



**IFSCC**  
ILLINOIS FOOD SCRAP  
& COMPOSTING COALITION

**Mission:** The Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition (IFSCC) is a thriving non-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 December 2, 2024**

# of Attendees: 74

**Welcome** Amy DeLorenzo, IFSCC Conductor

**Speaker Spotlight:** We learned about landscape waste and organics transfer operations, contamination mitigation, permitting and the importance of creating end markets for finished compost from Midwest Compost LLC. Midwest Compost is a landscape waste and organics transfer facility AND an IFSCC Silver Sustaining Member! IFSCC Board Vice Chair and Owner of Midwest Compost, Charlie Murphy, presented “*A day in the life*” of organics diversion.

Charlie’s responsibilities include managing two yard waste transfer stations and one recycling transfer station, as well as overseeing a 10-acre mulch production facility. Duties also involve acquisition, employee supervision, profit and loss management, business planning, development, permitting, and growth initiatives for Midwest Compost.

#### **Presentation**

#### **Q&A**

**Q: To support the infrastructure of the end product, do you have ideas about a scalable solution to find buyers for the end product? Any success stories outside the region?**

A: Education of the value of compost as a soil or gardening additive. As well the farming community could be a large user, but this will take time given some generational habits of the farm community using big ag chemicals. Additionally, working with local municipalities and legislative resources to help mandate use for public and private options. This is all discussion going on today at some level. Just takes time.

**Q: Could you elaborate on what you meant by local (as opposed to legislative or**

**educational) incentives for expanding the market for finished compost?**

A: Example of legislative incentives would be for the development of a fund that rewards or gives incentives for the use of compost. Local is educating the public both commercially and residentially of the benefits of compost increasing demand.

**Q: If a 5th grader asked you what a transfer station is as it relates to compost what would you say?**

A: A transfer station for landscape/organic waste is a facility that allows smaller trucks to dump their load to be reloaded and transported to a farther away composting operation. Typically, this means the smaller trucks and crew can be more efficient servicing their customers vs having to spend windshield time driving small loads further distances and reducing daily productivity.

**Q: You mentioned problems with food containers (for sandwiches, salads etc.) that are supposed to be compostable, is there Certification that is most widely accepted?**

A; There are certifications that help guide the use of compost. STA and OMRI certifications. STA stands for the US Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance letting consumers know that the compost is tested regularly by a certified facility. OMRI, Organic Raw Materials Review Institute, is an international nonprofit organization that determines which input products are allowed for use in organic production and processing.

**Q: There was an audience question specifically about a site that stopped accepting yard waste.**

A: This site had applied for a landfill permit and it turned out that due to complaints from the surrounding community, the site was unsuitable for the business. Neighbors submitted complaints about odors, landscape craft bags were seen as litter. Overall the complainants caused the business to go elsewhere.

**Q: What should we as an industry do to increase volume of compost created and increase customers to divert organics and co-manage contamination collaboratively?**

A: Penalties are a starting point, but as we move through requirements these will need to be very well known. Working **with** the facility/facilities as legislation is getting written (work site by site specific) for educational purposes will help. Folks could work with vendors as well to indicate all acceptable materials. Education and impact starts with the generator to understand the rules of the game.

**Q; Basic beginner question from a layperson: what is the difference between a landscape waste-only site, and one that accepts food scraps? What are the main differences in public response and the finished product? Why do sites NOT accept food scraps?**

A: Great question! Knowledge is key –understanding that there is a difference is important. Yard Waste industry can evolve into an Organics business which includes food scraps (co-mingled on one truck). Benefits: Bringing them together all ends up in the same place, less vehicles on street, more convenient for the customer. Machinery at facilities matter too. It can be complicated. The volume of food scraps accepted based on permitting can also be considered a constraint vs general landscape facilities.

In chat (related):

12:46:21 to Everyone: What is feedstock?

12:46:32 feedstock = the materials that make up compost

12:46:40 could be leaves, branches, food scraps

12:55:24 to Everyone: Why are only 14 facilities accepting food scraps out of the 48 facilities?

12:56:24 Great question. I'd like to hear the challenges that these other facilities might be facing.

Note: Dec 5th is World Soil Day!

**IFSCC Executive Director update** Benjamin Krumstok, [benjamin@compostingpartners.com](mailto:benjamin@compostingpartners.com)  
IFSCC will become a 501c3 organization in 2025 therefore 2025 membership renewal will likely be postponed. Once we have all administrative matters in place, we will be in touch with members (and new members!) for renewal. Stay tuned.

