July update from the Compost Market Development Committee

Food Scrap diversion from landfills is critically dependent upon the availability of a robust and sustainable Illinois composting infrastructure. Key elements supporting Composter viability include the ability to sell the full quantity of manufactured composts and the ability of the Composters to earn fair income from those products (fair pricing). The IFSC Compost Market Development Committee (CMD) is working to educate potential compost users and expand the marketing and sales opportunities for IFSC Member Composters.

CMD has many goals and achieving each takes significant volunteer participation. Please consider joining and working with the committee, helping increase the use of compost, and helping increase the possibility of Illinois Composters accepting more food scraps which can be diverted from Illinois landfills.

CMD is presently working on several projects which are aimed at the general public and at potential compost user communities. We are developing resources for the IFSC website and working to develop opportunities for engagement.

- "Where to buy compost?" resource for the IFSC website:
    - Easy access to information about where you can purchase compost for your home or larger scale projects. Products manufactured by IFSC Members, and their associated retail and wholesale outlets, are listed.
- Comprehensive "Compostable" and "Not-Compostable" list and educational resource:
    - Do you wonder whether something is compostable or not? Many people do, and the answers can be complicated. We are building a resource for the IFSC website which will provide a convenient and helpful tool to guide you to proper practices.
- Organics and Composting Glossary:
    - Are you ever confused by compost related vocabulary? Are windrow, aerated-static-pile, PFAS, and BPI terms and abbreviations that you hear but don't understand or would like to learn more about? CMD is working on a Glossary to help!
- Engage with communities which can benefit from incorporation of compost into their projects in order to achieve improvements in areas including (but not limited to) soil characteristics, soil performance, turf and plant health and viability, reduced pesticide and herbicide demand, and water management (in both drought and flood contexts).
    - Audiences with whom we aspire to engage include (but are not limited to) Park Districts, School Districts, Public Works and Highway Departments, Landscape Architects, "Green" oriented architects, and property managers and developers.
- CMD is tracking progress on two Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) projects which are currently under construction and are pilots related to IL Public Act 100-0951.
    - Public Act 100-0951 (effective 1/1/2019) requires IDOT to conduct two pilot demonstrations using compost amended soil and to report its findings to the General Assembly within one year of the completion of the pilot studies.

CMD is also working to recruit more Illinois EPA Permitted Composting Facilities to join and participate in the IFSC. The IFSC is the sponsoring organization of the U.S. Composting Council – Illinois Committee. If you are a USCC member please join the IFSC as well; we are your local, Illinois advocate and representative organization.