



Dear County and Municipal Leader,

Over [70 municipalities in Illinois offer food scrap collection](#) for their residents. We can't stop there. Let's keep growing compost and building sustainable communities. We need your help.

The [Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition](#) (IFSCC) is beginning to spread the news about International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) 2025, happening May 4-10, because the United States Composting Council (USCC)'s [Compost Research Education Foundation](#) (CREF) recently shared the theme: ***Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost!***

ICAW in Illinois offers county and municipal leaders, and staff, the opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of compost and composting during various annual events and activities—both live and virtual.

The ICAW Planning Team in Illinois has produced and published **two years** worth of lineups which highlight a variety of ideas for community participation. You can see our efforts from 2024 [HERE](#).

Take a look at the menu of ideas for counties and municipalities to consider and email [illinoiscomposts@gmail.com](mailto:illinoiscomposts@gmail.com) for more info or any questions. We're giving you easy ideas to do something big!

- Good:** Share info about ICAW and the [poster/bookmark contest](#) throughout your county/community. Sending a press release about ICAW or setting up a composting resource table is a great way to activate your community.
- Better:** Promote compost services, bins, products and workshops throughout your county/community.
- Even Better:** Host a compost sale or offer a free giftback of finished compost on your events calendar during ICAW 2025. Communities throughout Illinois have been very excited about BYO(C)ontainer events to distribute compost. It may be a great time to set aside funds and earmark ICAW in your annual budget to spread both awareness and compost. Contact Merleanne Rampale, SWALCO Programs, Outreach & Education Director, and ICAW Chair, [MRampale@swalco.org](mailto:MRampale@swalco.org), for brainstorming ideas.

- BONUS:** Recognize ICAW 2025 with a proclamation at a governmental meeting this May.

Here's to a great rest of the year—and year ahead! Please stay in touch with the IFSCC. We are hoping to see even more counties and municipalities throughout Illinois join us and get added to our map during ICAW 2025: ***Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost!***

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PS: Don't forget to check out [SCARCE's Pumpkin Smash](#) tab as another idea for annual county or municipal efforts. Collecting pumpkins for composting is a great local event that can be incorporated into climate action or solid waste plans.

Best Wishes,

Merleanne Rampale (IFSCC ICAW Committee Chair)

Amy Bartucci (IFSCC Administrator)