



IFSCC
ILLINOIS FOOD SCRAP
& COMPOSTING COALITION

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.

Vision: All Illinoisans see organic waste as the valuable resource it is, and are urgently taking action to rescue edible food, divert food scraps to avoid emissions, and utilize the nutrients to ensure soil viability.

Minutes September 9, 2024

of Attendees: 75

Welcome (Amy DeLorenzo, IFSCC Conductor)

Speaker Spotlight: SCS Engineers

Spencer LaBelle, IFSCC Board Member and Senior Project Professional at Silver Sustaining Member, SCS Engineers, will join his colleague, Greg McCarron, to give a presentation on national policies and Illinois grants encouraging composting practices and provide insights into food scrap collection, operation enhancements, and emerging technologies in the industry. They will also touch on ways that individuals can impact composting practices in their communities.

Spencer LaBelle serves as a Senior Project Professional for SCS Engineers and has over 9 years of consulting experience in environmental and civil engineering. He has diverse experience in civil/environmental consulting for municipal solid waste management; compost facilities, stormwater and erosion control management systems; Federal, State, and local regulatory compliance; and site development.

Greg McCarron is a USCC Certified Composting Professional™ and a registered professional engineer. He has over 35 years of experience in all aspects of solid waste management and is SCS' national expert for organics management projects. His experience includes operations, project management, design, permitting, regulatory support, construction oversight, system start-up, economic analysis, and technology assessment.

IFSCC Members Doug Gotham, Christopher B Burke Engineering Ltd, Landscape Architect and **Kelly Shelton**, Quercus Consulting, will also be joining us.

SCS Presentation [HERE](#).

Quercus Presentation [HERE](#).

Youtube Recording [HERE](#).

Images with projects that included compost applications submitted by Doug Gotham, CBBEL



Q&A

Q: Where does processing of exclusively wood waste into mulch lie from a regulatory standpoint? I assume unregulated recycling not requiring a permit.

A: Facilities exclusively recycling wood into mulch do not require a permit from the Bureau of Land. There are other permits that may apply from the Bureau of Air and Bureau of Water.

Q: Would you be able to tell us what the % food waste by volume rule is for the surrounding states?

A: Some states are focused on operations + maintenance management in regulation and the % by

volume isn't specifically in the regs. We are seeing 20-25% as a pretty common ratio of the food waste by volume. Basically, the industry is looking for a 30 (carbon) to 1 (green/food) ratio! In some states the volume is indicated specifically by the science required to create compost alongside the makeup/volume of accepted materials. It all varies!

- Katherine Tellock asked why the percentage is so low in IL. What is the origin of this?
- Spencer replied not knowing the origin of the 10%. He is also looking into it!
- Liz Kunkle mentioned that this came from the IEPA in a statute and does not want to characterize it as "low". We could be trying to figure out if it should be increased. Compost market development professionals + compost processors need to be involved in the conversation. IEC/Liz has come across sample language to possibly get IL above the current suggested 10% but needs the input from others.
- Charlie commented that the 10% is not a result of lobbying. He talked about oversight and approval allowed by the IEPA to increase. Folks can submit facts and prove whether or not they can handle a greater load—an application can include a request for discretionary approval.
- Dr Paul Walker mentioned that the origin of the 10% was about on-farm permitting in IL—he did state that folks can justify whether or not they are capable of taking on a higher level of food scraps in the management.

Q: Why is the food waste limited to 10% in organic landfills

A: I believe this was answered by others during the conversation. The feedback provided by Dr. Paul Walker and Charles Murphy are very important to highlight. We did not dive into great detail about contamination issues in the material stream coming into compost facilities and end-use market for compost facilities. Increasing additive volumes at compost facilities will also mean increasing contamination and material needing to find an end-use. Both are critical issues and concerns for facilities nationally that need to be addressed.

Q: Why is there no federal program for food waste—since there was one created for landscape waste?

A: I cannot provide an explanation as to why a federal program is not in place. Based on the policies and directives endorsed by federal entities, the development of programs may soon follow.

