Illinois Food Scrap Coalition
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Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois

Funded through a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Thank you to the IFSC Forum Planning Committee!
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
Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois

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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

Source: US EPA
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
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
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!

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