



Winter 2021 Newsletter

- 2020 Annual Report
- Strategic Planning Meeting
- Renewing your 2021 Membership
- Food:Land:Opportunity Grant Update
- Compost Market Development Committee Spotlight
- Member Spotlights
 - SCARCE
 - SWALCO
- 2021 meeting schedule
- USCC Conference
- Midwest Grows Green Week
- Get ready for International Compost Awareness Week

2020 IFSC Annual Report



Despite the extraordinary year, IFSC remained active in our mission. See what we've been up to during 2020, including our highlighted projects and accomplishments, events attended, and growth in our signature programs.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition's 2020 annual report.

2021 Strategic Planning Meeting

IFSC's Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Committee members will be meeting via Zoom on **Monday, January 25th from 2-5pm** followed by a social hour. If you are an IFSC member interested in

being a part of the strategic planning process please contact Liz at illinoiscomposts@gmail.com to receive the link to join this meeting.



JOIN THE IFSC IN 2021



Is reducing food waste one of your 2021 resolutions? **Join the IFSC** as a member to help bring meaningful change to the food waste movement, keep valuable nutrients out of landfills, and renew Illinois soils with nutrient-rich compost that support local food systems and healthy landscapes!

We count on your annual membership contributions to progress our work in food scrap composting and diversion. **Support us today** to make a difference.

[JOIN or RENEW! click here](#)

A big THANK YOU to 2021 Partners & Members

PLATINUM SUSTAINING PARTNERS

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



Seven
Generations
Ahead

GOLD SUSTAINING PARTNERS



SILVER SUSTAINING PARTNERS



ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

71 S. Wacker Drive LLC
Bright Beat
Cook County
Delta Institute
DK Organics, LLC
Duke's Alehouse and Kitchen
Kane County, Division of
Environmental Resources

Land and Lakes
Midwest Grows Green
Mindful Waste
The GardenWorks Project
The University of Illinois at Chicago
Waste Management of Illinois

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Katie Caldwell
Monica Chen
Kat Gerdts
Tyler Horstman
Chris Kious

Steven Schilling
Joy Scrogum
Araceli Solano
Mark Teegen

Food:Land:Opportunity Grant Update

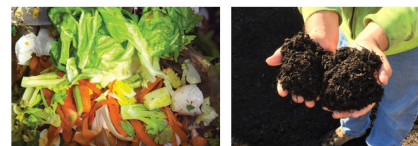
“If You Build It, They Will Come.”

Town hall highlights how to get your community composting

During the fall, Seven Generations Ahead and the IFSC hosted a Town Hall featuring community leaders and experts in starting municipal food scrap composting programs.

Read the full article for more information, links to a recording of the town hall and many resources to bring composting to your community.

Get Your Community Composting



Green Conversations: Connecting the Dots
September 29, 2020



59 municipalities offer residential curbside composting pick-up

The IFSC maintains a list of all Illinois municipalities offering a program for residents to have their food scraps collected for composting. Do you live in one of the 59 communities offering this service, often at no additional cost? Check out our updated list in [Appendix A](#) of our [Residential Food Scrap Composting Guide](#) on our website.

Funding for the town hall and the Residential Food Scrap Composting Guide were provided by Food:Land:Opportunity, a collaboration between Kinship Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust and funded through the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust.

Committee Spotlight: Compost Market Development



Happy New Year wishes from the Compost Market Development Committee (CMD)! WE accomplished a good amount in 2020, and some of the work that we did in years past is now paying out dividends. 2021 promises to be exciting and can be very productive with your help!

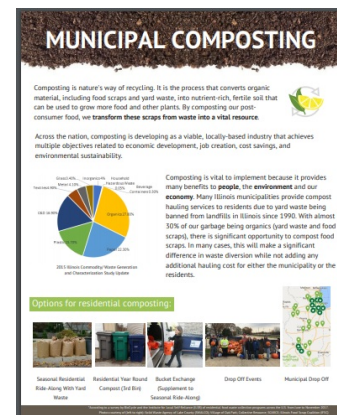
In the 4th quarter of 2020 the US Composting Council has made it official; there is an official US Composting Council Illinois Chapter, and that's us here at the IFSC!

[Click here to read the full update](#)

Committee Spotlight: Education & Projects Committee

The IFSC Education & Projects Committee made a big comeback in 2020 with the return to regular meetings to organize returning and new committee members around projects to add to, and enhance IFSC's collection of resources.

[Click here](#) to read the highlights of 2020 from the Education & Projects Committee.



Member Spotlight: SCARCE

SCARCE Pumpkin Smash diverts over 150 tons from landfills



Pumpkin Smash events had their best year yet since the first pumpkin smash in 2014, diverting 159.17 tons of pumpkins from landfills. 49 locations participated this year and used the opportunity to teach their community about closing the loop to put these valuable nutrients and resources back into the soil. Lets help keep our favorite gourd going full circle!

Thank you **SCARCE** for organizing another great year of Pumpkin Smash events! You can

[read more about the 2020 Pumpkin Smash here](#) and organize a Pumpkin Smash event in your area in 2021.

