's Food Waste Challenge

- 100 restaurants participate
- Over 30,000 homes (to 100,000 in 2014)
- 2,500 tons of food waste diverted over 6 months
- Goal to divert 75% of all solid waste by 2030
- Mandatory organics recycling program targeted for 2016



# Portland, Oregon

- 2011: changed garbage collection to collect green waste (including food scraps) once per week and trash every other week
- In one year, residential trash load was cut by 40%



# Other Programs

- Austin, Texas
- Boston, Massachusetts
- Boulder, Colorado
- Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Oak Park, Illinois
- San Antonio, Texas
- Seattle, Washington
- St. Paul, Minnesota
- multiple cities in Maryland

2013: residential composting programs in 170 communities in 18 states



# State Investment in Infrastructure

# Ohio

- 2007: launch of Ohio's Food Scraps Recovery Initiative
- 2009: 5 cities in 5 counties offered food scrap collection with yard waste
- Kroger company has diverted 8,600+ tons (2008-2012)
- Cleveland venues (Browns Stadium, Zoo, Quicken Loans Arena and more) now separate food scraps
- Ohio EPA and US EPA Region 5 developed map of all licensed composting facilities as well as participating supermarkets



# How Does this Apply to Illinois?

Declining landfill capacity = need to build more landfills or divert through recycling and composting

Top down and/or bottom up?

What are the benefits to food scrap composting in Illinois – economic and environmental?

Should incentives be offered to drive infrastructure development?



# Thank you!

For more information, please contact:

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Thank you to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for funding Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois.