

Illinois Food Scrap Coalition Overview

Mission

The Illinois Food Scrap Coalition is 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.

Members

Mary Allen, SWANCC
Gary Cuneen, Seven Generations Ahead
Jennifer Jarland, Kane County
Christopher Lipman, Cook County
Kay McKeen, SCARCE
Jen Nelson, Seven Generations Ahead
Laura Oakleaf, Cook County
Cameron Ruen, SWANCC
Julie Schilf, Region 5 USEPA
Shefali Trivedi, DuPage County
Dave Van Vooren, SWANCC
Walter Willis, SWALCO

Goals / Current Work

The Coalition is in the process of expanding membership and developing a scope of work related to advancing food scrap composting in Illinois, including:

1) Mapping Project

Creation of a mapping system for businesses and processors currently composting food scraps:

<http://dupage.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=e5f628de90a240319985c220b4f4f693>

This will include food scrap generators as well as facilities taking food scraps. The map currently covers Northern Illinois and may be expanded to cover the whole state.

2) Research

Research on other states' policies related to municipal landfill diversion mandates, food scrap composting requirements, bans on placing food scraps in landfills, etc.

- a) State Policies
- b) Economic Viability
- c) Infrastructure Needs

Research to include an analysis of what is happening currently in other areas addressing services, infrastructure, gaps and needs. Information to be presented in the form of case studies that pertain to the situation in Illinois (geography, tipping fees, municipal bans, etc.). Possible case study sites include: Austin, Texas; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota (Carver County, Culver County and Hennepin County); North Carolina; Portland, Oregon; Vermont. A template for these case studies has been developed to ensure consistent information is being gathered.

3) Forums

Conduct policy forums across the state to:

- a) Start discussions on policies and strategies related to landfill diversion and food scrap composting
- b) Gain input from key stakeholders (haulers, composters, key policy makers, government agencies, Solid Waste Agencies, food scrap generators, etc.)

Potential dates for forums include the ILCSMA conference in December in Starved Rock, Illinois and possibly the IRA conference June 3-5th, 2013.

4) Policy Report

Develop a final policy report to include recommendations for policy and infrastructure change in the state of Illinois. Priority is to develop recommendations that are achievable and do not create mandates that cannot be met due to insufficient infrastructure.

5) Advocacy

- a) Promote the recommendations of this Coalition to advance food scrap composting
- b) Engage stakeholders

6) Seek Funding

Explore opportunities to apply for funding to support the work outlined above.

Previous Work

- Put together a half-day forum at the Highland Park GreenTown Conference, Thursday, October 18, 2012

Waste Not: Advancing Commercial Food Scrap Collection in the Chicago Area

How do we increase commercial food scrap collection in the Chicago area? Join us for an afternoon workshop to discuss barriers and solutions across four counties and associated waste management agencies in Cook, Northern Cook, DuPage, Kane and Lake Counties. We will review best practices and discuss such issues as route density, training, equipment, contracts and ways to increase food scrap composting.

Organizers include: SWALCO, SWANCC, DuPage County, Kane County, Cook County, Lake County, GreenTown

Speakers include:

-John Jaimez, Hennepin County, MN

-Anne Brantley, WasteQuip, Charlotte, NC

-Marcie Kress, Summit/Akron Solid Waste Management Authority, Akron, Ohio

Sponsored by: Waste Management, Inc., Groot Waste and Recycling Services, Veolia Environmental Services, Nu-Earth Organics, Midwest Organics Recycling LLC, Rehrig Pacific, ORBIS, Organix Recycling LLC, DK Organics

- Wrote a letter to DCEO to encourage their F-Scrap Grant Program to receive continued funding (letter written December 2012.)
- Collected names of interested coalition stakeholders at the Illinois Recycling Association/SCARCE Food Scrap Composting Seminar on February 7, 2013. The Illinois Recycling Association worked with SCARCE (School & Community Assistance with Recycling & Composting Education) and the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN) to develop and co-sponsor the seminar.