



## Summer 2021 Newsletter

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## International Compost Awareness Week

We're thrilled with how successful IFSC's first annual ICAW Lunch & Learns were! Thank you again to everyone who joined us for a week of composting presentations from some amazing speakers and experts in the field, who taught us all how to grow, eat, compost, and repeat. If you missed any of the days, all five presentation recordings are posted on IFSC's YouTube channel. Check out the recap link for details of each day's presentation, the recording links, and some helpful time stamps in case you want to watch or re-watch a particular section of the event. Each day also has a list of great



resources that were shared in the Zoom chat during the presentation or shared verbally by the experts. There are so many ways that you can continue to learn about composting and its vital role in our food system!



[CLICK HERE](#) for the full ICAW recap

## Policy Update

Despite the impacts of COVID-19 on this year's legislative session, a few policies related to food scraps, composting, and food waste reduction did progress. Notably, HR5 (Loan Forgiveness - Farming) passed in April, as well as HR46 (Black Farmers - Illinois). A couple of other bills reached 50% or 75% progression before the end of the session, including HB633 (Vegetable Garden Protection), which passed both houses in May.

On farm incidental compost sales, HB2891 (EPA - Composting Facility) agreed to language by all of the parties for incidental sales of compost produced on farms, but it was not moved forward because of an issue with the sponsor. This will be pursued in 2021. Senator Laura Fine introduced SR220 (Compost Awareness Week), but it was not adopted. The plan will be to introduce it earlier next year so that it can be moved forward. Senator Kimberly Lightford introduced Illinois' first organics ban - SB1167 (Safety - Tech). This bill was brought forward by a business that Senator Lightford knows and was a bit premature. Members of IFSC provided feedback on the bill, but it was not moved forward at this time. New policy ideas for 2021/2022 include more discussion on the organics ban, city of Chicago composting operations, EPA citing rule changes, composting of dead mammals, increased compost markets, and compostable products/PLA.



## Illinois Materials Management Advisory Committee Report to the General Assembly Published

In July 2019, Governor Pritzker signed House Bill 3068, which created the Statewide Materials Management Advisory Committee. Comprised of several IFSC members and a wide variety of recycling, composting, materials management, and solid waste professionals, the Committee has been responsible for investigating current recycling and solid waste practices and recommending options to the General Assembly to divert wastes from Illinois landfills. These recommendations include improvements to form the contents of county waste management plan required by Illinois law. The information collected in pursuit of this mission has been compiled in report form for the General Assembly and is [available here](#).



## Welcome New Board Members

### *Kila Harwick, Green Soils Management*

**How long have you been in organics/composting?**

*"This year is my 2nd year with Green Soils Management. I originally come from a background in construction and was approached at a construction expo with an opportunity to go GREEN. I jumped on it! :)"*



**What is your favorite part about working in this field?**

*"My favorite part of working in this field is that I get to help eliminate waste from going into the landfills! I also get to see the beauty of recycling and how composting dramatically increases the quality of our soils. Being able to get out of the office and see how the screened products are being used around our communities is an added perk. I can't sit at my desk for too long or I'll go crazy!"*

**What skills and assets do you bring to IFSC as a board member?**

*"I believe as a newly integrated member of the composting community and a supplier of organics, I can be an additional advocate for marketing and advertising the extreme benefits of recycling/composting for both residential*

and commercial markets. I hope to simultaneously bring in new ideas to the association while taking valuable information back to my team to better the Green Soils facility and it's processes."

## *Alaina Morin, St. Louis Composting*

**How long have you been in organics/composting?**

*"I have been in environmental education for four years."*

**What is your favorite part about working in this field?**

*"My favorite part about working in the field is the real impact we are having on the environment every single day by composting with large restaurants, hospitals, universities, the St. Louis Zoo, and more. The amount of Green Houses Gases we are diverting is astronomical!"*



**What skills and assets do you bring to IFSC as a board member?**

*"As an experienced environmental educator in and out of the classroom as well as a compost hauler, I am able to bring the real-world roadblocks, successes, and goals from both sides of the spectrum."*

## **Committee Regeneration means YOU!**

### [New Committee Guide](#)

It's no secret that our members are dedicated and hard working. Many of our members also serve on committees to help push the mission of IFSC and to amplify the work being done by their own organizations and grow the demand and infrastructure that supports their composting businesses. The real work of the IFSC happens with you at the committee level. To make the biggest impact you can with your membership, we ask that you join your fellow members on an active committee of your choosing. Have a look at the descriptions in the Committee Guide linked above to see which committee is the best fit for you.

