



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 May 5, 2025

of Attendees: 54

Welcome Amy DeLorenzo, IFSCC Conductor

Speaker Spotlight: ICAW Live Events: Highland Park Library & Collective Resource Compost Cooperative

We were excited to have IFSCC Member, Jenny Futterman, in the Speaker Spotlight today. Jenny was wearing her Go Green Highland Park hat as she is an active member and very experienced environmental community organizer in Highland Park!

Jenny was at an ICAW Adventures in Composting event LIVE from the Highland Park Library alongside two librarians: Beth Keller and Hannah Grasse. An ICAW Children's Storytime took place earlier today and Jenny and the team are taking a quick break from the post-storytime tabling opportunity in their lobby where they've been promoting all things compost and composting.

They joined us to give us a flavor of ICAW in their neck of the woods. We're so grateful for Jenny's dedicated IFSCC participation over the years –she has been serving on the ICAW Planning Team annually since 2021!

Mary Beth Schaye, from Gold Sustaining Member Collective Resource Compost Cooperative, treated us with a video glimpse into what it's like to host a Finished Compost Gift-Back. Mary Beth and the team at Collective Resource Compost Cooperative host these events annually for their customers and co-op owners and have made it an annual opportunity to open up to the public during ICAW.

This past year, Merleanne Rampale, IFSCC's ICAW Chair, created a [How to Host a Compost Giveback/BYOBucket Event Guide](#) and today we learned their tips, tricks and everyday wisdom.

Emme Patton from IFSCC Member, Knox College, joined to let us know about their Compost Workshop on Monday in celebration of ICAW. We learned all about their student Compost Crew at the Knox Farm and how they invite participation into a Community Composting Program.

Tom Straus from The Urban Canopy gave updates on their warehouse in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago, where folks can see the local food cycle in action. This year they are offering guided tours of Urban Canopy's compost hauling operation and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program. Attendees will receive 1 free five gallon of finished compost to take home!

Link to Youtube Recording of the ICAW2025 Speaker Spotlights [HERE](#).

IFSCC Executive Director update Benjamin Krumstok,
executivedirector@illinoiscomposts.org

- Benjamin thanked the entire ICAW Planning Team and announced the May Membership Special ([half-off for NEW MEMBERS the month of May!](#)) Benjamin also invited folks to the Member Appreciation Event happening Wednesday, May 7.

USCC/IFSCC Board Chair update John Lardner, jlardnerpe@aol.com

- John recommended that folks read the Green Era article in today's Tribune
- [2025 Board Candidates](#) made individual introductions (WE HAD WONDERFUL FULL ATTENDANCE OF ALL CANDIDATES!)

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

- Continuing to look at [SB1397](#) and [SB1398](#) - this is ongoing work in IL
 - This work is elevating a strong push for our processors to manage more food scraps but also so that there are clean streams for high quality compost in IL.
- During Food Waste Prevention Week there were over 30 webinars, including the DNC webinar that included rescue and composting in Chicagoland.
- Supporting ICAW tech and communication efforts—helping the lineup reach a broader audience in IL
- Jen also linked something from our sister organization –WFAA –this [Resource Directory](#) is to add resources to reduce wasted food

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

- Amy shared that she will be out of office until June for some family milestones.
- Reach out to Benjamin or any committee co-chair for support until then!

Committee Reports:

- We Compost: Mary Beth Schaye and Amy Bartucci, Co-Chairs, illinoiscomposts@gmail.com
 - NEW GREEN LEVEL PARTNER
 - Cornerstone Coffee House, Peotone!
- Communications: Amy DeLorenzo and Steph Katsaros, Co-Chairs, amy.delorenzo@gmail.com, steph@brightbeat.com
 - Amy D reported the Comms committee has been meeting with all the committees the past few months to increase collaboration
 - Comms Committee helps get the message out about the IFSCC as well as IFSCC member organizations/businesses
- Policy: Liz Kunkle and Tommy Vaughan, Co-Chairs, lizkunkle@gmail.com, tommy@wastenotcompost.com
 - Liz talked about the focus of the state work for food scrap composting legislation.
 - Newest CAW resolution for IL was introduced and adopted in the House (and heard in the Senate and hopefully moving through as well)
 - Invited folks to upcoming meetings and policy tours on the horizon!
- Education: Jen Dowd and Natasha Nicholes, Co-Chairs jennifer@sevengenerationsahead.org, natasha@wesowwegrow.org
 - Jen let everyone know that their breakouts/working meetings have been so productive!
- Compost Market Development: Kila Harwick and Mike DiMucci, Co-Chairs, kharwick@greensoilsmanagement.com, mike@gpocompost.com
 - Kila mentioned they are all gearing up for ICAW: Some promotions going on & givebacks
 - Watching the Senate and House bills going on for market development
 - Invited folks to an IFSCC co-hosted Women in Ag event happening May 6.
- International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), Merleanne Rampale, Chair MRampale@swalco.org
 - Merleanne announced 13 counties are taking part in ICAW in IL (this is double the number of counties that have participated in the past.)
 - [Great fun for all ages!](#)
- Young Professionals Group (YPG), Caroline French and Tommy Vaughan, Co-Chairs, caroline@sevengenerationsahead.org, tommy@wastenotcompost.com
 - Tommy invited folks to to the Membership Event & the YPG committee meetings

Committee Meetings for 2025 (Contact illinoiscomposts@gmail.com for links to join)

- Communications - 2nd Monday, 2pm
- Compost Market Development - 3rd Tuesday, 11am
- Education - 2nd Tuesday, 12pm
- Policy - 3rd Thursday 11am
- We Compost - Quarterly at 12pm
- ICAW - 1st Tuesday of each month
- YPG - Next Meeting, June 13

News from IFSCC Membership:

Jen Dowd congratulated Broadview for beginning their food scrap program (ride along).
Maywood and Bellwood are next! IFSCC resources have been helping these municipalities roll out their programs.

HAPPY ICAW!

Meeting adjourned: 12:59 pm

Next IFSCC Meeting: June 2, 2025. Please plan to join us and email illinoiscomposts@gmail.com if you need a link to join.