



What's Cookin' in Food Scrap Diversion in Illinois

Presented by

Illinois Food Scrap Coalition

Mission

The Illinois Food Scrap Coalition (IFSC) is made up of solid waste agencies, counties, community and government organizations, businesses, schools, colleges, hospitals, service providers and processors – all dedicated to advancing food scrap composting in Illinois through program implementation, policy and advocacy.



The Discussion

May 2012 - DuPage County conference

October 2012 - Waste Not: Advancing Commercial Food Scrap Collection in the Chicago Area (GreenTown Highland Park)

2013 - IFSC membership push through statewide organizations

April 2013 and April 2015 - presented at Biocycle

2014 - 5 statewide forums-Illinois Food Scrap Composting Challenges & Solutions)



Taking Action

December 2012 - letter in support of DCEO f-scrap program

2013 - Launched WeCompost! Program

2014 - Illinois Food Scrap Composting Challenges & Solutions project funded by DCEO (five statewide forums)

January 2015 - recommendations presented to Illinois General Assembly with Task Force report

2015 - Letter to IEPA *IL Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Report* – recommended composting solutions & resources

April 2015 – Biocycle: *Growing a Food Scrap Composting Infrastructure in Illinois*

September 2015 – Biocycle: *State Coalition Advances Food Scraps Diversion*

2016 Incorporated as an Illinois business and convened a Board of Directors

Members



**From 8 in 2012
to
over 150 in 2016**

Incorporated with
Board of Directors in late 2015

Research and
Education

Policies and
Permitting

WeCompost

End Market
Development

**From 8 in 2012
to
over 150 in 2016**

Membership
& Benefits

Incorporated and formed
Board of Directors in 2015

Social Media and
Website

Communications
and Outreach

Commercial Food Scrap Composting in Illinois



Commercial Composting



1. Sort food scraps



2. Haul to a compost facility



3. Compost in windrows



4. Use Finished Compost

Economic Development Opportunities



- Cost Avoidance re: Landfills
- Efficient Use of Discarded Resources
- Local Job Development
- Key Element of Building Local Food Economy

Environmental Benefits



Reduce GHG emissions



Improve soil quality
Added nutrients + reduced erosion



Filter and retain water



Support local food production



Water Quality Protection
Reduce need for synthetic fertilizers



Sequester carbon



Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois Report

January 2015



Prepared and submitted by **Seven Generations Ahead**
on behalf of the **Illinois Food Scrap Coalition**



Guidance and Grant Funding
Provided by:



Statewide Forums



May 21, 2014
– Northeast Illinois

September 16, 2014
– Northwest Illinois

September 22, 2014
– Central Illinois

October 6, 2014
– Southern Illinois

Wrap Up Session: October
22, 2014

– statewide -
Bloomington/Normal

Challenges

1. Need for Education
2. Low Landfill Tipping Fees
3. Lack of Demand for Composting
4. Lack of Composting Infrastructure
5. Contamination of Food Scraps
6. Lack of End Market for Compost



Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois Report

January 2015



Prepared and submitted by Seven Generations Ahead
on behalf of the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition



Potential Solutions

- Educate about environmental and economic benefits
- Enact landfill diversion mandates/organics ban
- Establish a PAYT model
- Update permitting and regulations to a tiered model
- Marketing and policy re: end market procurement



Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois Report

January 2015



Prepared and submitted by Seven Generations Ahead
on behalf of the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition



Policy Changes 2015 - 2016



Public Act 99-0011 (HB 437): Allow temporary and permanent food scrap drop offs without a state permit

Public Act 99-0440 (SB 1518): Provides for 3rd transfer station to accept food scraps on a pilot basis

Public Act 99-0034 (HB 1362): Requires state agencies responsible for maintaining public lands to investigate the use of compost and report to General Assembly

Public Act 99-0306 (HB 2495): Directs DCEO to work with national consumer groups and trade associations on nationally recognized labeling for compostable products

Public Act 99-0552 (HB5530): Prohibits food service contracts for schools and public agencies that restrict food donation

Illinois Composts



I. Report Dissemination

Illinois Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions Report

- Connect to key decision makers
- Discuss report recommendations and next steps for Illinois.

II. Forums and Webinar

- Educate stakeholders
- Deep dive into strategies to advance food scrap composting
- Develop action steps

III. Composting Pilot

- Institutions and restaurants explore food scrap composting
- West Loop and Medical District
- WeCompost restaurant enrollment

GOALS

Long term: expand local sustainable food production through development of a viable food scrap composting industry.

