



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 June 1, 2026

of Attendees: 59

Welcome: Amy DeLorenzo

THIS WAS A SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT COLLABORATION WITH THE IFSCC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Introduction of the IFSCC Education Committee: Amy DeLorenzo

Co-Chair: Natasha Nicholes + Committee Members waved, smiled or threw reactions in the chat!



Meetings:
2nd Tuesdays @ Noon



THANK YOU IFSCC EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Natasha Nicholes (Co-Chair), Pete Adrian, Liz Bosarge, Doug Bradley, Tracy Cammack, Dede Carmen, Cassie Clark, Eli Dollarhide, Jen Dowd, Caroline French, Carol Frerker, Theresa Greinig, Emma Gutheim, Rebecca Koshi, Liz Kunkle, Hanh Pham, Kyle Preuss, Vytautas Pabedinskas, Merleanne Rampale, Dan Renner, Clair Ryan, Julie Schilf, Sue Styer

Activities:

- Educating stakeholders and the general public about food scrap composting and diversion initiatives, success stories and resources.
- Developing educational infographics, reports, webinars, presentations, blogs and videos.
- Identifying opportunities for sharing resources with other organizations.

Speaker Spotlight: Minnesota Composting Council (MNCC)'s Kellie Kish gave an overview of the U.S. EPA REO Grant project and the development of their Organics Recycling Toolkit. We learned about the impacts of *Love to Compost* in four Minnesota communities and how you can

adapt and use the toolkit, its resource library, and more.

Bio: Kellie has worked for the City of Minneapolis as its Recycling Coordinator for the past 13 years and is a founder and board member of the Minnesota Composting Council. At the City her primary job duties include program development and outreach and education for the City's waste diversion and residential collection programs. She also helps develop and oversee the City's overall zero waste efforts. She helped lead the development of the City's Zero Waste Plan, its Green to Go packaging ordinance, and the Bring your Own Bag ordinance and reviews and approves recycling plans for permitted events.

With her Minnesota Composting Council hat on, she facilitated stakeholder support for the State's Compostable Product Labeling Law and the MNCC helped ensure compostable products were included as an equal to recyclable products in the State's Extended Producer Responsibility law for Packaging. She's here today to speak on the Minnesota Composting Council's USEPA Recycling and Education Outreach (REO) grant.

Presentation [HERE](#)

Email: Kellie.Kish@minneapolismn.gov

Q&A

Q: Can you confirm the # of communities involved?

A: Kellie explained that their 5 communities involved are located in 4 main regions of MN.

Q: How did you get MN processors to agree on the acceptable items language for MN?

A: There were only 4 processors accepting food scraps at the beginning of their launch –so MNCC was able to get them all in one room to align. MN has had a lot of statewide groups already working together with local governments. Standardization of terms for recycling has been happening for 20 years already. Advancing standardization into the compost industry is a natural next step. The 4 processors reviewed the doc with the language, discussed and agreed on what to indicate in the campaign. Verbiage is reviewed every year / year and a half and updated. MNCC will continue to use the list and send it to composters in the state for continued alignment.

IN CHAT: IL is there right now with only a few processors accepting food scraps! Love that idea to get them together to do this.

Q: Is any of this info for commercial (beyond residential)?

A: The grant doc was written specifically for residential audiences –can be expanded eventually. The EPA's Climate Reduction Pollution Grant given to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is a possible option for expanding to new audiences. MNCC intends to apply for the funding to expand into other realms.

Q: Can you let us know how we can purchase a "Don't be a trash-hole" shirt when available?

A: MNCC plans to make t-shirts and/or stickers with the "Don't be a trash-hole" slogan. They will let us know when ordering is available.

Q: *I noticed Hennepin and Ramsey Counties were not on the summary for social media?*

A: MNCC discussed expanding programs and composting facility capacity in the state to determine where the campaigns would be held. Communities were also asked to reach out to MNCC if they wanted to be considered. Hennepin County cities (with population greater than 10,000) were all required to have curbside organics programs by 2021 making them not necessarily ‘new’ programs. Ramsey and Washington counties are in the middle of rolling out their [Food Scrap Pickup Program](#) (durable compostable bag co-collected with garbage that is then separated at a transfer station or refuse-derived fuel facility). They have a well-developed campaign and promotional plan associated with their roll-out. Neither county, nor cities in the counties expressed interest in being a participating community with this campaign.

Q: *Are there any resources for schools? Are you doing any composting education with kids? Canva is a great call.*

A: Schools are not currently in our scope in order to make the campaign most easily executable and reportable.

Q: *Image question. Are you assembling "large event" space specific images? Could be differently perceived by newbies than home.*

A: Not currently. Campaign is focused on residential for now. Perhaps deleting an image in Canva would work to amend in the meantime. Could try that!

