



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

Minutes March 4, 2024

of Attendees: 59

Welcome (Amy DeLorenzo, IFSCC Conductor)

Speaker Spotlight: Toby Alves, EcoProducts

Toby Alves substituted for IFSCC Member Jamie Brown. Toby is a zero waste product specialist located in Maine.

CIRC (Controls Intended to Remove Contamination)

We learned about this new program developed by IFSCC's Platinum Member, Eco-Products.

CIRQ (Controls Intended to Remove Contamination) addresses the challenge of contamination from non-compostable materials in compost streams through a systems approach to Procurement, Operations, Communication, and Composter & Hauler Engagement.

CIRC Info [HERE](#).

CIRC Presentation [HERE](#).

Q&A

Q: Can you speak about the relationship that Eco Products has with haulers and facilities and whether or how you make sure that relationship is going well?

A: Critical question! Those are the most cherished relationships in Eco Products. We can't get the work done without the haulers and the composters. When it comes to diversion we are constantly measuring and analyzing data to protect and build these relationships.

Q: Do you have any products that break down well in an anaerobic digester?

A: We haven't done a lot with the AD community. It is not the highest and best use. There's work for everybody in this space.

CHAT COMMENT: The current AD facilities use depackagers, I am curious how many of the compostables make it to digestion?

Q: Can you talk more about fiber molded vs bioplastics?

A: Eco Products has a diverse product mix and we want to provide many options to our customers. The legislation is not consistent throughout the world let alone from one state to the next. For example: There is currently “green tinted” PLA labeling law efforts for the Washington and CO markets. Fiber came about because of more recent PLA research (need to focus on how these products breakdown and aim is to have no harmful byproducts left behind). Fiber can be considered less offensive and at the same time clear bioplastics can lead to more contamination because it looks and feels like plastic. But clear products are typically the most coveted (Clear is King!) for food service operations.

Q: Is the scorecard geared toward large generators? Or would it also be applicable for small businesses such as small restaurants or cafés?

A: All of the above. [LINK TO VIDEO ABOUT THE SCORECARD](#). The scorecard is designed to be used with a filter, etc.

Q: What’s the timeline for potentially improving manmade (OMRI) systems vs simply having anything/everything else in compost windrows?

A: As a former composter, I’d say the industry has gotten to a good spot. This issue needs to be considered and federal level standards may help us get more definitive/closer. Toby is optimistic about the progress. We could have facilities specifically for OMRI compost!

Q: Is your primary focus on commercial and events?

A: Actually our primary focus is for Food Service Operations.

Q: Is the goal for CIRC to be made selective with certain customers to use?

A: Not necessarily. For example, there have not been predetermined scorecard user selections at the composter level. A lot of this is an extension of the work that was done in Compostable Chicago and the goal is to provide helpful info to any user.

IFSCC Executive Director update Benjamin Krumstok, benjamin@compostingpartners.com
Benjamin gave a [membership renewal/join us](#) reminder + shout out about member participation in committee work as very important! This is how the work gets done. Benjamin also clarified and spoke to the importance of product certification for composting.

IFSCC Board Chair update John Lardner, jlardnerpe@aol.com

John mentioned that there are three open board positions and several incumbents. Folks can send a Letter of Intent to him if interested in joining the board.

Food:Land:Opportunity, funded by a grant from the Kinship Foundation and the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust. (Jen Nelson, IFSCC Board)

- No update

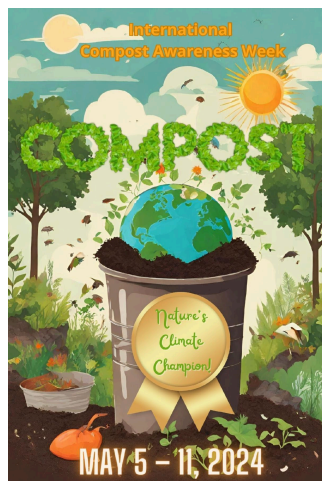
Admin update: (Amy Bartucci) illinoiscomposts@gmail.com

- IFSCC Membership Appreciation & Networking Event: [RSVP](#) (All are welcome, members priority attendance) This collaboration was born out of our CMD committee: COMPOST USE/END MARKET GOALS
 - LOCATION: Woodlawn and Hyde Park neighborhoods
 - Workshop by day (**Audience is for landscape professionals, please forward [this info](#)**), Party by night (for our IL compost community)!
 - THANK YOU Experiential Station for the terrific venue for these occasions
 - THANK YOU to our valued members Midwest Grows Green, Phoenix Bean and The Urban Canopy- from the ground up partners helping us get this event going!
 - Additional sponsors WELCOME, please email illinoiscomposts@gmail.com
 - Additional thank you's to our members SCARCE and WHOLE EARTH COMPOST for helping support this event: we are aiming for zero waste AND a compost giveaway! THANK YOU ECO PRODUCTS FOR THE TAKE HOME CONTAINERS.
 - Shout outs to Revolution Brewing and Open Water for donating beverages.