### [Join a Committee](#)

Since the start of the year, we have gathered a team to focus on how to keep our committees strong and growing. Each committee now has, or is seeking a co-chair to share the duties of committee leadership and ensure continuity. Committee members are listed on the website committee pages to recognize their extra effort. And, we are carefully reviewing our IFSC membership lists with committee chairs to invite individuals not already on a committee to get involved.

**Be a winner! Join a committee before 8/8/21 and**



**you will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 visa gift card to spend as you wish.** You will receive one entry for each committee you join (and attend your first meeting). We will do the drawing in August and will announce it at the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Here's how to join:**

1. Look at the **committee information online**.
2. Choose one or more committees you wish to join.
3. Fill out **this form**, and submit it.



**What our members are saying**

*"The Illinois Food Scrap Coalition has been a fantastic partner in numerous Agency endeavors related to recent expansions in the State of Illinois' sustainable materials management programs IFSC's active intellectual leadership on identifying and encouraging organics recovery opportunities established the programmatic baseline for initiating development of a compost contamination minimization guide for Illinois residents. Our team looks forward to continued joint efforts with IFSC as they help guide their diverse membership into new and exciting areas of food diversion."*

*- James Jennings, Manager, Illinois EPA Waste Reduction and Compliance Section*

## Meet our New Committee Co-chairs

*EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Simrata (Seema) Keshav, Founder of Go Green Vernon Hills & Lincolnshire*



Seema is an alum of UIC and DePaul University and has worked in the corporate world for over 15 years. She was a Director of Analytics at a leading pharmaceutical firm when she decided to leave her position and focus on family and now her community. In 2019 she started the Vernon Hills & Lincolnshire Go Green chapters. Since its inception, Seema has focused on creating environmental awareness on the issue of food waste and single-use plastics. She has rallied the community to advocate for a curbside food scrap program and has started programs within the local school district to reduce food and plastic waste.

*POLICY COMMITTEE: Liz Kunkle, Collective Resource Compost*

Liz is the founder and president of Go Green Winnetka, a Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commissioner, and a Zero Waste Consultant for Collective Resource





Compost. She is a member of the Communications Committee at IFSC and the Target Organics Committee at the US Com-posting Council. She is all about reducing, diverting, and composting food and other organic waste all the time.

## *WE COMPOST RECOGNITION PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Amy Bartucci*



Amy is the Founder of both Go Green Park Ridge and Green Drinks Park Ridge and Director of Membership for the League of Women Voters Park Ridge. Co-Chairing the We Compost Recognition Program Committee aligns with Zero Waste Warrior initiatives she is already a part of in the Climate Reality Project - Chicago Chapter. When not doing litter cleanups, she encourages people to patronize We Compost Partners which will help build our partnerships and increase collective impact. In her free time she heals the broken food system with The Love Fridge movement, feeding communities through collectivism and cooperation.

## **Compost Market Development Committee Update**

The Compost Market Development Committee is active, but needs additional IFSC member participation to progress towards our goals. Over the past 6 months the CMD and CMD Members successfully participated in planning an outstanding inaugural Illinois International Compost Awareness Week program, created a home lawn compost application fact sheet, assembled information which was used to create a “where to buy compost” resource for the IFSC website, created and initiated distribution of Organics Contamination Mitigation PSAs, contributed to the IFSC Strategic Plan, and worked to launch and incorporate the Illinois Composting Council (the Illinois Chapter of the US Composting Council) into the IFSC organizational structure. Members of CMD, and others IFSC Members, have participated in the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Materials Management Advisory Committee (MMAC). The MMAC prepared...



[READ MORE HERE](#)

## **We Compost Recognition Program Committee Update**





The We Compost Recognition Program Committee was delighted to host University of Illinois at Chicago student, Nirali Shah for her spring internship. Nirali's internship focused on our 60 municipal We Compost partners. She compiled a database of contact information, prepared welcome mailers, and generated social media posts to celebrate these exceptional communities that provide their residents an option to keep their food waste out of landfills. Thank you, Nirali for all your hard work this past semester!