Q: *Have there been issues with compostables in the facilities that accept?*

A: No issues reported from the facilities that accept. They are focused more on the contamination of the NON compostables like true plastic and other contaminants. The campaign messaging continues with a priority “focus is FOOD” –they try to message if anyone has concerns about whether a product is acceptable, it should go in the trash. A [FB group thread in Minneapolis](#) recently had over 15 posts discussing the acceptability of just one container that was lined –these details matter to people that want to compost right. This is good news.

Q: *Do you work directly with the MN haulers?*

A: Not really. We know that generally the haulers haven’t updated their educational signage/guidelines in quite a while –so we lean into the fact that the composters have the ultimate say of what they want to process. The final info does go to the haulers though. We realize this is a bit more challenging with larger haulers because of all the complexities and documents.

Q: *Do you accept biodegradable and compostable products in the program?*

A: YES. All compost processors in MN already accept BPI compostable products. Kellie mentioned that 5 (correction from 7) cities have “Green to Go” ordinances and Minneapolis was a pioneer of this (cities include: Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Edina, St. Paul, Roseville; additional cities considering adopting similar ordinances too).

Q: *What's the tea on teabags? I thought the paper ones were still sealed with polypropylene?*

A: From Kellie after the meeting: Thanks for pointing this out. Tea bags were removed from the

Organics Style Guide in the most recent iteration but did not get moved on the Love to Compost website. It will be changed.

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

- Mike thanked Kellie and said MN is crushing it! He thanked Merleanne and ICAW for a job well done! The IFSCC Executive Director search is still ongoing. Please contact Mike directly if interested. IFSCC [membership](#) is always appreciated and ongoing!

IFSCC Administrator update Amy Bartucci, admin@illinoiscomposts.org

- **USCC Action Center: [Online Action Center](#):** View the campaigns and help support the composting industry at the federal level!

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

- Merleanne gave a summary of the latest webinars and information coming from USCC to members. Illinois folks should consider [joining USCC](#).

Committee Reports:

- We Compost: Mary Beth Schaye Co-Chair
 - Program needs a reboot and the committee is looking for support. May need to reschedule the next quarterly meeting.
- Communications: Amy DeLorenzo and Steph Katsaros, Co-Chairs, amy.delorenzo@gmail.com, steph@brightbeat.com
 - Any interest in presentation/tabling –please share via email or fill out [this form!](#)
- Policy: Liz Kunkle and Susannah Sun, Co-Chairs, lizkunkle@gmail.com, susannah@greenerachicago.com
 - Not much happened in organics in IL since it is an election year.
 - In IL on the food scrap front: ICAW brought about several (at least 7) municipal Proclamations and a statewide Compost Awareness Week (CAW)
 - HB5541 passed –updated a number of compost/organics/food scrap terms –good foundational work was done there.
 - Plastic Pellet Free Water Act passed this year too (adjacent to our work to reduce contamination)
 - Compost Facility Tours are ongoing –one upcoming at Midwest Organics Recycling (July 22)
 - Next Policy Committee Meeting June 18, 11AM
- Education: Natasha Nicholes, Co-Chair natasha@wesowwegrow.org
 - No update this month
- Compost Market Development: Mike DiMucci, Chair, mike@gpocompost.com and Jess Polansky jpolansky@midwestorganicsrecycling.com
 - Next meeting June 16
 - Always promoting compost market and reducing contamination
 - Save the Date: Midwest Compost Training –Sept 15-17, 2026 in Lake County.

- International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), Merleanne Rampale, Chair MRampale@swalco.org
 - +70 events across IL –very successful this year
 - A number of towns did Proclamations
 - Planning will be kicking in again this fall and winter for next year
 - Take a look at the ICAW Pictorial (Parts 1 and 2) here and check out all the awareness, education, celebration and fun: [ICAW 2026 - Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition](#)
 - THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT HELPED!
- Young Professionals Group (YPG), Caroline French, Tommy Vaughan, Rebecca Koshi and Emily Wachter, caroline@sevengenerationsahead.org, tommy@wastenotcompost.com, rebecca@sevengenerationsahead.org, EWachter@swalco.org
 - Caroline reported out for YP. Thursday next week is the next meeting! They will have working groups for Case Studies and are planning their IFSCC Speaker Spotlight coming up.
 - Join YPG! <https://forms.gle/3WUGW2fGSvLaOo9C7>

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 -June 12, noon (TBD)
- ICAW - Debrief is August 4 at 1pm
- YPG - Next Meeting, June 11 at 3:30pm

No news from attendees. We said hello to NEW attendees!

Meeting adjourned: 12:57pm

Next IFSCC Meeting: August 3, 2026 (NO GENERAL BODY MEETING FOR JULY)

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