Committee Reports:

- We Compost: Mary Beth Schaye and Amy Bartucci, Co-Chairs, illinoiscomposts@gmail.com
 - Annual Newsletter COMING SOON: ISO We Compost decals in the wild, please send photos of your windows with our logo to be featured in our upcoming newsletter: illinoiscomposts@gmail.com
 - New and SECOND 2024 Green Level We Compost Partner: Green Earth Grocery, Edwardsville IL
- Communications: Amy DeLorenzo and Steph Katsaros, Co-Chairs, amy.delorenzo@gmail.com, steph@brightbeat.com
 - Currently recruiting for social media experts to help communicate the work of the IFSCC. Reach out to Steph or Amy D if interested.
 - Working with an aligned organizations tracking spreadsheet to consider building relationships in IL.
- Policy: Liz Kunkle and Tommy Vaughan, Co-Chairs, liz@ilenviro.org, tommy@wastenotcompost.com
 - We are tracking the bills that have been introduced in the state legislature.
 - About a dozen have been introduced for Zero Waste 2024.
 - When/if board does or does not take action on a bill, each organization can always take their own action (in favor or against!) Board is considering all of these bills and does not take a formal position as a coalition unless there is unanimity at the board level.
 - Looking forward to tours this spring after the session ends.
 - Next Policy Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 21 at 11am. Please contact Amy Bartucci at illinoiscomposts@gmail.com if you would like the invite.

- Wed May 8 will be Legislative Lunch & Learn - a great time to see what organics-focused legislation might move across the finish line before session ends in late May.
- UPDATE: Link to [Introduced/Enacted Food Scrap & Compost-Related Policy](#)
 - *2024 bills have been introduced; 2023 and prior years' bills have all been enacted
- Education: Jen Nelson and Natasha Nicholes, Co-Chairs, jennifer@sevendgenerationsahead.org, natasha@wesowwegrow.org
 - No update.
- Compost Market Development: Kila Harwick and Mike DiMucci, Co-Chairs, kharwick@greensoilsmanagement.com, mike@gpocompost.com
 - Will be submitting another "Ad" for the ILCA's April Issue.
 - Working on a media piece in collaboration with the Communications Committee to help reach more people in continuing our mission.
 - Working to create an easy way for compost to be in the hands of those participating in ICAW.
- International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), Merleanne Rampale, Chair MRampale@swalco.org
 - [Compost Research Education Foundation \(CREF\)](#): Merleanne will be presenting with this group to share our IL ideas for ICAW
 - CREF may use IL as the kickoff/spotlight for this year's ICAW activities
 - ICAW is now an official IFSCC committee....Fantastic and important work
 - Most events/Adventures in Composting are free throughout IL
 - Looks like we will have more events this year - YEAH!
 - We will also have toolkits also for anyone who would like to host and event.



Committee Meetings for 2024 (Contact illinoiscomposts@gmail.com for links to join)

- Communications - 2nd Monday, 2pm
- Compost Market Development - 3rd Tuesday, 9am
- Education - 2nd Tuesday, 12pm
- Policy - 3rd Thursday 11am (NEW TIME)
- We Compost - 3rd Friday at 12pm
- ICAW - 1st Tuesdays of the month

News from IFSCC Membership:

[Soil Health Week Events ALL WEEK with Illinois Stewardship Alliance](#)

Register for Pantry Garden and Compost Demo in Fremont Township with Teegen Composts [HERE](#)

Register for Amendments for Turf Soil Health: Biosolids and Beyond with Theresa Johnston, MWRD Soil Scientist [HERE](#)

Meeting adjourned 1:01 PM:

Next IFSCC Meeting, April 1, Member Presentations by John Lardner of Patriot Acres and Cathy Scratch of Terreplish

Please plan to join us and email illinoiscomposts@gmail.com if you need a link to join!