



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 April 1, 2024

of Attendees: 65

Welcome (Amy DeLorenzo, IFSCC Conductor)

Speaker Spotlight:

We learned from Patriot Acres LLC and Feed Earth Now and their recent grant application to the USDA Fertilizer Production Expansion Program which will enable them to produce the liquid free-living microbial soil nutrient Terreplenish from food scrap. They explained the benefits to agriculture offered by Terreplenish, without using fossil-fuel based chemicals, and a recent process developed by Easy Energy Systems to beneficially produce it at compost facilities.

Cathy Scratch, Founder and CEO, Feed Earth Now, LLC. and Terreplenish

In 2008 working as President of her own recycling consultancy business, Green Planet Waste Recycling Solutions, Cathy worked with large waste generating clients like hotels and hospitals, diverting all the basic recyclables like glass, metal, plastic, and cardboard, creating new revenue streams for her customers. While performing a waste audit for a large hotel in Chicago, Cathy discovered the hotel's food prep kitchen alone was generating 10 tons of food waste each week. 70-80% of food waste is the liquid and is the biggest challenge for food scrap recycling and composting. Drawing on her experience working as a Raw Food Chef, Cathy combined the science of fermentation with a scalable, automated fermentation system that ferments food scraps turning the liquid into Terreplenish, a certified for organic use liquid soil amendment.

John Lardner is a sole practitioner engineer focused on design, permitting, construction and operation of organic material composting facilities. He provides services to both private and public entities throughout Illinois. He is also a partner in Patriot Acres, an innovative new landscape waste compost facility located in unincorporated Cook County near Des Plaines, Illinois. He is on the board of the Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition where he serves as the chairperson, and is their Illinois chapter liaison to the US Composting Council.

Patriot Acres Info [HERE](#).

Terreplenish Info [HERE](#).

Presentation [HERE](#).

Q&A

Q: *What is the primary feedstock?*

A: 80% fruits and veg. Will allow *some* meat and dairy.

Q: *Is there a "digestate"/residual and how is that managed?*

A: Yes. This is also used to accelerate the compost process. A lot of CA composters are already using this product in their processing operations. We are taking the liquid out of food waste and then reintroducing it into the composting process.

Q: *Can you tell us what species the microbes are?*

A: Terreplish creates its own inoculant. Naturally occurring from the forest floor. The finished/end product is different and has been metabolized. It is testing out as a team of two of the highest levels of nitrogen fixing bacteria. Farmers can apply this to accumulate into the soil. Spring requires DOUBLE the amount of fertilizers because of rain washing product away. In this case, terreplish is applied and begins to draw DOWN quickly into the soil vs the threat of going downstream.

Q: *How do we get a system like this?*

A: We can easily make you one!

Q: *Is this like bokashi?*

A: This is different from bokashi. We do not use sawdust or cellulose.

Q: *What does transportation of the products look like, from food waste production to processing to end market?*

A: We'll process this in the totes and then the totes get delivered to the client/esp to farmers that need organic fertilizer for crops. Terreplish is also packaged smaller for retail. We have current sales for the golf industry, horticulture and hemp growers, etc.

Q: *What about compostable products? Contamination management?*

A: We don't work with compostables –we have to run everything through a dewatering system. We have a triple filter to aim for the LEAST AMOUNT OF PARTICLES AS POSSIBLE. Depackaging can be very difficult –not part of the system. Clean fruits and vegetables are the most ideal feedstock!

Q: *So the blend is principally 2 varieties? I think it's a huge improvement over the use of petro chemicals...*

A: The blend is one product of the two highest levels of nitrogen fixing bacteria.

Q: *In most cases, the "spreader" is different/difficult for golf courses to apply amendments like compost. Is Terreplish easy to apply on golf courses?*

A: YES! It is the consistency of water and diluted into the irrigation lines. Hopefully coming more

and more to ILLINOIS. Come visit us for a tour and we can show you all about the system.

IFSCC Executive Director update Benjamin Krumstok, benjamin@compostingpartners.com
Benjamin gave IFSCC Membership Event and Campaign Updates + is looking forward to ICAW coming up!

IFSCC Board Chair update John Lardner, jlardnerpe@aol.com
ISO of good candidates to join the board willing to step up –learn more about the board election in the next few weeks!

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

Newest update: NRDC's Andrea Collins has offered to help support a 5-7 year policy plan (organics diversion from landfill) along with two SGA interns that are very interested in supporting legislation and look into challenges, etc for IL. SGA will be identifying groups and their concerns and strategies to improve and will be looking for case studies, research, etc. Jen provided an example of how IL has made improvements in organics: Pumpkin Smashes helped move the needle with policy. Jen invited folks to join the IFSCC Policy Committee for broader, related conversations, etc.

