



US Composting Council Newsletter • Winter 2018

From the Top of the Compost Pile

Lorrie Loder-Rossitor



Outgoing President's Message

I suppose it is typical that when a person who has served in a leadership role steps down from that position, one's thoughts move into a period of reflection.

What was, what could have been, what worked well, what could have been done differently are things reflected upon. I find myself in this position and think about

where the USCC has been and what we've accomplished as an organization over the past few years, as well as the excitement of the years to come.

As a four-term President of the USCC, it has been a privilege and an honor to serve you, our members. I have good reason to express my heartfelt thanks to the board members, officers, members and friends of the organization. We have accomplished much together in these years — years that have passed far too quickly.

Since being elected to the USCC Board

of Directors in 2007, I've seen

many exciting changes — changes in the organization and within the industry. The USCC has been on a steady roll and has launched some amazing new initiatives with the great support of the USCC Board of Directors, Committees and the outstanding USCC team members! In these 10 years, I have continually been amazed at the energy of the board as well as the skill and incredible talent with which our

Continues below

The US Composting Council's *Compost Communicator* newsletter is published quarterly in *BioCycle*, the official magazine of the USCC.



Bradley



Louis



Schanz



Banyra

2018 USCC Leadership Takes Office

The new USCC Board of Directors inaugurated its term January 1, 2018, headed by new President Patrick Geraty, St. Louis Composting. The Vice President is Greg Gelewski, Onondaga County Resource Recover Agency; Secretary is Bob Yost, A1 Organics, and Treasurer is Joe DiNorscia, Laurel Valley Soils.

Reelected to the Board are: Sarah Martinez, Eco-Products; Dr. Robert Michitsch, University of Wisconsin; and Tim Goodman, Natureworks. Four new members who join the US Composting Council Board of Directors in 2018 are: Pierce Louis, Dirt Hugger; Eileen Banyra, Community Compost Company; Jeff Bradley, Vermeer; and Bob Shanz, Barnes Nursery. They join board members Susan Thoman, Cedar Grove Composting; Brian Fleury, WeCare Organics; John Janes, Caterpillar, Inc.; and Lorrie Loder-Rossitor, Murdoch Enterprises, past president.

Departing from the board are Clayton Leonard, New Earth Inc., and longtime board members Wayne King Sr., EARTH Products; Matt Cotton, Integrated Waste Management Consulting; and Jeff Ziegenbein, Inland Regional Compost Authority.

2018 International Compost Awareness Week Winning Poster Design!



WINNER:
Talia Mitre,
11th Grade,
Rockville,
Maryland

THEME:
Compost!
Building
a Better Future

"I wanted to show on my poster how composting can really help our world become beautiful in the future," explains Talia. "To achieve this, I created a globe shaped as a flower growing out of a pile of compost. Compost takes what many people consider as trash and turns it into something both beautiful and useful for our planet." — Talia Mitre

Illinois Compost Group Becomes USCC Committee

Illinois composters, in association with the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition (IFSC), have affiliated with the US Composting Council (USCC) as an organizational committee to promote the compost manufacturing industry under the umbrella of the USCC, the two groups announced in mid-December. The Illinois Composting Committee is now an official USCC Committee, sponsored by its parent organization, the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition.

“We are excited to join the USCC and believe this alliance will assist Illinois to continue to expand our organics diversion programs by utilizing USCC’s expertise in policy, education, infrastructure and markets,” said Walter Willis, Chair of the IFSC.

The IFSC originally was formed in 2012 as a group of solid waste agencies, counties, and community and government organizations dedicated to advancing food scrap composting in Illinois through program implementation, policy, and advocacy. The group now has about 140 active members representing a cross-section of public, nonprofit and for profit entities. The IFSC and USCC will jointly take positions on regulations and legislation that affect the industry and the market for compost in the state.



“The USCC — and the compost industry — is working hard to build the infrastructure so that the entire country has access to organics collection,” said Frank Franciosi, executive director of the USCC. “The energetic efforts by the IFSC make this a natural fit as the USCC works with Illinois compost advocates to move forward both collection and compost use in Illinois. Chapters like the IFSC’s Composting Committee are important because their leadership is directly in touch with the issues in their state and

the members we work to serve, and we hope they will benefit from the national resources we make available.”

Illinois becomes the seventh regional chapter of the USCC. The industry is expanding due to increased efforts to remove food scraps from disposal along with yard trimmings. The demand side of the industry is expanding with the growing recognition of the beneficial uses of compost.

California, Minnesota, Colorado, Virginia and North Carolina are all full-fledged USCC Charter chapters, and a Composting Council committee works on advocacy in Michigan and the Maryland-DC Regions.

MEMBER NEWS



#We'reAllIn Video Contest Winner

Our Youtube contest winner is The Ground Up, by vice president of sales Luis Chamorro. Luis was awarded the prize and \$250 in Soil-builder Bucks at COMPOST2018.

Food Waste Reduction Microgrant Program In NYC

New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY), a USCC Silver member, announced that the Foundation for New York’s Strongest — DSNY’s nonprofit arm — launched a microgrant program for local businesses working to reduce food waste with funds from DSNY’s NYC Food Waste Fair in July 2017. Ticket sales and sponsorships, including vendor displays, raised \$100,000. Half of that was dedicated to the small business microgrant

program for \$2,000 individual grants and \$5,000 group/neighborhood grants. Applications were due on Jan. 8 2018.

Metro Atlanta’s Food System

Food Well Alliance, a USCC Basic member in Atlanta that works on local food policy, systems, and decreasing food waste, released Atlanta’s Local Food Baseline Report — the first ever snapshot of Metro Atlanta’s local food system. The report contains case studies and research into the work of more than 30 organizations. It describes the work of 52 urban farms, more than 300 community gardens, 524 school gardens and 63 farmer’s markets in Atlanta.

