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 November 2, 2026

# of Attendees: 45
Welcome: Amy DeLorenzo

THIS WAS A SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT COLLABORATION WITH THE IFSCC ICAW PLANNING TEAM

Welcome/Mission/Vision Amy DeLorenzo

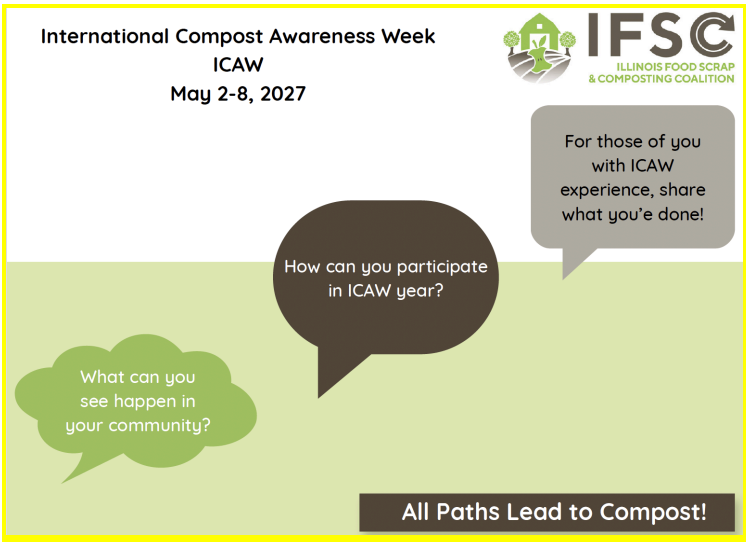
Brief Description of ICAW Macro Amy DeLorenzo

- 2027 Theme Announcement: *All Paths Lead to Compost*
- Annual: Bookmark and Poster Contest Description

Brief Description of ICAW Micro Merleanne Rampale

- Building Blocks of IFSCC ICAW: Adventures in Composting, 3L + Cafe (Virtuals)

Describe and Assign Breakouts



BREAKOUTS: Quick intros too

- Liz Kunkle, Incorporating End Market Use (Compost Giveback Toolkit)
- Natasha Nicholes, Adventures/Engagement (Guide)
- Tracy Cammack, Proclamations (Template)
- Jenny Futterman, Libraries + Schools/ Park Districts + Municipalities (Guides)

Sharing at the End From Each Group

- ➔ May need more time in breakouts next time. The group seemed to love them!
- ➔ The breakout room was quite helpful, especially connecting with businesses that educate and provide compost.
- ➔ One group was interested in simple templates for municipalities that decide to make a Proclamation to take action during ICAW.
- ➔ "What worked? What didn't?" breakout discussion in Adventures in Composting room was super engaging.
- ➔ Free Givebacks paired with proclamations may be a great incentive.
- ➔ Pay attention to social media timing and opportunities to help elevate events during ICAW.
- ➔ Balancing the need to actually market compost with the business owner's voice –there needs to be a return on the processing side. Increased messaging in the future to have reality meet the fact that compost costs money to create.
- ➔ Encourage municipal budgeting for compost Givebacks.
- ➔ SWALCO has budgeted for compost Givebacks annually.

- ➔ Messaging needs to be clear; it's an incentive, a free start, but a valuable resource with market pricing.
- ➔ Giving compost away is intended to build demand for compost. They try it and then they are hooked

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

- REMINDER: Clean pumpkins in yard waste bins and collections!

IFSCC Administrator update Amy Bartucci, admin@illinoiscomposts.org

- Thank you ICAW Planning Team
- USCC COMPOST2027 Scholarship + Operators Pass
- Working on Chapter Rewards + End of Year Reporting

USCC update Merleanne Rampale, IFSCC ICAW Chair, MRampale@swalco.org and Sarah Wilcox swilcox@stlcompost.com IFSCC Board of Directors

- Industry Awards Nominations being accepted.

Committee Reports:

- We Compost: Mary Beth Schaye Co-Chair, marybeth@theurbancanopy.org
  - NONE
- Communications: Amy DeLorenzo and Steph Katsaros, Co-Chairs, amy.delorenzo@gmail.com, steph@brightbeat.com
  - Come to our next meeting!
- Policy: Liz Kunkle Co-Chair, lizkunkle@gmail.com
  - Feed the Cart, Loop will be at IEC's Nov 18 Lobby Day
  - Liz will be there talking with legislators.
  - Next Policy Committee Meeting on Nov 19
- Education: Natasha Nicholes, Co-Chair natasha@wesowwegrow.org, Cecilia Carman ccarman1567@gmail.com
  - Come to our next meeting!
- Compost Market Development: Mike DiMucci, Co-Chair, mike@gpocompost.com and Jess Polansky Co-Chair jpolansky@midwestorganicsrecycling.com
  - Trying to get clean finished compost out into and around the state!
- International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), Merleanne Rampale, Chair MRampale@swalco.org
  - NONE
- Young Professionals Group (YPG), Tommy Vaughan, Rebecca Koshi and Emily Wachter, tommy@wastenotcompost.com, rebecca@sevengenerationsahead.org, EWachter@swalco.org
  - NONE

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 -TBD
-ICAW - TBD
-YPG - TBD

Updates from Members

ReFED in Chicago May 25-27, 2027 https://summit.refed.org - What do we want national Food Waste Solutions industry stakeholders to know about IL organics

UIUC (Betsy Ruckman) is looking for replacement ideas for their Back of House Grind2Energy system that started in the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. Will be ending within 7 years.

Meeting adjourned: 1PM

Next IFSCC Meeting: Dec 7, 2026 Christina Seibert, Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Act Chair, Summary of Final Report

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