



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 June 3, 2024

of Attendees: 74

Welcome (Amy DeLorenzo, IFSCC Conductor)

Thank You Walter Willis: Benjamin Krumstok's Tribute Video [HERE](#).

Speaker Spotlight: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Liaison, James Jennings, will provide an overview of the permitting process for compost facilities in Illinois with a deeper dive into the numerous permitting exemptions for sites that compost and common issues and solutions for entities that would like to enter the compost industry.

James Jennings

James Jennings has been the Illinois EPA's Deputy Director since April 2023. As Deputy Director, James is responsible for the day-to-day oversight of issues that have an intersecting impact on the Illinois EPA's air, land, and water programs, as well as the Division of Labs. Prior to becoming Deputy Director, James served the Illinois EPA in several capacities. James was the Materials Management and Compliance Section Manager for seven years, overseeing the Illinois EPA's materials management programs, RCRA and solid waste compliance programs, and state and federal reporting obligations. James was also Assistant Legal Counsel to the Illinois EPA's Bureau of Land for three years. James obtained his law degree from the University of Kentucky and his undergraduate degree from the University of Cincinnati.

Presentation [HERE](#)

Q&A

Q: If Local Siting is required does IEPA renewal application trigger a need for renewal/reapplication for the Local siting?

A: Not necessarily. Local siting approval is an evergreen authorization to operate, consistent with the criteria set forth in the siting request. As a result, new siting is not necessary if the permit renewal does not contain material operational or site changes. However, new siting may be

necessary if the permit renewal contains provisions that would no longer allow the site to avail itself of a siting exemption, expand the site's footprint beyond what was included in the original siting approval, or otherwise meaningfully outgrow the nature of the initial approval.

Q: Does IEPA think IL's permitting regulations are too complicated or need to be revised to be more sensitized to the newer facilities?

A: Two parts: Yes, IEPA is comfortable with the regimen in that we know how to implement it. Composting regs currently reflect composting as it was in the 1990's. They don't align with national composting operations and sister states. IEPA is going through the arduous process to do an internal refresh (rule rewrites) –it's largely been a resource issue.

Q: Are you accepting suggestions to improve? How to contact IEPA/James with feedback?

A: Yes! Contact IEPA as they will be working on rulemaking to develop a draft document for public submissions/feedback for regulations and get more interested groups to weigh in.

Q/Comment: Problems with permitting have come from the local level, and are politically charged.

A: Broader concerns can stymie operations. IL's local siting is probably stronger than others. Local siting requirement is not an entirely foreign concept but it may be considered a "practice" rather than a statutory requirement. GOAL: carve out exemptions for local siting. IL is fairly unique and varies SO MUCH from county to county (ex: northeastern IL and southern IL)

Q: Is the permitting process for anaerobic digestion different than for composting facilities?

A: Process itself is very similar! On the land side the process would still track the same way for facilities accepting more than 10%. There are air and water permitting additions to tie in though with AD. Basically it's the same regulatory structure for facilities.

Q: Will you please specify the permit numbers that relate to the landscape waste and pollution control board facilities?

A: The numbers I referenced during my presentation were the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulations that govern the two types of composting facilities. Landscape waste compost facilities are governed by 35 Ill. Adm. Code 830-832. Part 830 contains most of the substantive provisions, so we typically just reference those when discussing these sites. All other compost sites are governed by 35 Ill. Adm. Code 807.

IFSCC Executive Director update Benjamin Krumstok, benjamin@compostingpartners.com
Benjamin thanked Walter Willis, Jeannine Kannegiesser and Jen Herd for their service to the IFSCC Board as they are all stepping down and announced the two new board members: Merleanne Rampale and Spencer LaBelle. Benjamin also announced the next IFSCC Board Officers: John Lardner (Chair), Charlie Murphy (Vice), Erlene Howard (Treasurer) and Liz Bosarge (Secretary).

Benjamin took a moment to thank ICAW participants and Chair, Merleanne Rampale, as well.

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

John updated folks on the final version of the 2024-26 IFSCC Strategic Plan [HERE](#).

John attended a webinar recently about legislative tours and spoke about how national compost efforts truly impact each state. USCC's CREF is having a webinar about new and innovative technology for compost facilities. More [HERE](#) (Free for members, \$20 for non-members)

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

Jen shared a compilation video to thank Merleanne Rampale for her efforts with chairing ICAW. This will be uploaded to IFSCC's Youtube when final.

Jen sent in a written CCT Food:Land:Opportunity update as well: Paving the path to further diversion of organics in IL 1. Continued work on a policy plan to get to organics diversion from landfill. 2. Policy passed requiring recycling and composting at venues over 3,500 capacity - WFAA to host a call about how to support venues/events to be positioned to meet this requirement (slated for 2025). 3. focus on supporting venues and grocery stores. 4) August WFAA meeting to address share tables and zero waste schools - IFSCC members are all invited and we will send an invite out soon.

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

Please send any ideas for future Speaker Spotlights to Amy. Also, if you are interested in a specific committee, please reach out to Amy to get on the calendar invitations. Look forward to an invitation from Benjamin to onboard new IFSCC members.

Committee Reports:

- We Compost: Mary Beth Schaye and Amy Bartucci, Co-Chairs, illinoiscomposts@gmail.com
 - Will now be meeting quarterly!
 - WELCOME GREEN LEVEL PARTNER: Maroa Public Library District, Macon County ILLINOIS
 - Recommended by ISTC's JOY SCROGUM!
- Communications: Amy DeLorenzo and Steph Katsaros, Co-Chairs, amy.delorenzo@gmail.com, steph@brightbeat.com
 - IFSCC Communications Committee is working on updating a marketing postcard for IFSCC. If you are interested in joining this effort and have specific expertise in this area, please reach out.
- Policy: Liz Kunkle and Tommy Vaughan, Co-Chairs, liz@ilenviro.org, tommy@wastenotcompost.com
 - SB2876 passed (exciting news!)
 - Applies to all venues in the state for over 3,500 capacity (not limited to just the ones that take state funding)
 - Enforceable and prosecutable by state and county attorneys. There are sequential fines. Will take in effect Jan 2025.

- Question in chat: Which venues are that large? How do we find out that info?
 - IEC will be hosting Summer legislator tours–looking into compost facility tours
 - IEC will have an upcoming series of issue planning calls for next year’s legislative session. Stay tuned.
- Education: Jen Nelson and Natasha Nicholes, Co-Chairs
jennifer@sevengenerationsahead.org, natasha@wesowwegrow.org
 - No update.
- Compost Market Development: Kila Harwick and Mike DiMucci, Co-Chairs,
kharwick@greensoilsmanagement.com, mike@gpocompost.com
 - Mike updated everyone on the fact that IFSCC will be featured again in the fall sustainability issue of the IL Contractors Association publication.
- International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), Merleanne Rampale, Chair
MRampale@swalco.org
 - Merleanne thanked everyone involved with the entire lineup in IL this year.
 - IFSCC doubled the events this year and impact was felt all around the globe.
 - We will get next year’s theme in early fall for 2025. Join 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
- We Compost - Quarterly at 12pm
- ICAW - As Needed, starting up again this fall!

News from IFSCC Membership: NO JULY MEETING!

From SCARCE: The Pumpkin Smash will be November 9th - due to the October 31st being so close to the date - lots of people want to keep their pumpkins a bit longer

Meeting adjourned: 1:03PM

Next IFSCC Meeting August 5th

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