Compostable Coffee Pods

Club Coffee, a USCC Platinum member, maker of PurPod100, has been closely watching legislation introduced in the province of

Ontario that would require single serve coffee pods sold in the province to be fully compostable. The legislation sets a four-year transition time to enable brands to switch to compostable formats. PurPod100, made by USCC member Club Coffee, is BPI certified and has been tested in multiple composting systems.

Q4 New Members

Action Equipment Company, Andre Farms Compost, Bio Town Ag, Inc., City of Fayetteville, City of Rapid City Solid Waste Division, Clyde Harris, Coast of Maine Organic Products, Diversion Strategies, Dun Rite Sand & Gravel, Edge Innovate, Fishers Island Waste Management District, FutureFuel Chemical Company, Global Green, Green Horizons Environmental, LLC, Grow Compost, Marcia Holtz, Inversion Yoga, JJ Wade & Associates, Kooima Company, KTJM LLC, Let Us Compost, Midwest Recycling Solutions, Minnesota Wastewise, MobyDick Wheelwashing/Frutiger Company AG, Mother Earth Materials, Nashua Sand & Gravel, Nebraska Recycling Council, NERC, Owen Towne, Personify, ReCultivateNY, Inc., Rust Belt Riders, Sand Science, Schenectady County Compost Facility, Sci Corp International, University of Florida IFAS Extension.





STA Market Development News

It Pays to Be a STA Participant

Have you checked out what the Seal of Testing Assurance's (STA) Marketing Program has to offer?

Purchase Personalized Marketing Collateral featuring Certified Compost!

- STA trifold brochures
- STA stickers for your compost sample bag
- Pocket Folder with material on Benefits of Compost Use



Trifold brochure

- Consumer Compost Use Rack Cards

Check them out at <https://conquestgraphics.com/USCC>

First Mexico STA Compost

Novedades Agrícolas, S.A., a company based in Mexicali, Baja California, is the first Certified Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) participant outside the US. Novedades is involved in irrigation, fertilizer distribution and design and installation of intensive

farming solutions. Its product is a pelletized amendment/fertilizer sold in California, Mexico.

The company joins an additional 15 new STA participants and seven new products in fiscal 2017 (April 2017-March 2018). Companies now selling Certified Compost approved last fall are:

- Country Oaks Landscape Supply (Minnesota)
- Dirt Hugger (Washington)
- Daddy Petes (North Carolina)
- Arborganic Acres (Pennsylvania)

STA Session at COMPOST2018

Seal of Testing Assurance is featured in the Compost Marketing track on Wednesday, Jan. 24! You can meet Joe Lamp'l ('Joe Gardener') — Atlanta is his hometown! — in a half-day session focusing on compost markets and marketing. The annual Market Development Committee/STA meeting will also be part of this session. Anyone with interest in certified compost is welcome to attend.

Minnesota Now Requires STA for Projects

The State of Minnesota Department of Transportation has joined 12 other states in requiring STA participation for any compost manufacturer accepting food scraps as a feedstock for compost that is used in state projects. They become the 15th state agency (see list below), either departments of transportation (DOT) and/or environmental agencies, to require STA participation in order to sell compost to their landscape projects.

In total, states with agencies that mandate Certified STA Compost include: CalTrans (CA), Colorado DOT, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Iowa DOT, Minnesota DOT, North Carolina DOT, New York DOT, Oregon DOT (Compost), Oregon DOT (Planting), South Carolina DOT, Texas DOT, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Washington State DOT, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Wisconsin DOT.

From The Top Of The Compost Pile

(continued from top)

staff and committee members handle the diverse challenges and issues that arise regularly. I have been quite fortunate to have them working with me (and for you) during this time.

During my tenure as President, the USCC launched the Certified Compost Operations Manager Program; reinvigorated the Composting Council Research and Education Foundation (CCREF) of which I am a member of the Board of Trustees; hired Frank Franciosi, our Executive Director, and the members of our exemplary team, Cary Oshins, Al Rattie, and Linda Norris-Waldt; developed long-term strategic plans; updated the by-laws; and implemented a board policies and procedures manual that was adopted by the board and formulated to assist the board in identifying the course of action to be taken to address policy issues in order to reach our long-term goals.

I encourage everyone to join me in welcoming our new President, Patrick Geraty. He no doubt will continue making the USCC the premier industry organization by maintaining a steady stride on improvements and new initiatives. As we all know, time and change are two constants that we can always depend on — which only allows us all to continue our path of growth and progress.

I am stepping down but not away, and will continue to be involved with the organization through participation on several committees. Thankfully this is the case, as a quick separation from my friends on the board seems too abrupt, and as the immediate past president I can stay involved and still remain in the thick of things with you, the membership.

Please don't wait to be asked to become involved in USCC. Join-

ing a committee is an excellent first step in forming new business relationships that we have found naturally and quickly turn into business friendships and can only add to your business growth and continued success. Please let the USCC know how we can help you.

I sincerely thank the Board of Directors, the officers, and also you, the membership of USCC, which is the heart and soul of this great organization. I also want to extend a special note of thanks to outgoing board members, Matt Cotton, Wayne King, Clayton Leonard and Jeff Ziegenbein who will complete their board terms.

Remember that the key to continued success for USCC is the participation of our membership. Get involved and stay engaged. Give us your ideas, time, and expertise! As an organization, USCC will only be as strong as the talents and contributions of its collective membership. Thank you for your trust and support over the past few years. I look forward to seeing you all at the annual conference in Atlanta.

Member submissions for Compost Communicator can be emailed to Linda Norris-Waldt at the USCC: lnorriswaldt@compostingcouncil.org

