



IFSCC

ILLINOIS FOOD SCRAP
& COMPOSTING COALITION



2025 Membership Reminder

"I wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Productive 2025! The IFSCC transition to independent 501(c)3 status is an exciting milestone and where I am presently committing most of my energy and time on behalf of the organization." ~Benjamin Krumstok, IFSCC Executive Director. Read more from Benjamin about the IFSCC's transition to 501(c)3 and more [HERE](#).

2024 was a year of growth and 2025 promises to bring increased compost activity and success throughout Illinois. Please take a look at IFSCC's **2024 Annual Report**, now published on the IFSCC website [HERE](#).

Policy Committee Announcements



The Policy Committee has three exciting projects in the works for 2025:

- **Tracking food scrap, compost, and related legislation** in the Illinois General Assembly during our state's January - May session and

considering whether to ask the Board to take a formal position for or against; **The IFSCC Board of Directors recently voted to support** Senate Sponsor Adriane Johnson's companion bills in 2025: a market development + study bill as well as an organics diversion bill. More to come!

- **Creating a campaign** to support the US Composting Council's efforts to encourage members of the US House of Representatives to join the bipartisan **Compost Caucus**; and
- **Planning tours of compost facilities** throughout the year and specifically during the summer and fall months when Illinois state legislators can attend more easily.

We invite you to attend the Policy Committee meetings, which generally occur the third Thursday of each month at 11am central time (**note** - next month's meeting is on Feb 13 - the second Thursday). If you can't attend, we still welcome your ideas and questions around legislation, campaigns and programs to engage with, and compost facility tour sites. Join us!



IFSCC's Young Professionals Group (YPG)



The IFSCC's YPG has helped us welcome 2025 with high energy, enthusiasm and activity. Active members have been plugging into committees and various projects that are helping IFSCC thrive and grow. Thank you Caroline French, SGA, and Tommy Vaughan, WasteNot Compost, for co-chairing this new group.

It's not too late to join! *If you're between 21-35 years old or have less than five years of experience, and are looking to break into the compost industry, this group is for you. YPG's select an IFSCC **committee** to take notes, listen in, and report back to the general young professional group and then collaborate on projects in need of leadership. Fill out the YPG form [HERE](#).*

Platinum Member Appreciation

New on the IFSCC Blog:

Read the latest from
Platinum Sustaining Member
EcoProducts



"Using a customized CIRC (Controls Intended to Remove Contamination) spreadsheet as a guideline, IFSCC Platinum Sponsor Eco-Products, set out to re-launch an Illinois compost program in 2024. They worked with composter Better Earth Logistics, to ensure that best practices were in place at IFSCC Organization Member Knox College, so that everyone could feel confident and willing to reinstate collection services." Don't miss this blog and short video [HERE](#).

February Speaker Spotlight: Join us!



General Body Meeting:
Monday, February 3, Noon

Speaker Spotlight: Learn about IFSCC Member, **Green Dirt Composting Collective (GDCC)**, a grassroots composting group. GDCC's Mary Grose will explain how the collective evolved and what they've accomplished in their region. IFSCC's Organization Member, **New Earth Farm**, which has 3 drop-off sites in Edwardsville, will also be on-hand to inspire us with their collaborative work in the food system.

[2025 IFSCC General Body Meeting Schedule](#)

[Zoom Link](#)

IFSCC Continues Important Work in Illinois

"Evidence of a resilient food scrap recycling industry in Illinois was revealed this past year as **new compost and digestion projects** came on-line, and the state legislature passed a bill to **require recycling of organic material generated at large public events**. Several Illinois municipalities were awarded federal grants to create education programs or to plan and build organic material recycling projects, as **funding at the federal level for these projects is at an all-time high**."

More from IFSCC Board Chair, John Lardner, [HERE](#).

Feedback Requested

Have you ever attended a US Composting Council Compost Operations Training Course (COTC)? Session summaries and sample flyers may pique your interest. This course is for anyone who wants comprehensive instruction on the art and science of commercial-scale compost production and marketing.



**STA Certified™
COMPOST**
A program of the US Composting Council

IFSCC will be planning and hosting a COTC in the late summer of 2026. Please let us know what your experience was at a COTC and stay tuned for more info throughout the coming year if you're eager to join on in Illinois. Contact IFSCC Board Chair, John Lardner, to join the planning stages: jlardnerpe@aol.com.

USCC



There has been a growing amount of federal activity, investment and discussion of organics recycling and composting, **but the majority of policy initiatives are catalyzed by state level action**. Take a look at the US Composting Council's Policy Report, now linked on the homepage of the IFSCC [HERE](#).

Resources for your community

IFSCC's educational resources intend to raise awareness of compost and composting occurring at a variety of different levels across Illinois; from homeowners composting leaves and food scraps in their backyards, to the commercial facilities processing organics. Email

illinoiscomposts@gmail.com for more information to include these resources in your next community fair, tabling event or related activity!



