

Illinois Food Scrap Coalition



COMPOSTING, WASTED FOOD RESOURCES + COLLABORATIONS

GO GREEN ILLINOIS 5/11/2021



Stephanie Katsaros

Bright Beat... Helping Partners Strategize, Reuse, Recycle, Compost & Donate

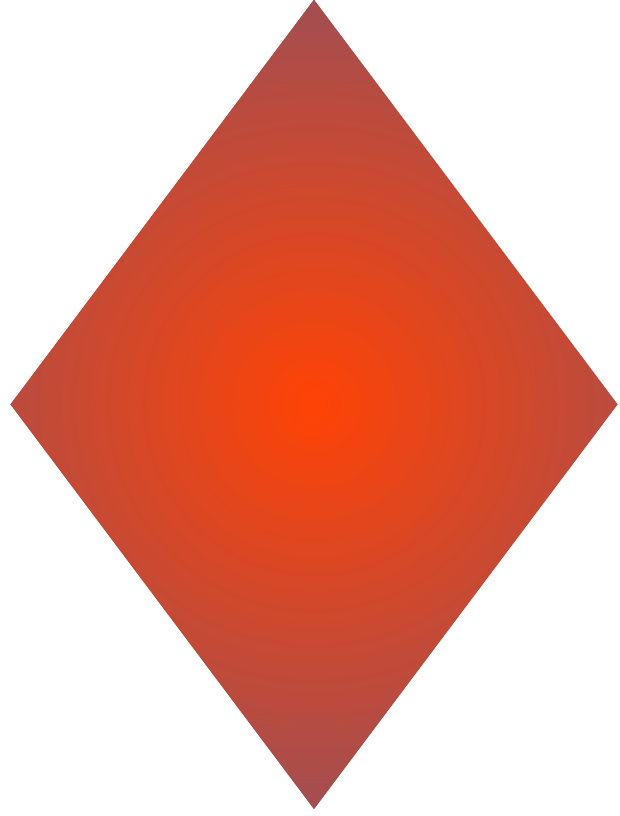


4 Million Pounds of Resources Redirected since 2010

COLLABORATION IS KEY



[Home](#) - [About Us](#) - [Mission](#) - [Members](#) - [Contact](#) - [Impact](#) - [Case Studies](#) - [Resources](#)



WASTED FOOD ACTION ALLIANCE
prevent | rescue | recycle



Illinois Food Scrap Coalition

A thriving not-for-profit organization advancing **diversion and composting of organics** in Illinois through **advocacy, program implementation and promotion, market development, and outreach**

Membership includes: Composters, institutions, stores, restaurants, office buildings, non-profits, public sector, haulers, concerned individuals, students

www.illinoiscomposts.org



Education: Teaching about composting



COMPOST 101

In the U.S., approximately 40% of all food is wasted. This is problematic for our environment and our economy. Composting this large amount of waste is a valuable solution.

How does composting work?

Composting is nature's way of recycling. It is the process of converting organic materials, such as food scraps and yard waste trimmings, into a dark, earthy-smelling soil amendment thereby preserving valuable nutrient-rich resources. Food scraps and yard waste may be processed on-site, or through a commercial program to include meat, bones, fats, food-soiled paper and other certified compostable items.



What are the benefits of composting?

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Reduces soil erosion
- Improves soil structure
- Improves water retention which reduces irrigation needs
- Reduces synthetic chemical needs which protects watersheds
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduces volume of materials in landfills and need for landfill expansions

ECONOMIC

- Reduces cost of disposal fees
- Generates more jobs than landfilling and incineration
- Contributes to local agriculture and food economies
- Minimizes taxes and fees for landfill development and clean-up



Residential Food Scrap Composting

A GUIDE FOR ILLINOIS MUNICIPALITIES

Developed by Seven Generations Ahead



ILLINOIS FOOD SCRAP COALITION

36,499 TONS of food scraps were processed at Illinois composters in 2018

ONLY 1.5% of food scraps were composted in 2018

ORGANICS COMPOSTED ON THE RISE

COMPOST SOLD ON THE DECLINE

216 WE COMPOST PARTNERS

45 MUNICIPALITIES offer food scrap composting

114 IFSC MEMBERS

IFSC logo and footer text: Created by Seven Generations Ahead. Printed through the Sea to Shores: The Chicago Community Trust. Food Land Opportunity is a collaborative initiative of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and the Chicago Community Trust.