Q: Would love some sample regulations that you think are strong and should be considered in Illinois

A: In my experience, regulations are unique to each state because the regulated practices require compatibility with the current conditions of the state. Illinois is unique in way of its population centers, geographical size, transportation routes, etc. A strong set of regulations will be one that considers the unique conditions in Illinois, paired with acknowledging current issues and concerns from facilities that will have to abide by the new regulations. Other examples of state regulations I would give may not be a fit in Illinois.

IFSCC Executive Director update Benjamin Krumstok, benjamin@compostingpartners.com
Thanked the presenters and reinforced the committee participation for anyone willing to be further included in the work of IFSCC.

USCC/IFSCC Board Chair update John Lardner, jlardnerpe@aol.com (Absent)
Charlie Murphy (Vice Chair) mentioned perspective on the industry dealing with contamination and needing to increase markets. Spencer replied very true Charlie, both are critical. We would love to share more on that in a longer session.

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 report)

Administrator update: (Amy Bartucci) illinoiscomposts@gmail.com (No report)

Committee Reports:

- We Compost: Mary Beth Schaye and Amy Bartucci, Co-Chairs, illinoiscomposts@gmail.com
 - Meeting Sept 20 for Quarterly Check-In
 - WC Program recently welcomed JT's Genuine Sandwich Shop, RPM Steak, RPM Italian, RPM Seafood, RPM Events, Pizzeria Portofino, The Oakville Grill & Cellar, Winston & Strawn, Better Earth, tinyshop, Valerio Dewalt Train, Sketchbook Brewing Co. and Garfield Produce Company.
 - Park Ridge Public Library is new as of today!
- Communications: Amy DeLorenzo and Steph Katsaros, Co-Chairs, amy.delorenzo@gmail.com, steph@brightbeat.com
 - SCARCE Pumpkin Smashes: Nov 2 & Nov 9
 - We are linking up to share our IFSCC resources alongside the SCARCE guide
 - We are present at events –Fall Nature Fest this weekend, etc.
 - Speaking engagements as well –spread the good word.
 - Next Up: IFSCC Board Members Steph Katsaros and Erlene Howard will be speaking at SPC Advance 2024 on Oct 1 [HERE](#).
- Policy: Liz Kunkle and Tommy Vaughan, Co-Chairs, liz@ilenviro.org, tommy@wastenotcompost.com
 - Tommy updated us on the IEPA meeting from last week with IEC as well as a heads up on the next steps with Policy Committee compost facility tours –coming soon!
- Education: Jen Nelson and Natasha Nicholes, Co-Chairs jennifer@sevengenerationsahead.org, natasha@wesowwegrow.org
 - Has been taking the Strategic Plan and applying the goals to a Work/Action Plan for the IFSCC committees.
- Compost Market Development: Kila Harwick and Mike DiMucci, Co-Chairs, kharwick@greensoilsmanagement.com, mike@gpocompost.com
 - Kila mentioned CMD is always trying to get compost out the door and into everyone's hands! [Where to Buy Finish Compost](#) tab on the site and Google map

have been recently updated.

- International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), Merleane Rampale, Chair MRampale@swalco.org
 - Announced the theme: Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost
 - Poster + Bookmark Contests are underway!
 - Meetings beginning in early October
- Young Professionals Group (YPG), Co-Chairs, Caroline French and Tommy Vaughan, caroline@sevendgenerationsahead.org, tommy@wastenotcompost.com
 - Tommy updated everyone on the rising group and the interest form was shared. First meeting will be in October –spread widely! Google Form [HERE](#).

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!
- YPG - Coming Soon!

News from IFSCC Membership:

Meeting adjourned: 1:03PM

Next IFSCC Meeting October 7th: EPA is proud to announce the [National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics](#)! In June 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration, along with EPA, USDA, and FDA announced the National Strategy, the goals of which include supporting a circular economy for all, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving households and businesses money, and building cleaner, healthier communities. Through this National Strategy, the three agencies have identified concrete steps—and complementary actions—that will accelerate the prevention of food loss and waste and the recycling of the remainder with other organic waste across the entire supply chain.

Hear from **Lana Suarez**, Assistant Manager in the Materials Management Branch of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Division, and IFSCC Conductor **Amy DeLorenzo**, ORISE Fellow in the Materials Management Branch on how the strategy came to be, and what actions EPA is committing to in the Strategy going forward.

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