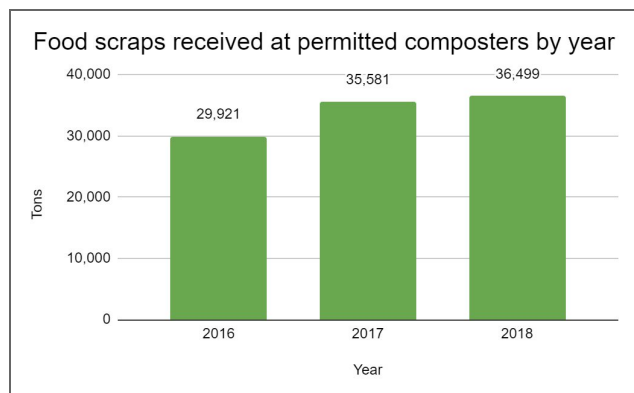




Illinois Food Scrap Coalition Impact Report 2019

The Illinois Food Scrap Coalition is a not-for-profit organization that advances the diversion and composting of food scraps and organics in Illinois through advocacy, program implementation, market and business development, policy and outreach. **The charts below provide an overview of the impact of the IFSC.** Read further to find out about the data and the IFSC's work.

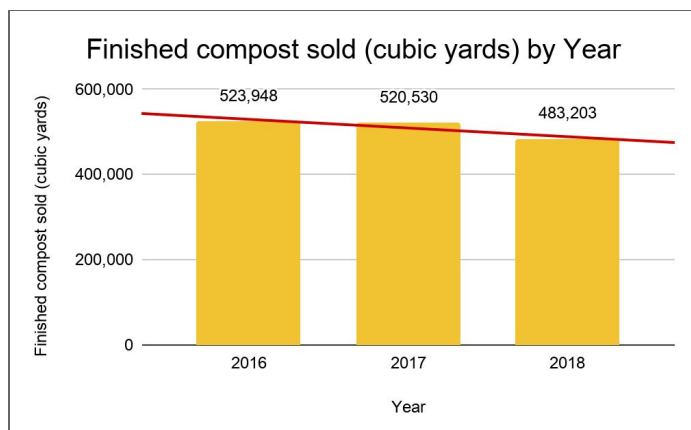
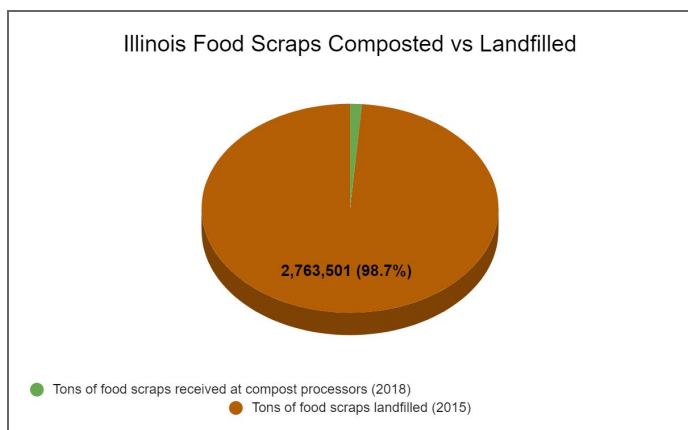


DIVERSION OF FOOD SCRAPS

- **36,499 tons** (91,247 cubic yards) of food scraps were received at permitted compost processors in 2018 (up 3% from the previous year)
- **Only 1.5% of food scraps are being composted - need more diversion of food scraps from landfill**