Market Development: Increasing compost use



1. Strategic education to **minimize contamination**
2. Identify and promote **retailers of finished compost** ("Buy Compost" IFSC webpage)
3. Engage with **Sports Turf and playing field communities**, park districts, school districts
4. Engage with Public Sector and **Green building industry**

Communication: Growing awareness + access



1. **EQUITABLY** strengthen the composting community and support organizations and individuals to **expand access, awareness and distribution of IFSC resources**
2. **Use data effectively to communicate impact**, promote involvement and identify opportunities to get composting on the radars of municipal entities
3. Engage stakeholder organizations for **strategic partnerships and collaborative action**

Advocacy: Get communities composting



Municipal Composting

Residential collection programs in 63 municipalities

Municipal Guide

How to start a composting program in your community

Food Waste Reduction Toolkit for Illinois Schools

*a collaboration with Wasted Food Action Alliance



Residential Food Scrap Composting

A GUIDE FOR ILLINOIS MUNICIPALITIES
Developed by Seven Generations Ahead

Food Waste Reduction Toolkit for Illinois Schools



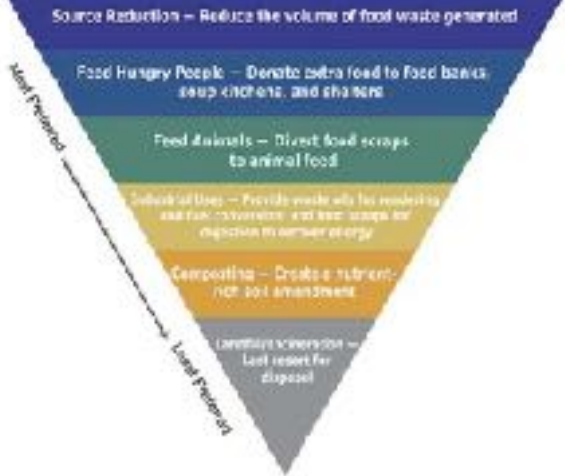
The Food Waste Reduction Toolkit for Illinois Schools provides all schools—no matter their size or location—the tools to tackle the issue of wasted food.

What's the problem with food waste?
Roughly 7 billion school meals are served each year in the United States, and much of the waste from these meals is ending up in landfills, consuming valuable resources and contributing to climate change.

easy and quick to implement, to longer term and more resource-intensive. Students, teachers, food service staff, lunchroom staff, parents, and administrators can all play a role in reducing school food waste.

While single-use tableware and packaging comprise a lot of the waste in lunchrooms, food is often the largest component.

Food Recovery Hierarchy



What are the solutions?
A great deal of lunchroom waste can be prevented or diverted from landfills through source reduction, food recovery, recycling, and composting, all of which provide many educational opportunities for students.

The toolkit provides schools with useful information and resources for implementing many of the strategies on the Environmental Protection Agency's Food Recovery Hierarchy. A variety of solutions are shared—from



WE COMPOST: Support entities that compost



We Compost Partners:

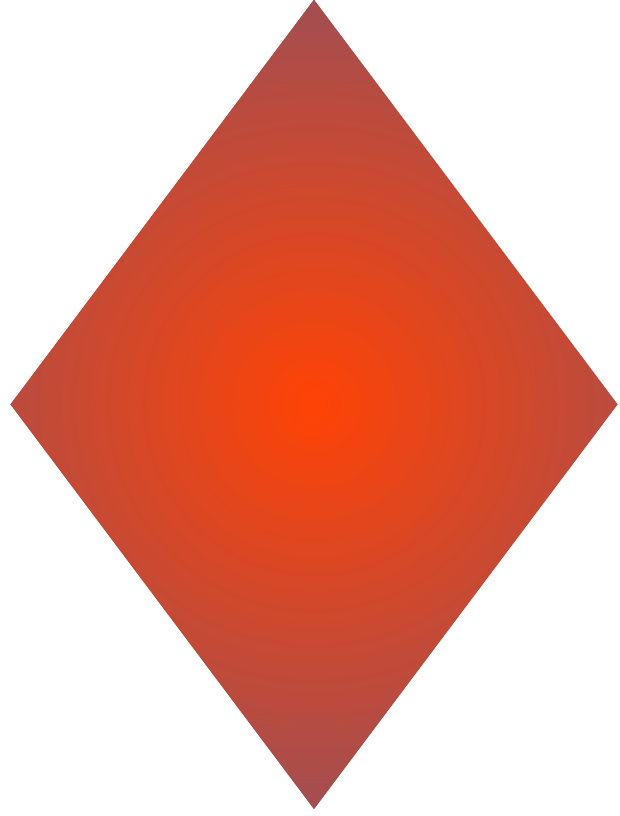
- 52 Businesses
- 11 Grocery Stores and Farmers Markets
- 59 Municipalities
- 16 Organizations & Institutions
- 55 Restaurants & Caterers
- 57 Universities & Schools



COLLABORATION IS KEY



[Home](#) - [About Us](#) - [Mission](#) - [Members](#) - [Contact](#) - [Impact](#) - [Case Studies](#) - [Resources](#)



WASTED FOOD ACTION ALLIANCE
prevent | rescue | recycle



Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Project

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County + 38 collaborators



23 communities, 4 waste haulers, farms, community gardens, park districts, Lake County Forest Preserve and Farm Bureau, IL Sustainable Technology Center, University of IL Extension-Lake County, Civil Agents and Bright Beat... funded by USDA

GOAL: Developing a stronger, more vibrant circular economy for managing food scraps and other organic material

OUTCOMES: Data, findings, marketing materials and a model that can be used by other units of local government

COMPONENTS:

1. Compost to farmland/community garden demonstration study
2. Market development for final compost product
3. Strengthening the community gardening network
4. Enhanced marketing and education to increase participation rates in residential and commercial food scrap collection programs



<< SOIL PROBE photo courtesy of Vytas Pabedinkas of Save our Soil LLC

LINK TO LEARN MORE:

<http://illinoiscomposts.org/education-and-outreach/sustaining-partner-spotlight-lake-county-illinois-community-compost-and-food-waste-reduction-project/>

Chicago Region Food Rescue Hub

COMMUNICATION + LOGISTICS HUB:

A community-led initiative to identify neighborhood-based resources and needs, reduce wasted food through rescue from local stores, and explore opportunities for physical hubs to provide resources, support programs and compost food scraps.



PARTNERS:

Chicagoland Food Sovereignty Coalition

- Comprised of 20+ autonomous mutual aid groups

Wasted Food Action Alliance

Seven Generations Ahead

Other Supporting Groups and Projects



Chicago Region Food Rescue Hub

Work Plan

- ASSESS CURRENT FOOD RESCUE LANDSCAPE
- COORDINATE TO BUILD FOOD RESCUE HUB
- GET MORE FOOD
- SUPPORT AND SHARE RESILIENCE MODEL

Values

- COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION
- FOOD ACCESS
- EQUITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY
- NEIGHBORHOOD VOICE

Proposed Plastics Packaging Compostability Demonstration Project



CHICAGO
SUSTAINABILITY
TASK FORCE



Committed collaborators include: IL compost facilities, large generators of food scraps + compostable packaging, University soil scientists, US Composting Council, Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) & Compost Manufacturers Alliance (CMA), Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI), NatureWorks and many more interested. Awaiting feedback on primary funding to move ahead.

GOAL: To capture and communicate scientific findings and real-world experiences around use and processing of compostable plastics – to grow infrastructure and advance organics recycling in Illinois and beyond.

OUTCOMES: Piloted use of labeling standards and marketing communication – to better inform consumers and compost site operators of product compostability and the need for/benefits of composting.

Get Involved: <https://tinyurl.com/compostbrainstorm>

**THANKS FOR LISTENING
... TAKE ACTION!**



**BRIGHT
BEAT**

STEPHANIE KATSAROS, steph@brightbeat.com