



## IFSC 2017 Annual Report

- **2017 Board Members** – Affiliations (years of term left) - **Executive Officers**
  - Josh Connell – Lakeshore Recycling Services (1)
  - Gary Cuneen - SGA (1)
  - Andi Dierich - DuPage (1)
  - Michelle Gibson- DeKalb (2)
  - Jennifer Jarland - Kane Co (1) - **Secretary**
  - Stephanie Katsaros – Bright Beat (2)
  - John Lardner – JPL Environmental Engineering (2)
  - Christopher Lipman - Cook Co (1)
  - Kay McKeen - SCARCE (1)
  - Charlie Murphy – Midwest Compost (2)
  - Jen Nelson - SGA (2)
  - Dean Olson - Will (2)
  - Sara Ryan - St. Louis Composting (2) - **Vice Chair**
  - Dave VanVooren - SWANCC (1) - **Treasurer**
  - Jen Walling - IEC (1)
  - Walter Willis - SWALCO (1) - **Chairman**
  
- **New Administrative Coordinator** hired starting January 2017 – Elizabeth Schmidt
- **[Economic and Market Impact Study](#)** completed under contract with Skumatz Economic Research Associates (SERA) to identify the problems associated with landfilling organics, food scraps in particular, and recommend solutions emphasizing the development of the Illinois sustainable food industry. This report examines the influence of expanded food scraps recovery and composting programs on improving the viability of commercial composting ventures in Illinois, driving Illinois-based food production, and enhancing the local food economy in Illinois, including jobs and revenues.
- **Chicago Community Trust Grant** secured in 2017 for the following key project components:
  - Report Dissemination: Economic and Market Impact Study Report (see above)
  - Composting Pilot: Building Route Density
  - We Compost Program expansion: The program has educated over 450 restaurants and food establishments on composting practices and conducted broad-based outreach to Chicago neighborhood business associations to provide the program toolkit and resources. Bright Beat was contracted to develop and implement an education and outreach campaign for restaurants, grocers and caterers in Logan Square and continue



education support in West Loop and Medical District (Randolph Street, Greektown, Little Italy).

- White Paper: Viability of Using Compost for Large Scale Farming
- Illinois Soil, Food, Water and Compost Summit (see below under Events Conducted)
- Legislative tours of schools with IEC
- Became a **US Composting Council Organizing Committee** and appointed board member John Lardner as liaison.
- **Policy**
  - Public Act 100-0094 (SB 1456): allows two more landscape waste transfer stations to accept food scraps without going through local siting, under a 2 year demonstration permit with the IEPA (which can be renewed).
- **Social Media**
  - 817 likes on [Facebook](#) (up from 700 in 2016)
  - 432 [Twitter](#) Followers (up from 330)
  - 137 [LinkedIn](#) members (up from 130)
  - 124 [Instagram](#) followers (first year, up from 0)
- **Events Conducted**
  - **November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**; The Illinois Soil, Food, Water and Composting Summit, Chicago
    - Brought together leaders and practitioners working on soil conservation, water quality protection, sustainable agriculture/local food, food recovery, and composting to learn more about the connectivity between issues and explore opportunities for collaborative work that lead to eco-effective, socially-responsible, and economically viable results across topic areas.
  - **March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**; Municipal Food Scrap Composting Education Lunch & Learn, Elgin
    - in coordination with the Fox Valley Sustainability Network. Presentations by Jen Nelson (IFSC), Karen Rozmus (Oak Park) and Walter Willis (SWALCO). Well attended and great interest and conversation about food scrap composting.
- **IFSC Presentations** and other tabling events:
  - 1/19/17- DuPage Environmental Summit
  - 3/13/17- Northcenter Neighborhood Association's 5th Annual CSA Fair



- **3/16-18/17- Good Food Festival & Conference**
- 3/22-23/17- IGEN Annual Statewide Sustainability Conference (Normal, IL)
- 4/10/17- Patriot Acres Community Meeting
- 4/14/17- Patriot Acres Community Meeting
- 4/20/17- Lake County Green
- **4/27/17- GreenTown Fox Valley**
- 5/6/17- Get Your Garden Growin' Green Market
- 5/20/17- Blue Stem Festival: "Empowering individuals and families to live more sustainable, socially responsible lifestyles"
- 6/10-11/17- Wicker Park Green Music Festival (Chicago, IL)
- 6/21-22/17- Bi-State Compost School (Belleville, IL)
- 7/11-13/17- Midwest Compost School (Stevens Point, WI)
- 8/23-30/17- Soil Funghi Master Class
- 8/25-27/17- DeKalb County Corn Fest
- 9/12/17- From Seed to Shelf: Supply Chain Transparency in the Food System (FARM Illinois)
- **10/9-11/17- BarnRaise @ IIT School of Design**
- 10/11/17- Glen Elyn Fall Workshop on Food Scrap Composting
- 10/17/17- Illinois Landscape Contractors Association Impact Conference: Building Sustainable Landscapes
- **10/26-27/17- ILCSMA Conference**
- **11/3/17- Illinois Soil, Food, Water, and Composting Summit**
- 12/5/17- Walter Willis- Chicago Bar Association Meeting
- Skokie Farmer's Markets / Collective Resources present
- **We Compost Program**
  - Added 23 Gold and 21 Silver Partners in 2017
  - The current total of 153 Partners (up from 131 in 2016)
- **Pumpkin Composting Drop-off Events:**
  - 36 participating locations
  - Diverted 71.7 tons of pumpkins from landfills



- **Membership**

- 100 members - 18 individual members, 29 organization members, 3 agency liaisons
- Silver Partners: SWANCC, SWALCO, NatureWorks, Christopher Burke Engineering, & DuPage County
- Gold Partners: SCARCE & Midwest Organics Recycling
- Platinum Partner: Seven Generations Ahead

- **Residential Curbside Composting Programs** in Northern Illinois

- 25 residential curbside composting programs (up from 19 in 2016)
- BioCycle published an article in December 2017 in which Illinois is listed as the state with the fourth highest number of communities with access to curbside collection (tied with Vermont). [Article link](#). Member exclusive - [Full Article link](#).