Short term: education, policy development and advocacy, infrastructure development

IV. Economic Assessment

- Cost benefit analysis
- Job creation
- Soil/Water/Food connections

V. Education Campaign

- Why compost?
- Environmental benefits
 - Economic benefits

THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST AND AFFILIATES

The Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust

Project: Building Illinois' Local Food Shed Through Advancing Food Scrap Composting



Compost Policy Forums



Chicago – Cook County Composting Forum

Topic: Universal Recycling and Composting Law

DuPage and Kane County Composting Forum

Topics: Pay as You Throw and Organics Drop Off

Northern Cook County Composting Forum

Topic: Organics Diversion Goals

Lake County Composting Forum

Topics: Organics Ride Along Programs and Compost Processor Permitting

Thursday, November 10, 1-3 PM

Location: College of Lake County

We Compost



- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Hospitals
- Breweries
- Universities
- Museums







Small Steps Can Make a Big Difference

Composting Infrastructure

5 years ago most Illinois haulers were in the business of hauling only garbage, recycling and yard waste

- **Organics routes with food scraps now exist for many haulers**

5 years ago Illinois compost facilities accepted only yard waste

- **12-15 compost facilities now add food scraps to yard waste**

Small Steps Can Make a Big Difference

School Composting

5 years ago most schools could only compost fruits and vegetables onsite

- 50+ schools in Illinois have commercial composting programs diverting 80-95% of waste
- Chicago Public Schools switched from polystyrene trays to compostable trays this year



Small Steps Can Make a Big Difference

Residential Composting

5 years ago most “experts” in Illinois said we would not have residential composting – that it was just a “West Coast thing”

- **20 Illinois communities will now be offering this service**
- **Phase one for drop-off of organics**



1-Day Pumpkin Collection Events

Goal: Educate public about importance of composting removing contaminants to prep for expansion of curbside programs

- 2014 (year 1):
 - 🦋 3 locations in DuPage County
 - 🦋 **9.31 tons of pumpkins**
- 2015 (year 2):
 - 🦋 16 locations in Chicago suburbs
 - 🦋 **26.5 tons of pumpkins**
- 2016 (year 3):
 - 🦋 20 locations (that we know of...)
 - 🦋 How many pumpkins?



www.scarce.org/pumpkins

2016 Pumpkin Collection

Saturday, Nov 5th 9am-12pm

Don't Let your Waste Haunt You!

2016 Participating Locations:

Addison	Itasca
Evanston	Lisle
Bartlett	Madison County
Bensenville	Park Ridge
Carol Stream	Riverside
Clarendon Hills	Roselle
Darien	Romeoville
Downers Grove (x2)	Villa Park
Elmhurst	Westmont
Geneva	
Glen Ellyn	







Update on Southern Illinois & St. Louis area composting efforts



St. Louis Composting is the region's leading compost producer

- **Received and composted approximately**
 - **600,000 cubic yards of organics**
 - **Yard trimmings, animal bedding, wax cardboard and food waste**
 - **400,000 cubic yards of wood fiber**
 - **Brush and logs, wood chips, clean wood and pallet waste**

Update on Southern Illinois & St. Louis area composting efforts



SLC's largest facility is in Belleville, IL – 110 acres

- Receive 500 tons of food waste per week
- Made 13,532 deliveries in 2015
- STA- Certified & OMRI Listed Products



US Composting
Council
*Seal of Testing
Assurance*



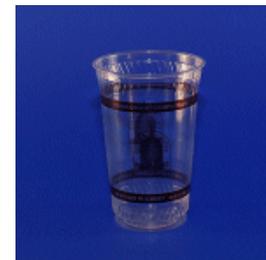
Update on Southern Illinois & St. Louis area composting efforts



EDUCATION

Compostable Materials, Certifications/Standards

- Must meet ASTM D6400 or D6868 standard
- Must be BPI Certified
- Cedar Grove Testing is an additional benefit



Update on Southern Illinois & St. Louis area composting efforts



EDUCATION

- Continuous Trainings
- Presentations
- Signage
- Workshops



End Market Development



EDUCATION Share what food-scrap amended compost really is
- "Get out there and smell it!"

SALES Local food scrap amended compost sales at Farmers Markets.



OUTREACH Reaching out to purchasers of soil and compost.
Reaching out to processors

End Uses of Compost

- Land Application
- Garden
- Soil Amendment
- Green roof Media



Compost Supply End uses

Benefits of using Rooflite growing media

- Re-establishes nature into urban environments
- Mitigates the urban heat island effect
- Prevents combined sewer overflows
- Insulates building keeping it cool in summer and warm in winter
- Improves air quality

Before



After



Compost Supply End uses

Benefits of Land Application

- Provides greater drought resistance
- Improves soil structure
- Supplies significant quantities of organic matter
- Improves and stabilizes soil ph
- Less costly than chemical fertilizers

Land Application



Woodlawn Gardens



Finished Garden



Q & A



Join IFSC



I compost because...
it's the **right thing to do**, it's good
for the **environment**, and it's good
for the **economy**.



- David Smith
Department of Commerce
and Economic Opportunity



IllinoisComposts.org



illinoiscomposts.org/join

Membership: Individual \$50, organization \$150
Partnership: Silver \$500, Gold \$1000, Platinum \$3000

Follow IFSC

Social media links

- Website: illinoiscomposts.org
- Blog: <http://illinoiscomposts.org/ifsc-blog>
- Facebook: facebook.com/IllinoisFoodScrapCoalition
- Twitter: twitter.com/ILComposts
- YouTube: youtube.com/user/IllinoisFSC
- LinkedIn: linkedin.com/groups/8365760

Thank you to our IFSC partners



Thank you!



For more information, please contact:

Jennifer Jarland
IFSC Administrative Coordinator
Illinoiscomposts@gmail.org
303-563-9409



Thank you to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for funding Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois.