Mission Statement: The Illinois Food Scrap Coalition is a thriving not-for-profit organization advancing diversion and composting of organics in Illinois through advocacy, program implementation, market and business development, policy and outreach.

Illinois Food Scrap Coalition Strategic Plan - 2021

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Advocacy – policy development & state funding

Goal: to develop and support legislative and regulatory policy and to secure funds to grow industry, infrastructure, and end markets for finished compost.

Committees: Policy & Membership/Fundraising

OBJECTIVES

1. Represent IFSC in statewide policy work to support and promote legislation that will advance food scrap diversion.
   a. IFSC POLICY PLAN: Develop a comprehensive IFSC plan for a statewide policy push, including developing a tiered food scrap composting diversion plan, introducing policies to support the materials management plan, and setting goal targets related to outcomes.
   b. STATE REPRESENTATION: IFSC representation on appropriate statewide policy committees and task forces. Ensure composting is addressed in the statewide materials management plans.
   c. STATE ADVOCACY:
      i. Work with advocacy groups and partners to identify 3-5 key pieces of legislation to support.
      ii. Review progress being made in other states to identify policy
iii. Secure funding for compost-related efforts, address food scraps in yard waste transfer stations; organic food waste ban; mandated use of finished compost rather than recommended; plastic bag and plastic packaging reduction or ban to help to reduce contamination in the organics compost stream.

d. STATE POLICY EDUCATION: Support the incorporation of language on food scrap diversion and compost use in state, county, and municipal plans.
   i. Maintain and share a list of existing Illinois legislation (with links).
   ii. Track and support state materials management plan recommendations related to composting and wasted food.
   iii. Keep track of USCC policy to identify what IFSC can support and share with Illinois members.
   iv. Review and share compost procurement model documents/ordinances with local government purchasing and facilities management departments.
   v. Work with soil, water and energy groups to ensure language related to the beneficial use of compost is incorporated into their policy work.

2. Advocate for local/county composting policy and ordinances.
   a. COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLANS: Work to have language on composting and compost use incorporated into County 5-year plan revisions. Compare and contrast benchmarks for counties ensuring that composting instructions are easily identified on county and municipal websites.
   b. MUNICIPAL/LOCAL POLICY: Develop recommendations for municipal and county language related to sustainability, climate, and composting.
      i. Municipal/State/Agency Compost Use Ordinance Advocacy
   c. CITY OF CHICAGO: Develop a plan for supporting City of Chicago policy and ordinance related to composting of yard waste and food scraps.

3. Advocate for re-establishment of a state grant funded program for market development in food scrap related sectors.
   a. SOLID WASTE FUND: Advocate for at least $1M per year of the Solid Waste fee revenue be used for projects and equipment that expand compost market sales.
   b. PROJECT FUNDING: Identify state funding and projects to support composting, including:
      i. Required use of food amended compost by government agencies in construction and maintenance projects.
      ii. State funded marketing campaign to drive the sale of Illinois compost.
      iii. Statewide education regarding contamination of food scrap feedstock.
   c. STATE PLAN: Track and support state materials management plan recommendations related to funding and market development.

Diversion - implementation & education

Goal: to develop, implement, and maintain educational and recognition programs that drive food scatter diversion, through technical support and partnerships.

Committees: Education, Communication, Compost Market Development, Website and Social Media, and We Compost

1. Continue to provide education and technical support to develop more food scrap collection
programs and use of finished compost across Illinois in the residential and commercial sector.

a. **RESIDENTIAL**: Continue to partner and expand relationships with:
   i. Municipalities to increase community knowledge of and use of food scrap composting programs.
   ii. GoGreen groups, environmental commissions and other grassroots organizations to increase community engagement to educate and drive compost use.

b. **COMMERCIAL**: Continue to partner and expand relationships with food scrap generators, haulers, compost processors, end users, and solid waste agencies.

c. **SCHOOLS**: Work with K-12 schools, universities and colleges to incorporate organics diversion and the education that supports that diversion.
   i. Leverage the Wasted Food Action Alliance school toolkit to promote composting in schools.
   ii. Develop a targeted campaign that includes the value of composting as a third stream strategy to conserve landfill space for material.
   iii. Educate to reduce contamination.
   iv. Connect schools to their community to educate and grow awareness of residential programs and better engage residents in composting.

d. **CITY OF CHICAGO**: Develop targeted program addressing the City of Chicago, promoting composting and the use of compost.

e. **PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN**: Develop an education campaign addressing food scrap diversion; use of end product; connections between food waste, compost and climate change (Project Drawdown); and contamination.