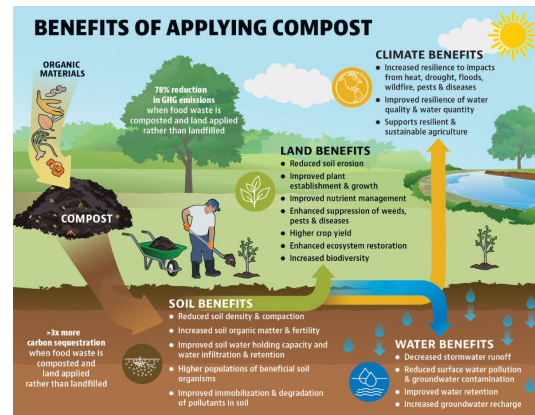
IFSCC's blog has a wonderful summary about a municipality that said “yes” to food scrap hauling services in their community.

“Skokie’s residents are the real reason for the success of the program these past five years. The effort from municipal staff was truly minimal – we simply said yes to being a customer, and had to do a little work for the sites and to advertise.” Elizabeth Zimmerman, Assistant to the Skokie



The City of Chicago's **program** (20 drop-off locations) also recently received press **HERE**.

Want to estimate methane emissions from not sending food waste to landfills? In December, EPA released the **Avoided Landfilled Food Waste Methane Emissions Calculator**. The calculator can be used by anyone, including state, Tribal, and local governments, institutions, schools, or private companies, to estimate the methane emissions reductions per ton of food waste that does not go to the landfill. Users can download the calculator and use the results for their own outcomes, including grant applications, program planning, and reporting. Users can enter up to six years of food waste tons and see annual methane savings for 25-year period **HERE**.



NEW EPA REPORT ON BENEFITS OF APPLYING COMPOST: This report highlights the environmental value of applying compost for a variety of purposes – from agriculture and landscaping to stormwater management and contaminated site remediation. Increasing food waste composting will present expanded opportunities for cities and states, along with businesses and institutions, to increase their use of compost. More **HERE**.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

The IFSCC is joining the **Illinois Stewardship Alliance's Soil Health Week** programming, **March 3-9, 2025!** Bring your own soil ideas to the table and make Soil Health Week a powerful celebration that reaches even more audiences across the state. Submit your



event proposal by **Feb 10** and learn more [HERE](#).

Making and using compost in Northern Illinois

Monday, March 3rd

6:30 - 7:30PM, virtual

Register [HERE](#)

Join The Land Conservancy of McHenry County and compost experts to celebrate Illinois' most precious natural resource, virtually. The Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition (IFSCC) will provide an overview of why sustainable communities begin with compost, how to get started with DIY food-scrap composting, the importance of compost quality and more. IFSCC Gold Sustaining Member [Midwest Organics Recycling](#) will hone in on how to use compost, as well as where to get beautiful, high-quality, finished compost for your projects.

Join IFSCC for International Compost Awareness Week! May 4-10



Register for a Legislative Lunch & Learn: Grab your lunch and join IFSCC to learn about sustainable communities, food scrap, and compost-related policy in Illinois and beyond. Learn about compost legislation that's been introduced this year, how you can support it and ways to turn ideas into initiatives no matter where you are.

May 7, 2025

Noon, Zoom

[Register](#)

Register for a Compost Cafè: Hear stories from communities in Illinois, across the U.S., and around the world, as we share a variety of resources, ideas, and strategies for either beginning, or growing and developing composting efforts in YOUR community. This is for municipalities, townships, and other governmental entities, school communities, environmental organizations, library communities, park districts, or anyone interested in learning more about what others are offering their residents. It's also for those who want to help their own community become more sustainable.

May 8, 2025

7PM- 8:30PM, Zoom

[Register](#)

Don't forget! The [ICAW Adventures in Composting, Library and Other Happenings Event Form](#) is live on the website and event submissions are **due April 10**. There will be compost adventurers traveling around different counties and portions of the entire state during ICAW

week. This is a great time to bring this year's theme alive where you live: ***Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost!***



Submit an event to join ICAW in Illinois by April 10

NEW: ICAW Host Toolkit Page

Note: If you'd like to join a committee please email illinoiscomposts@gmail.com. We'd love to have you!

- **Education Committee, 2nd Tuesdays at 12pm**
- **Communications Committee, 2nd Mondays at 2pm**
- **Market Development Committee, 3rd Tuesdays at 11am**
- **Policy Committee, 3rd Thursdays at 11am**
- **We Compost Recognition Committee, Quarterly at 12pm**
- **International Compost Awareness Week, First Tuesdays at 1pm**
- **Young Professionals Group, Bi-monthly, next meeting Feb 14**

Want to see your composting related events on our calendar? Email illinoiscomposts@gmail.com

Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition
illinoiscomposts@gmail.com

Contact Us



Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition | 1100 Brandt Drive | Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!