



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: We envision a future where all Illinoisans see organic materials as valuable resources and urgently take action to rescue edible food and divert food scraps to avoid emissions, and to restore nutrients to the soil through the creation and use of compost.

Minutes October 7, 2024

of Attendees: 57

Welcome (Amy DeLorenzo, IFSCC Conductor) Amy B announced the speakers this month!

Speaker Spotlight: [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 for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics, 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.

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* will inform us how the strategy came to be, and what actions EPA is committing to in the Strategy going forward. Lana is also a proud midwesterner.

Presentation [HERE](#).

Contact Amy DeLorenzo: Delorenzo.Amy@epa.gov

Q&A

Q: What is the reasoning behind the EPA's strategy to decrease the # of REO recipients to just one?

A: Yes. There will be **one** lead applicant. The EPA realizes that one org will have not have all the expertise or knowledge needed to carry out the three parts so it is encouraging a cooperative agreement. There will then be sub applicants: a coalition of entities.

Q: Will it be one award for the whole country or just for Region 5?

A: For REO the EPA will select one project for the whole country as it is a national campaign. The sub applicants will receive \$ for compost/composting in the communities that will also be represented in the project.

Q: Is it valuable to demonstrate collaboration across sectors? Can you give private agreement participation to connect—suggestions on how to be eligible for grants like this?

A: Because this is a current/open funding opportunity –folks need to refer to the notice of funding opportunity that is published and there will be webinars with details to answer various questions. FAQ's will be updated. Speakers today could not get into too many details in regards to funding distribution. Cooperative Agreements are projects that include active EPA participation. The recipient and the EPA work together to carry out the agreement/project.

Here is a link to soe grant information on the EPA website:

<https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure/consumer-recycling-education-and-outreach-grant-program>

Q: Please share the infographics referenced in your presentation.

A: Here are the graphics:

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/sustainable-management-food-graphics#environmental>

Q: Any idea when the new EPA tool will be ready for measuring methane emissions from food waste? Will it also cover yard waste?

A: The EPA's Office of Research and Development will be working on this tool. The focus will be on food waste. Not sure about yard waste but there will be/are tools that cover all organics.

Q: Will the community composting videos be shareable to social media?

A: Here are the videos 😊

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/community-composting>

IFSCC Executive Director update Benjamin Krumstok, benjamin@compostingpartners.com

- IFSCC Membership Renewal- Coming Jan 2025
- Interested in a board service? Consider IFSCC :)
- USCC has launched a [membership campaign](#) –please consider joining and support the future of the compost industry at the national level.
- Exciting compost legislation for Illinois is on the horizon: IFSCC Compost Market Development + Policy Committees are the most engaged committees at this time and Benjamin shared that this is an outstanding opportunity to make an impact to make a difference here in Illinois. More to come!

USCC/IFSCC Board Chair update John Lardner, jlardnerpe@aol.com (Absent, Benjamin provided update.)

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

Continuing to look at what is happening on a national level –to inform state policy. SGA has been looking at a long term compost policy strategy. Where do we need to move as a state?

Conversation and the creation of educational resources related to the recent large event recycling and composting bill are underway. Many folks are interested in how to successfully implement this piece of legislation for IL. Collaboration and coordination are needed to get things in place for success of both the event facilities and the compost processors across the state. Policy is pushing us into an area where conversations and work will help push the needle.

Collaboration across county lines –Jen will be presenting at Illinois County Solid Waste Management Association at the end of October. Resources that have been created by IFSCC and SGA and beyond. Been working on tools to share food prevention and organics recycling efforts that counties are incorporating into their plans.

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

- If you missed last month's meeting, the presentation by SCS engineers is on our IFSCC Youtube Channel [HERE](#).
- Committees will give the remainder of the Administrator updates!

Committee Reports:

- We Compost: Mary Beth Schaye and Amy Bartucci, Co-Chairs, illinoiscomposts@gmail.com
 - The We Compost Recognition Program Committee is currently working on incorporating two additions: Illinois State University (Better Earth Logistics) and Illinois Environmental Council (The Urban Canopy).
 - The We Compost Committee has been invited to present to Takeout 25's restaurant owner meeting later this month. Takeout 25 empowers communities to support local food businesses while prioritizing sustainability and eliminating food insecurity. Their aim is to build thriving and sustainable communities.
 - If you are visiting a We Compost Partner or you are a We Compost partner and you see a We Compost window decal "in the wild", please send us a photo! We are always excited to promote the diversion of organics in IL.
- Communications: Amy DeLorenzo and Steph Katsaros, Co-Chairs, amy.delorenzo@gmail.com, steph@brightbeat.com
 - Steph updated the attendees that IFSCC needs to pivot to next Communications meeting being held on Oct 21 (due to Indigenous People's Day)
 - Refreshed IFSCC postcard will be available –ask for it when you are tabling and representing IFSCC - coming soon!

- Pumpkin Smashes –Nov 2 & Nov 9 (Can use these events to get the word out about IFSCC = compost + composting!)
 - Reverse trick or treating –highlight the pumpkin smashes! IL Extension (Share the coupons that are on the site [HERE!](#))
- When spotlighting your work & IFSCC –if our messaging relates, please reach out to IFSCC Comms committee to help strengthen what you may already be doing and include the work of IFSCC.
- Policy: Liz Kunkle and Tommy Vaughan, Co-Chairs, liz@ilenviro.org, tommy@wastenotcompost.com
 - Working through the Strategic Action Plan
 - Facilitated and co-hosted a compost tour on Wed, Oct 2nd at Patriot Acres (IFSCC’s John Lardner is a partner –was built on a former landfill –used to be owned by Archdiocese. Legislators in attendance: Locally: Senate Leader Laura Murphy and State Rep Michele Mussman and Lake County: State Rep Bob Morgan.
 - Fri, Nov 1st at 9:30 AM –Zero Waste Issue Priority Planning Call (aim to finalize priorities which will become the platform for the 2025 Legislative Session)
- Education: Jen Nelson and Natasha Nicholes, Co-Chairs jennifer@sevengenerationsahead.org, natasha@wesowwegrow.org
 - IFSCC will host working meetings to create educational content that supports the other IFSCC committees
 - Join us to come up with big plans –looking forward to 2025.
- Compost Market Development: Kila Harwick and Mike DiMucci, Co-Chairs, kharwick@greensoilsmanagement.com, mike@gpocompost.com
 - Stay tuned for the interview/piece in the upcoming Sustainability Issue of the IL Contractors Magazine.
 - CMD is also working on the overall IFSCC action plan.
- International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), Merleanne Rampale, Chair MRampale@swalco.org
 - First Team Meeting is next month! Please consider joining us to plan for May, 2025. One-pagers are below to help get community participation! ICAW 2025 tab on the IFSCC website will be launched by end of the month.
 - [Libraries](#)
 - [Park Districts](#)
 - [Municipal and County Leaders](#)
 - [Bookmark & Poster Contest](#)–Nov 1 Deadline
- Young Professionals Group (YPG), Caroline French and Tommy Vaughan, Co-Chairs, caroline@sevengenerationsahead.org, tommy@wastenotcompost.com
 - YPG interest form! <https://forms.gle/Vv8dfxU4yVwzD6PQ7>
 - Meeting later this month!

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:

There are over 66 Pumpkin Smashes registered with SCARCE –more [HERE](#).

Meeting adjourned: 1:01PM

Next IFSCC Meeting: Nov 4, 2024

Bright Beat + Purpose: Women owned businesses that served as Sustainability Advisors for the Democratic National Convention this past August in Chicago.

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