2. Develop a multi-pronged strategy for minimizing contamination related to food scrap diversion/composting. Work with IEPA to develop and share:
   a. **STATE GUIDELINES**: Standard statewide guidelines, working with IEPA and compost sites to identify acceptable materials.
   b. **COMPOSTER EDUCATION**: Put on a composter summit in late 2021 to learn best practices (note that urban and suburban areas have different challenges).

3. Maintain and expand the **We Compost recognition program**.
   a. **MEMBER SUPPORT**: Support and build connections with existing We Compost partners (newsletter and social media).
   b. **GROW WE COMPOST**: Grow membership in the We Compost program.
      i. Add 25 more partners per year.
      ii. Focus We Compost efforts on large generators of food scraps (institutions, food producers, etc).
   c. **BEST PRACTICES**: Identify and benchmark best practices to provide a blueprint for action.

**Market Development – infrastructure & end markets**

**Goal**: to drive specific attainable and sustainable end market development strategies that will have statewide impact, expand capacity for more diversion, and develop demand for the end product.

**Committees**: Compost Market Development, Education, Outreach, & Social Media

1. Support and track the results of Illinois composting projects and research.
   a. **COMPOSTER DATABASE**: Support and advise Illinois EPA to maintain, improve, and update the composter database and map.
   b. **IDOT PILOT PROJECTS**: Oversee and monitor the results of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) implementation of HB 4790 (Public Act 100-0951).
i. Use results to expand compost use for other local governmental projects.
ii. Support generation of articles, project summaries and sessions at conferences.

c. **MWRD**: Continue engagement with Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) to create collaborative marketing strategies and opportunities.
   i. Collaborate with MWRD to make their compost a revenue generating resource.
   ii. Encourage MWRD compost to receive certification (STA or OMRI) complementary messaging.

d. **LAKE COUNTY USDA COMPOSTING PROGRAM**: Support and monitor the results of the Lake County USDA program.

e. **COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**: Support and track the results of the proposed regional compostable plastics demonstration project.

2. Serve as the Illinois State Chapter of the United State Composting Council (USCC).
   a. **CHAPTER MEETINGS**: Provide representation at USCC state chapter meetings.
   b. **MEMBERSHIP**: Grow membership in both IFSC and USCC.
   c. Determine how to best balance our focus on food scrap composting and USCC focus on all organics diversion.

3. Develop strategy targeting specific end market sectors to educate about and encourage the use of compost.
   a. **PROCUREMENT SPECIFICATIONS**: Provide specifications on IFSC website for planting guides and incorporation of compost for a variety of uses.
   b. **EDUCATION ON USES OF FINISHED COMPOST**: Educate public and commercial/institutional constituents on the US Composting Council’s Seal of Testing Assurance Program (USCC-STA).
   c. **INCENTIVES AND GRANT SPECIFICATIONS**: Add language to government grants to require projects to utilize finished compost (see Advocacy goal).

**Engagement - communications & membership**

**Goal**: to EQUITABLY strengthen the composting community and support organizations and individuals to expand access, awareness and distribution of IFSC resources.

**Committees**: Communications, Membership, Education, We Compost, & Social Media

1. **Build the IFSC membership base**: in quantity, quality and equality; improving membership #s and committee engagement.
   a. **EVENTS**: Conduct annual appreciation events and foster member engagement.
   b. **USCC**: Coordinated IFSC/USCC Illinois Chapter Member recruitment drive.
   c. **COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT**: Determine steps to recruit committee members and build a sustainable committee structure / build a robust committee and renewing chair term limits.
   d. **STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH**: Target and engage external stakeholders for collaborative action.

2. Improve internal IFSC communication and collaboration; support the incorporation of equity in each committee and the Board.
   a. **COMMITTEE COLLABORATION**: Conduct quarterly committee collaboration meetings, with the chairs of committees coming together to cross pollinate.
   b. **EQUITY**: Identify opportunities for each committee to incorporate
3. Stronger and better resourced marketing, website and social media campaign.
   a. MARKETING PLAN: Create and implement a marketing plan.
      i. Align IFSC efforts with recommendations of the Illinois Materials Management Advisory Committee and statewide committee efforts.
      ii. Get composting on the radars of counties, municipalities, solid waste agencies and large generators. Raise awareness of composting facilities that accept food scraps.
      iii. Develop an outreach plan for International Compost Awareness Week.

4. Use data on compost infrastructure and end use to effectively communicate impact, promote involvement, and identify opportunities.