

Composting Training: Successful Municipal and Institutional Design

Biographies of Speakers/Trainers

Mark Hutchinson has been an Extension Professor at the University of Maine since 2010. He has an earned MS in Ecology and Environmental Science. Mark's research and educational programming has been focused on soil health in diverse cropping systems. A significant part of the research has involved the effects of compost on soil health in vegetable cropping systems. He has traveled nationally and internationally to teach large scale commercial composting and assist farmers with managing on farm mortalities with composting.

As member of the Maine Compost Team (MCT), he has been involved in the Maine Compost School, an internationally recognized program for large-scale commercial compost education. The School is the longest continuously running compost education in the United States. MCT has also been a leader in developing procedures and protocols for carcass management now used throughout the USA.

Mark is a published author with numerous peer-reviewed articles. As a Certified Crop Advisor, Mark provides science based information to growers throughout Maine and New England. As a steering committee member for the New England Vegetable and Fruit conference since 2000, Mark, develops and moderates sessions on Soil Health. He is also the co-founder of the annual, since 2001, Maine Vegetable School.

Mark is a member of the University of Maine Graduate Faculty. He serves on two graduate student committees. He was the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Fellow for 2015 - 2016.

Athena Lee Bradley is the Projects Manager for the Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. She has been in materials management field for more than 25 years. Athena organizes and is an instructor for organics and food scrap management, composting, and manure management trainings, as well as provides technical assistance to businesses, government agencies, schools, and households. She has attended the Maine Compost School and other compost operator trainings.

Greg Williams came to Agri-Cycle in 2014 with diverse experience in the organics industry, including sales, consultation, business development, and operations. While completing a Master's in Community Planning & Development at the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service, he researched the feasibility of implementing a curbside organics program in Greater Portland. He received an award for the idea from ecomaine in 2008, and presented the idea to the Portland City Council in 2009. Williams also successfully started and managed a commercial composting business in conjunction with the City of Portland before joining Agri-Cycle.

Tara Albert started working at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in 2007 as the Pollution Prevention Specialist. In 2010, she took on the role as NH Green Yards Program Coordinator assuring environmental compliance at motor vehicle recycling facilities. She is currently the Solid Waste Operator Training and Certification Program Coordinator. Tara has a BS from Coastal Carolina University in both Marine Science & Biology with a focus on chemistry/environmental sciences and a MS from The University of Maine in Ecology and Environmental Sciences. She is also a Certified Public Manager.