**USCC/IFSCC Board Chair update** John Lardner, [jlardnerpe@aol.com](mailto:jlardnerpe@aol.com) (Absent)

**Food:Land:Opportunity, funded by a grant from the Kinship Foundation and the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust.** (Jen (Nelson) Dowd, IFSCC Board) None

**Administrator update:** (Amy Bartucci) [illinoiscomposts@gmail.com](mailto:illinoiscomposts@gmail.com)

- Please keep an eye out for 2025 committee calendar invitations!

### **Committee Reports:**

- We Compost: Mary Beth Schaye and Amy Bartucci, Co-Chairs, [illinoiscomposts@gmail.com](mailto:illinoiscomposts@gmail.com)
  - New: Illinois State University- Go Red Birds! Been composting for 15 years. Have kiosks around the university campus.
    - Better Earth Logistics is the hauler/composter
  - Presented to Green Initiatives Team & Administrators
    - Dropped off 6 decals for display in Park Ridge-Niles Schools
    - LRS is the hauler
  - Please support restaurants that compost, especially during January
- Communications: Amy DeLorenzo and Steph Katsaros, Co-Chairs, [amy.delorenzo@gmail.com](mailto:amy.delorenzo@gmail.com),
  - Working on recruiting volunteers for 2025 tabling events
  - Updated slide deck
  - LinkedIn page coming for 2025 too
  - Social Media post ideas, please send! Also, please share what IFSCC posts.
- Policy: Liz Kunkle and Tommy Vaughan, Co-Chairs, [liz@ilenviro.org](mailto:liz@ilenviro.org), [tommy@wastenotcompost.com](mailto:tommy@wastenotcompost.com)
  - No updates. Looking forward to the legislative season.
- Education: Jen Nelson and Natasha Nicholes, Co-Chairs
  - [jennifer@sevendgenerationsahead.org](mailto:jennifer@sevendgenerationsahead.org), [natasha@wesowwegrow.org](mailto:natasha@wesowwegrow.org)

- Been getting a lot of work done!
- Increasing our website content + event calendar submissions
- Youtube videos: making updates to elevate the conversation
- Blog posts from our committee members!
- Compost Market Development: Kila Harwick and Mike DiMucci, Co-Chairs, [kharwick@greensoilsmanagement.com](mailto:kharwick@greensoilsmanagement.com), [mike@gpocompost.com](mailto:mike@gpocompost.com)
  - Submitted a recent ad for the [iLandscape conference](#) this winter.



- International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), Merleanne Rampale, Chair [MRampale@swalco.org](mailto:MRampale@swalco.org)
  - Poster Winner Announced TODAY, Athens Georgia:
 

*“Communities rely on organic recycling on all scales. Whether you compost garden scraps in a three-bin system or generate tons of compost in an industrial facility, you make a difference! It's time for us to embrace decay and rot on.”*
  - December ICAW Planning Team Meeting TOMORROW
  - [RSVP for Adventures in Composting](#) ANYTIME
- Forward to municipalities, parks, libraries
- Connect with folks to host a [Giveback Event](#)
- Young Professionals Group (YPG), Caroline French and Tommy Vaughan, Co-Chairs, [caroline@sevengenerationsahead.org](mailto:caroline@sevengenerationsahead.org), [tommy@wastenotcompost.com](mailto:tommy@wastenotcompost.com)
  - Next meeting Dec 13th!

### Committee Meetings for 2024 (Contact [illinoiscomposts@gmail.com](mailto:illinoiscomposts@gmail.com) for links to join)

- Communications - 2nd Monday, 2pm
- Compost Market Development - 3rd Tuesday, 11am (new time!)
- Education - 2nd Tuesday, 12pm
- Policy - 3rd Thursday 11am
- We Compost - Quarterly at 12pm
- ICAW - 1st Tuesday of each month –now through May
- YPG - Next Meeting, Dec 13th at 11AM

### News from IFSCC Membership:

Late-breaking answer to Thanksgiving leftover use: Turkey Pie, adapted from Just Good Food, by John Ryan

Fill a frozen pie shell crust from the bottom with chopped turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, then spread around some gravy. Put the top crust on the pie; moisten, seal and crimp the edges; poke some holes in the top and bake for about 45 minutes at 350 degrees.

Or, if you don't have pie crusts or want to reduce the gluten, make a turkey shepherd's pie. Use a pyrex or ceramic dish and layer in this order: turkey, stuffing, then gravy. Spread the potatoes on

top. As it bakes the potatoes will brown and form a crust.

More gravy on top is also great for serving.

Meeting adjourned: 1:01PM

Next IFSCC Meeting: February 3, 2025

Please plan to join us and email [illinoiscomposts@gmail.com](mailto:illinoiscomposts@gmail.com) if you need a link to join.