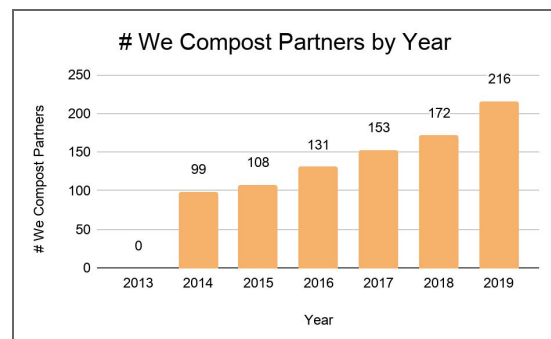
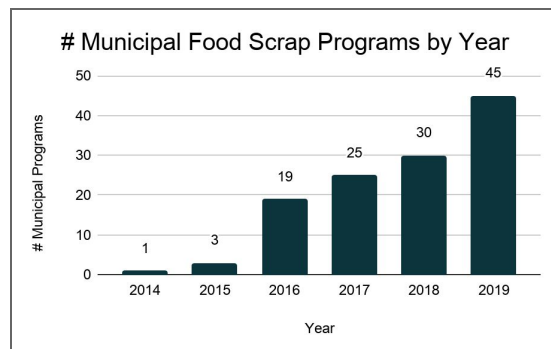
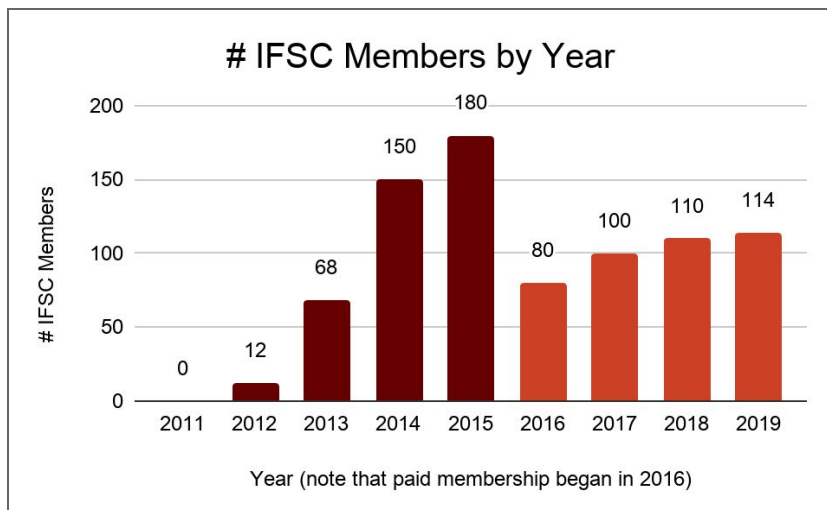
MARKET DEVELOPMENT

- **14 compost processors now accept food scraps**
- **Sales of finished compost declined for the third year in a row - need to improve sales of finished compost**



PROGRAMS and OUTREACH

- **114 IFSC members/partners**
- **216 We Compost partners**
- **45 municipalities** with food scrap composting programs



ADVOCACY

Strategic Goal: To improve and develop legislative and regulatory policy and to secure funds to grow industry, infrastructure and end markets for finished compost.

FACT: Illinois generates 19% more waste per capita than the average state in the United States. Only 35% of the material is recycled and **1.5% is composted**.

2019 Update

Successful Legislation:

- HB3068 - Creates a Statewide Materials Management Advisory Committee tasked with providing a report of the current status of waste in Illinois, as well as recommendations for recycling, composting and other waste reduction. This bill will also strengthen county waste management plans through recommendations for reduction and education. **IFSC has representation on this Committee being convened in 2020.**
- PA100-0951 – IL DOT two projects using compost amended soil – one roundabout in McHenry County at Route 20 and Harmony Road will procure compost to grow grass seed and for erosion control. Should be completed in fall or spring. The second project is in development.



Illinois Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Highlights:

- \$7.5 million for soil and water conservation districts is included in the state budget, including \$3 million for cost share projects to support on-the -ground nutrient reduction and soil erosion prevention work.
- \$7.5 million allocated for the Solid Waste Management Fund to renew the recycling and composting grant program providing funding for waste diversion equipment and programs for K-12 schools.
- Partners for Conservation is funded at \$1,971,900, which supports staff involved in natural land and conservation cropping programs through IDNR.

Pumpkin Smash 2019



The Pumpkin Smash is an annual effort to divert pumpkins from landfills by providing locations for residents to drop-off jack-o-lanterns to be composted. It is held each year the Saturday after Halloween. IFSC supporting partner SCARCE and the cities of Wheaton and Elmhurst hosted the first pumpkin collections in 2014, diverting 9.31 tons of pumpkins from landfills. **In 2019:** 113.6 tons of pumpkins were diverted from 47 sites in Illinois; 81.7 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent were prevented (equal to annual emissions of 17 passenger vehicles); 24,430.1 gallons water kept out of landfills. **The policy that allowed temporary drop-off of pumpkins was part of the longer term policy agenda to allow food scraps drop-off both for temporary events and on a permanent basis.**

Opportunity for 2020: IEPA is developing an Illinois Organics Management Plan. IFSC is collaborating with IEPA and this will set the stage for waste reduction and/or diversion goal targets.