## USCC Update

### *Illinois Chapter of the USCC*

The Illinois Composting Council is one of the newest state chapters of the USCC and thanks to the graphic designers at USCC and the IFSC board, we are proud to share our chapter logo that incorporates IFSC's popular and recognizable logo.



### *ICAW*

USCC Chapters hosted a special ICAW webinar with guest Finian Makepeace of Kiss the Ground. To hear Finian's compelling chase for compost as a means to reduce climate change [CLICK HERE](#).



### *US Composting Council Publishes New Primer on Compostable Products*

There is increasing demand to replace single use plastics, and reduce the pollution they cause, with products that are biodegradable and compostable. Traditional composting of these materials is a solution to convert biodegradable products to a usable commodity. Composters however are often challenged to accept food scraps that contain tableware and packaging deemed compostable. These products must be consumed by their compost process or they risk contaminating the end product. The US Council has prepared a document to educate compost operators on how to best handle compostable products that accompany food scraps. If you want to learn more about this issue, download the report at:

[US Composting Council Publishes New Primer on Compostable Products - US Composting Council](#)

## *New resource: What are PFAS and how do they affect me?*

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (known variously as PFAS, PFOs and PFOAs) are man-made fluorinated compounds that have been put into consumer products since the 1940s because of their stain- and grease-repelling properties. Two of the chemicals, PFOs and PFOAs, have been phased out in the U.S. due to USEPA rulings in 2002 and 2015 that restrict their manufacture.

**Visit the USCC website to learn more**

## **Partner Spotlight: Collective Resource Compost**

Ten restaurants in Edgewater's SSA#26 are eligible to participate in a composting pilot program hauled by IFSC sustaining partner Collective Resource Compost. These include: **Alice & Friends**, **Mango Pickle**, **Uncommon Ground Edgewater**, and **Nori Sushi Edgewater**. The **Edgewater Environmental Coalition** (EEC) was instrumental in recognizing the need and making it happen and Edgewater Chamber of Commerce provided the funds.



Collective Resource Compost is making plans to begin collection again for Gold We Compost Business Partner **Huntington Bank Pavilion** at Northerly Island to compost at this season's concerts!

*We want to hear about your successes in composting in Illinois.  
Please share your story [HERE](#)*

## **Upcoming Events & Opportunities**

### *IFSC and IFSC Partner Events*

- Monday 7/19 at 2pm **Communication Committee Meeting**
- Tuesday 7/20 at 9am **Compost Market Development Committee Meeting**
- Tuesday 7/20 at 12pm **Education Committee Meeting**
- Monday 7/14 at 2pm **Communication Committee Meeting**
- Monday 8/2 at 2pm **EPA informational webinar about Anaerobic Digester funding opportunity**
- Friday 8/20 at 12pm **We Compost Recognition Program Committee Meeting**

Want to see your composting related events on our calendar?  
Email [Illinoiscomposts@gmail.com](mailto:Illinoiscomposts@gmail.com)!



Already had an event, received an award or recognition, or reached a food scrap milestone? We will help you get the word out!

## *EPA Announces Anaerobic Digestion Grant Opportunity for Food Waste Management Projects*



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking applications on Grants.gov for projects from states, tribes, territories and non-profit organizations to help reduce food loss and waste and divert food waste from landfills by expanding anaerobic digester (AD) capacity in the United States.

EPA anticipates awarding up to \$2 million in total AD funding. Individual projects could be in the range of \$50,000-\$200,000 for the funding period of two years.

All applications must achieve one or more of the following objectives:

- Develop new or expand existing AD capacity for processing food waste.
- Demonstrate solutions and/or approaches for increasing food waste AD utilization that can be replicated by other communities, governments, or other entities.
- Support state, Tribal, and/or local government programs that seek to use AD to increase their food waste diversion rates.

Applications are due by October 7, 2021. Additional information is available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), under Funding Opportunity Announcement EPA-OLEM-ORCR-21-02.

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### Sustaining Partners

#### - Platinum Partners -

**SAVOR...**Chicago  
at McCormick Place  
Catering • Concessions • Special Events



Seven  
Generations  
Ahead

#### - Gold Partners -



Illinois Food Scrap Coalition

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Contact Us