Member Spotlight: SWALCO

SWALCO & Collaborators “Dig In” with first actions steps of a Pilot Project to Promote Compost Use and Divert Food Scraps

In August, 2020, **SWALCO** (Solid Waste Agency of Lake County) was awarded a USDA and NRCS grant for local governments to host a Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction pilot project. The grant will be used to assist local government with projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost and food waste reduction plans. Additionally, it hopes to demonstrate that compost derived from landscape waste and food scraps can be a valuable product that can be used in agriculture to improve and maintain the health of soils. Participants included commercial, large-scale farms (growing crops such as corn, soy bean, alfalfa), smaller urban farms with CSAs, community gardens with shared output and community gardens with individual household “rental” parcels.



[Click here to read more about how this grant is being applied in Vernon Hills](#)

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

Meeting Schedule 2021

Did you know? The IFSC has monthly meetings via conference call so you can join from wherever you are. Meetings are on the first Monday of the month, unless otherwise noted. 2021 meeting dates: 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 6/7, (July newsletter in lieu of meeting), 8/2, 9/13 (2nd Monday), 10/4, 11/1, 12/6

How to connect

Via web Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78074241589?pwd=OFlwUktCWTJlZ1pPZSsxdG9nM2ZGUT09>

Via phone: call in number: (312) 626 6799
Access code: 034706#

USCC Conference "Sharing Local Solutions Globally"



US Composting
Council®

The US Composting Council's Virtual Compost 2021, "Sharing Local Solutions Globally" will be held January 26th and 27th. The opening plenary session will feature international compost industry leaders. Concurrent sessions

are offered on a variety of topics including: infrastructure development; managing feedstock and compost contamination; addressing climate change; safety; organics diversion in the workplace; creating efficiencies in compost operations; and food safety using compost in production. The closing plenary speaker is Paul Hawkins, author of "Project Drawdown" and "Natural Capitalism". More information can be found on [Schedule at a Glance - Virtual COMPOST2021 - USCC Conference Site \(compostconference.com\)](#).

Midwest Grows Green Week 2021 will feature IFSC speakers

Have you considered compost for your sports fields? IFSC Vice Chairman Benjamin Krumstok discusses how to improve soil health on sports fields by adding compost and other organic matter rich materials during Midwest Grows Green's "Improving Soil Health on Sports and Recreational Fields" webinar on Wednesday, March 24th. Benjamin will be joined by Dr. Paul Koch, Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin and Dan Dinelli, the Golf Course Superintendent for the North Shore Country Club. Registration is now open at bit.ly/MGGsoilhealth21.

MIDWEST GROWS GREEN WEEK

SPEAKER FEATURE



Vytas Pabedinskas

Owner, Save Our Soil, LLC.

"Healthy soil is a dynamic system that needs its engine, the microbiology, to be fueled, lubricated and shock absorbed by organic matter to handle the stresses put on athletic fields."

On **Wednesday, March 24th**, Vytas elaborates on how to improve soil health on sports and recreational fields.

Register at bit.ly/MGGsoilhealth21



This webinar is proudly sponsored by:



MIDWEST GROWS GREEN WEEK

SPEAKER FEATURE



Benjamin Krumstok

Vice Chairman, Illinois Food Scrap Coalition

"Healthy soil improves turf performance by reducing soil compaction, player injuries, flooding, maintenance and, most importantly, chemical exposure."

On **Wednesday, March 24th**, Benjamin elaborates on how to improve soil health on sports and recreational fields.

Register at bit.ly/MGGsoilhealth21



This webinar is proudly sponsored by:



International Compost Awareness Week May 2-8, 2020

The ICAW Committee of the Compost Council Research & Education Foundation has announced the winning poster design and **video** for ICAW 2021 "Grow, Eat...COMPOST...Repeat"

Since 1995, ICAW has helped promote the importance of composting and the long-term benefits from organics recycling. This program raises public awareness of the benefits of compost to improve and maintain high quality

soil, to grow healthy plants, reduce the use of fertilizer and pesticides, improve water quality and protect the environment.

Learn more about ICAW [HERE](#) and tell us about your planned 2021 ICAW events and we will help get the word out!



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, 1/20, 1pm: NEWMOA/NERC Webinar: [Depackaging & Commercial Composting – An Integrated System for Organics Recycling](#)

Wednesday 2/3, 1-2:30pm: NEWMOA/NERC Webinar: [Strategies for Collecting Residential Food Waste](#)

Thursday 2/11, 1pm: Illinois Extension Webinar: [Waste to Renewable Energy](#)

Monday, 3/22 8:30am-3:00pm: MGG [Adding an Organic Lawn Care Service to Your Business](#)

Wednesday, 3/24, 8:30am-3pm: MGG [Improving Soil Health on Sports and Recreational Fields Webinar](#)

Thursday, 3/25, 8:30am-3pm: MGG [Viable and Safe Alternatives to Glyphosate Use](#)

News, Opportunities, and Resources

News:

[Chicago urban farming project to utilize anaerobic digestion to mitigate food waste, produce renewable energy](#)

[Wasted Food = Wasted Energy; Save More Food](#)

Opportunities:

[USDA Seeks Members for Advisory Committee on Urban Agriculture](#)

National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program - Sustainable Agricultural Systems

USDA Value-Added Producer Grants - Anaerobic Digester Funding

Earthshot Prize - Build a waste-free world

Resources:

World Wildlife Fund Updated Food Waste Warrior Curriculum

Illinois Food Scrap Coalition

illinoiscomposts@gmail.com

Contact Us

