



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 April 6, 2026

of Attendees: 61

Welcome: Amy DeLorenzo, IFSCC Conductor

Speaker Spotlight: Henry Schmidt, from Silver Sustaining Member HOTBIN Composting USA, highlighted how anyone can close the loop right where waste is created. We learned how everyday food scraps turn into nutrient-rich compost with this modern home composting system. Henry included IFSCC member feedback to further explain how the HOTBIN empowers individuals to take ownership of their own organic waste.

Bio: Henry received his undergraduate degree in Agri Business Economics from SIUC and an MBA in Finance from Lewis University.

Henry is currently CFO of LB Reusables and has been with them for 9 years. LB Reusables is a company based out of the UK which consists of 3 separate businesses in the UK and EU all of which focus on sustainable reusable products and the circular economy.

The HOTBIN Composter was designed and launched in the UK by Engineered Foam Products.. Henry has been backyard composting for well over 30 years, first starting with cold composting (leaves and yard waste) and adding hot composting (everything else) when they brought HOTBIN to the US approximately 6 years ago.

Henry has been a member of the IFSCC for approximately 4 years and has participated in a number of the annual compost conferences sponsored by US Composting Council.

Presentation [HERE](#)

Email: henry.schmidt@lbreusables.com

Q&A

Q: Your estimate of disposal reduction is based on volume or weight? Do you promote mixing compostable/biodegradable products to be mixed with material in bins?

A: Great question. We have been testing with some single use products (plates) –and they compost very nicely. The quality of compost seems to be the same. Compostable Bags do NOT work as well. And bioplastics are taking longer.

Q: Would you say there is more or less maintenance compared to a traditional compost bin?

A: Less maintenance. No turning. Very simple!

Q: Moisture? Is that compost “tea”?

A: Yes, there is a collection at the bottom to drain it.

Q: There was a “worm tea” clarification.

A: The Hotbin is more like leachate being drained off.

Q: What is the cost of the bin?

A: Mini \$230 Med \$450 Mega: \$1100 (Size is large but not heavy!) Combining the order is ideal.

Q: Is the filter treated with anything or processed, or is it plain, untreated charcoal?

A; The filter is made of biochar which is a carbon-rich material created by heating organic plant matter in the absence of oxygen – a process known as pyrolysis. Modern biochar is made using sustainable, low-emission methods that capture carbon and help fight climate change. When added to soil, biochar enhances soil health, improves plant growth, and locks carbon away for centuries.

Q: Have you worked with individual schools? Who manages the system in a school?

A: Henry is available for some school training in IL. There is a lot of support online and there are HELP lines, etc. for trouble shooting with the bin. Contact Henry directly.

Q: Have you done any research into potential microplastics coming off the bin into the compost? Does the compost heat degrade the plastic? And is it recyclable through the company or just generally the city?

A: Would need a recycler for Extended PP. No research have taken place on microplastics. No issues reported thus far though.

Q: Any data collected on water savings?

A: Feedback is coming in one by one. Great idea though! We could do that sometime for our marketing.

IFSCC Board President/Vice President update Mike DiMucci, mike@gpocompost.com and Spencer LaBelle, SLaBelle@scsengineers.com

- Mike thanked Henry –cool process!
- Board is still working on ED search for IFSCC –updates forthcoming.
- ICAW is next month.
- Membership campaign has ended –we are always looking for folks coming in.
 - Zeffy [to join](#).
 - Donate button [here](#).
- Letters of Intent to join the Board are being accepted now through Apr 24.

IFSCC Administrator update Amy Bartucci, admin@illinoiscomposts.org

EVENTS

- [REGISTRATION](#) required for May Annual Meeting | ICAW Legislative Lunch & Learn | ICAW Dispatches on May 4 at Noon. This is our regularly scheduled monthly slot, requiring registration for Zoom link.
- **ICAW Lineup will be published, Apr 10 [HERE](#)**

UPDATES

- IFSCC Members: please consider displaying *I AM A Proud IFSCC Member* sign at your events this year to help promote our collective work and increase membership. THANK YOU KILA and SWALCO!
- **2025 ANNUAL REPORT:** Coming Soon!

USCC update Merleanne Rampale, IFSCC ICAW Chair, MRampale@swalco.org and Sarah Wilcox swilcox@stlcompost.com IFSCC Young Professionals Group

- USCC's Target Organics Hub

Committee Reports:

- We Compost: Mary Beth Schaye Chair, marybeth@theurbancanopy.org
 - Exciting new things to come for IFSCC's We Compost Recognition Program
- Communications: Amy DeLorenzo and Steph Katsaros, Co-Chairs, amy.delorenzo@gmail.com, steph@brightbeat.com
 - Steph reported out on tabling and presenting opportunities for promoting compost/composting in IL
- Policy: Liz Kunkle and Susannah Sun, Co-Chairs, lizkunkle@gmail.com, susannah@greenerachicago.com
 - Liz talked more about the May 4 Leg Lunch & Learn –will give a brief overview

- of related bills in IL and status of the legislation
- Align the presentation with the ICAW theme
- Great timing to help the legislative focus in IL
 - Not many substantive food scrap related legislation at this time being tracked
- Compost Facility Tour, May 6 at Patriot Acres –11AM
- [RSVP Required](#) – Space is limited.
- Education: Jen Dowd and Natasha Nicholes, Co-Chairs, jennifer@sevendgenerationsahead.org, and natasha@wesowwegrow.org
 - No Update
- Compost Market Development: Mike DiMucci, Chair, mike@gpocompost.com and Jess Polansky jpolansky@midwestorganicsrecycling.com
 - Sept 15-17 is Compost Operator Training Coming to IL
 - Thank you to Wauconda Township for letting IFSCC use their space for the indoor portion of the training course.
 - Next CMD Meeting Apr 21
- International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), Merleanne Rampale, Chair MRampale@swalco.org
 - Uploading the events to the site –Apr 10th!
 - Demos, Storytimes, Tours, Farm Festivals, Library Exhibits, etc.
 - Merleanne highlighted upcoming IL Adventures of the folks that were on the call.
- Young Professionals Group (YPG), Caroline French and Tommy Vaughan, Co-Chairs, caroline@sevendgenerationsahead.org, tommy@wastenotcompost.com
 - No Update

New Folks

Mary Munday: Greener Glenview

Helena: Northern IL composter

Committee Meetings for 2026 (Contact admin@illinoiscomposts.org 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

-ICAW - As needed, Next meeting is March 3rd

-YPG - Next Meeting, April 9, 4-5pm

News from attendees...

Large Event Facilities Provider List Intake Form

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/waste-diversion-large-event-facilities>

Meeting adjourned:

Next IFSCC Meeting: May 4, 2026, Please register [HERE](#)

Please plan to join us and email admin@illinoiscomposts.org if you need a link to join.