Illinois policy related to composting: http://illinoiscomposts.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/IFSC_IllinoisCompostLegislation.pdf

To read more about the progress of food scrap composting in Illinois, see the Biocycle Article *Food Scraps Composting Grows in Illinois*, August 2019. <https://www.biocycle.net/2019/08/13/food-scraps-composting-grows-illinois/>



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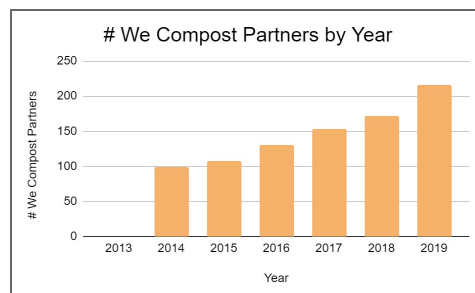
PROGRAMS

Strategic Goal: To develop and maintain educational and recognition programs, including the We Compost program, and strengthen food scrap composting infrastructure.

2019 Update:

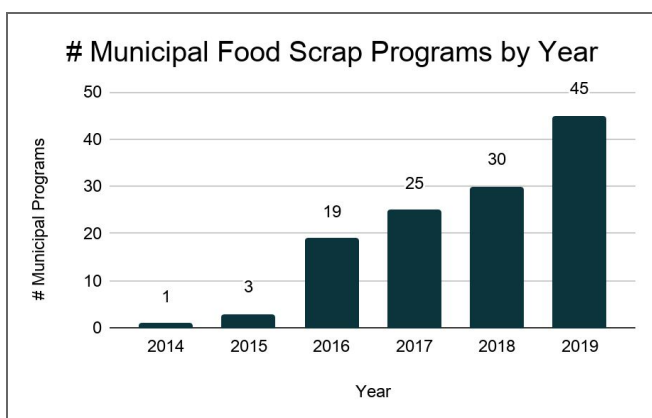
- **We Compost Recognition Program continues to grow, with a year-end total of 216 entities recognized.**

44 Businesses
11 Grocery Stores and Farmers Markets
45 Municipalities
12 Organizations & Institutions
51 Restaurants & Caterers
57 Universities & Schools



- **45 Illinois municipalities now have residential collection programs.**
IFSC helped to promote this growth through education and outreach of municipalities (one-page infographic and guide). The number of municipalities offering food scrap collection is an important initial step. However, the number of residents aware of and/or diverting food scraps to be composted remains low. Estimates are 10% participation in communities with education and a year-round program. Those with programs where food scraps ride-along with yard waste have been less publicized and utilized. Estimates are 1-3% participation.

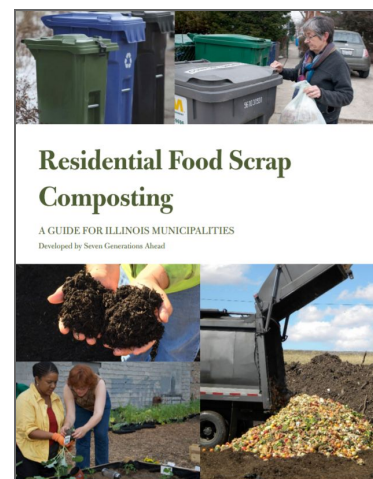
Chart 3: Municipal Food Scrap Programs in Illinois
(source: reported to IFSC)



One-page infographic:
Municipal Composting



Municipal Guide:
Residential Food Scrap Composting



Opportunities for 2020:

- IFSC members collaborate with the Wasted Food Action Alliance to develop a toolkit to reduce food waste in K-12 schools - *Food Waste Reduction Toolkit for Illinois Schools*. This will be available in 2020 and includes a section on composting.
- The Illinois Grocery Store Surplus Food Management Project is supporting a grocery store/chain to explore and better manage surplus food through food waste reduction, food donation and food scrap composting.
- Cook County Department of Sustainability and Cook County Public Health leadership are exploring opportunities for reducing wasted food, donating surplus food and food scrap composting.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

