

IFSC Compost Market Development Committee

This has been a productive and exciting year for the Compost Market Development Committee of the IFSC. We have made great strides along the path to developing broader and larger use of compost. We are always looking for people who bring diverse experience, interest, energy, and fresh ideas that help guide our approaches, ambitions and engagement. Please join us!

The evolution of committee membership over this past year has been exciting. We have expanded our composter (processor) participation, which has enhanced our ability to tactfully engage with potential compost users. New members include people with local, grassroots, community level environmental experience, engagement, and agendas. These voices are also valuable in internal IFSC conversations, helping to connect educators, diversion program designers and implementers, and the facilities which eventually have to handle and process the diverted organics. Contamination, a national issue, is now being discussed as the IFSC helps to adapt existing programs and support new and increasing diversion agendas and programs. This is an opportunity to tap into a wonderful network of people who are already working to improve their communities; partnerships can include us in discussions and develop opportunities for compost use in a number of communities and different projects.

Legislation was successfully passed in 2018 requiring that IDOT conduct two pilot projects which incorporate compost. The first has begun at [Route 20 and Harmony Road](#) in Coral Township, Mc. Henry County, IL. The second is at IL 394 and Sauk Trail.

Alternative pathways of food scrap processing have also been discussed by our committee, and we now have participants with interests in the anaerobic digestion community. This is an important processing method which can increase Illinois capacity for food scrap diversion. This discussion, and advocacy on behalf of this process, falls into the domain of the CMD Committee in our efforts to advance the principal IFSC goal of food scrap diversion from the landfill waste stream.

Please considering joining and sharing your energy with the committee. We are currently working with the Illinois EPA to create an educational list of items that can and cannot be composted. Illinois residents, educators, and communities can use this list to proactively help eliminate contamination that would otherwise go to composting facilities. The Committee aspires to roll out an early version of this resource by late-Summer or early-Fall. This, project, like the [Map of Illinois EPA Permitted Composting Facilities](#) which we successfully delivered last summer, takes a team effort. If you are networked to potential compost users, or even if you aren't but want to help the IFSC establish those relationships, please contact committee chair, Benjamin Krumstok at [benjamin\(at\)compostingpartners.com](mailto:benjamin(at)compostingpartners.com).