Admin update: (Amy Bartucci) illinoiscomposts@gmail.com (no update)

Committee Reports:

- We Compost: Mary Beth Schaye and Amy Bartucci, Co-Chairs, illinoiscomposts@gmail.com
 - We recently published our We Compost newsletter!
- Communications: Amy DeLorenzo and Steph Katsaros, Co-Chairs, amy.delorenzo@gmail.com, steph@brightbeat.com
 - Wants to support across committees and synergize efforts in IFSCC.
 - Steph gave a pitch to see if anyone would like to help with tabling events in the area. Contact Steph or illinoiscomposts@gmail.com if interested.
- Policy: Liz Kunkle and Tommy Vaughan, Co-Chairs, liz@ilenviro.org, tommy@wastenotcompost.com Organics bills that are on the move right now!
 - **HB 5592** (Food Waste Disposal; Huynh) Provides that the definition of “municipal waste” does not include food residual or landscape waste resulting from commercial activities and provides for solid waste management plans to include provisions for diverting food waste and landscape waste from the landfill stream, prioritizing food consumption by humans, agricultural use, consumption by animals, and composting. *Assigned to Cities & Villages Committee 3/12, hearing 4/2 @ 4pm.*
 - **HB 5052** (Good Food Policy; Harper) Requires state agencies and facilities to implement Good Food Purchasing policies by prioritizing local suppliers that consider community health issues, comply with labor laws, and provide healthy

and humane conditions for farm animals. *Referred to State Govt Administration Committee 3/5, hearing 4/3 @ 2pm.*

- **SB 2876** (Solid Waste Event Facilities; Villa (last year's HB 1370)) Requires the owner/operator of event facilities with a maximum capacity/occupancy of at least 3,500 people to provide for the recycling and transfer of recyclable materials and for the composting of organic waste, which will be collected separately from recyclable materials. *Passed Environment & Conservation Committee (5-3) 3/22, Laura Fine added as chief co-sponsor 3/22, 2nd reading 4/9.*
- **HB 4619** (Rain & Compost Systems; Benton & Hernandez) Prevents HOAs from banning rain collection and compost systems. *Passed Energy & Environment Committee (17-10) 3/12, 2nd reading 3/13.*
- **HR 320** (Reduce Food Waste/Insecurity; Ortiz) Urges the State to develop policies to reduce food waste and address increasing food insecurity. *Assigned to Economic Opportunity & Equity Committee 1/31.*
- IEC Zero Waste Lobby Day May 15 coming up –Register [HERE](#).
- Education: Jen Nelson and Natasha Nicholes, Co-Chairs, jennifer@sevendgenerationsahead.org, natasha@wesowwegrow.org
 - Currently reassessing the Ed Committee meeting and the way there is so much overlap in other committees. Will be asking questions of members soon in order to set goals for 2024.
- Compost Market Development: Kila Harwick and Mike DiMucci, Co-Chairs, kharwick@greensoilsmanagement.com, mike@gpocompost.com
 - Will have an April one-pager in the Illinois Contractors Association publication
 - Hoping to connect with folks involved in ICAW for providing samples
- International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), Merleanne Rampale, Chair MRampale@swalco.org
 - 1 month til ICAW! Illinois will be the kick off of ICAW and our events will be featured throughout the whole week across the country. We'll have our two days of Adventures in Composting, a Legislative Lunch & Learn and a Compost Café (which can be livestreamed). It is not too late to submit an event –we will likely have up to 40 events in IL with great resources! See, touch and smell compost with us :)



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 (TOMORROW!)

News from IFSCC Membership:

Danielle Melgar: PIRG & partner orgs recently hosted a webinar on the Food Date Labeling Act, which would help keep edible food out of the waste stream, preserving much needed resources for actual food scraps that need to be composted. If you missed it, you can catch the recording here: <https://pirg.org/articles/expired-how-date-labels-drive-food-waste-and-hunger/>

Erica Helms, I'm co-hosting an fun sustainability event in Oak Park this Saturday! From 10am - 12pm at the main OPPL branch
<https://oakpark.librarycalendar.com/event/oak-park-eco-extravaganza-60980>

Ceceilia Carman, looking for help about Farmers Markets (for community drop off programs) in McHenry County –ISO a commercial hauler. Contact ddcarman@hotmail.com

Meeting adjourned: 1:00PM

Next IFSCC Meeting, May 6, City of Chicago + Whole Earth Compost

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