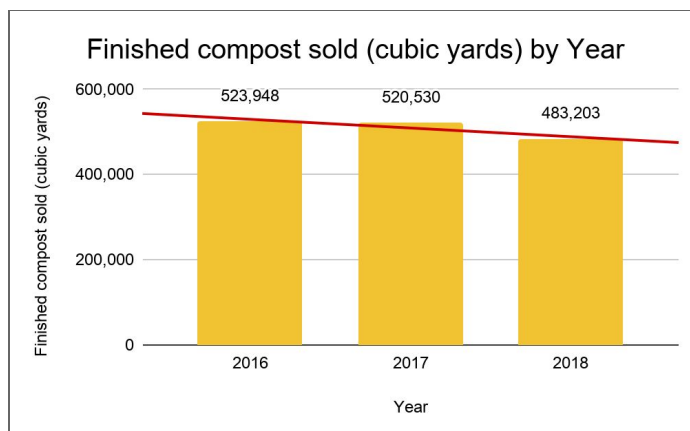
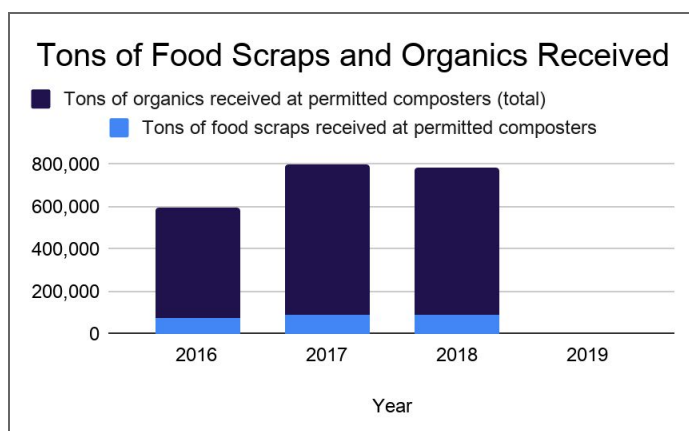
Strategic Goal: To drive specific attainable end market development strategies that will have statewide impact, expand capacity for more diversion, and develop demand for the end product.

2019 Update:

IFSC partners with the US Composting Council and is the Illinois Composting Committee for the USCC. This provides a strong connection between the knowledge and resources on composting at a national level and the work being done in Illinois. Work has focused on developing Best Management Practices to reduce contamination in food scrap organics, optimizing food scrap feedstocks and connecting to end users of compost. This included working with IEPA to develop a compost feedstock resource and surveying compost facilities to develop a list of acceptable compost feedstock.

Chart 4: Organics Received at Illinois Permitted Compost Processors (source: IEPA Annual Reports)

Chart 5: Finished Compost Sold at Illinois Permitted Compost Processors (source: IEPA Annual Reports)



The fine print: The charts above reflect data from the IEPA Annual Reports received from permitted compost processors in Illinois. Data for 2019 become available in 2020. One should note that the amount of total organics received (food scraps and yard waste combined) varies by year based on factors over which the IFSC has no control (e.g., rainfall amount impacts yard waste). Another fact to note is that compost processors in Illinois receive most of the food scraps they get commingled in loads with yard waste, which makes food scrap data both estimated as well as incomplete (as some processors do not report food scraps in their annual report).

For composting to be economically viable in Illinois, there needs to be an increase in compost sold when the organics received and processed increases. Unfortunately, that is not what the data show in Illinois. The amount of finished compost sold over the past few years has decreased. Chart 5 above shows a decline in cubic yards of compost sold over the past three years.

Opportunity for 2020: For Illinois to increase composting, and composting of food scraps, there needs to be a demand for finished compost. The End Market Committee will focus on educating about the benefits of using compost, support and promote those processors selling high quality compost and seek opportunities to build a greater market for compost.





Illinois Food Scrap Coalition Impact Report 2019

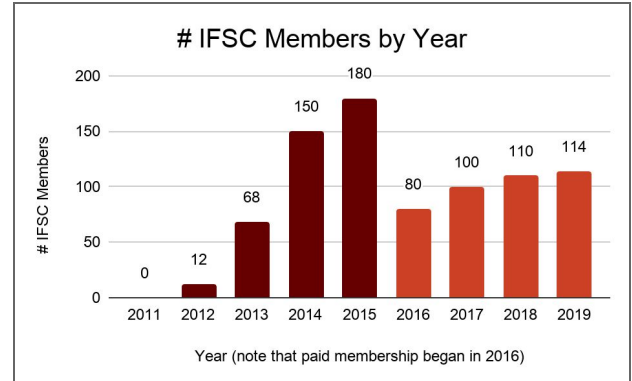
OUTREACH

Strategic Goal: To disseminate educational materials to the public and stakeholders through marketing, communications and public relations, and to communicate the value of IFSC and grow membership.

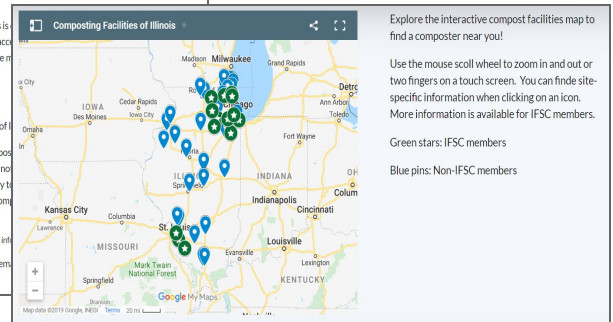
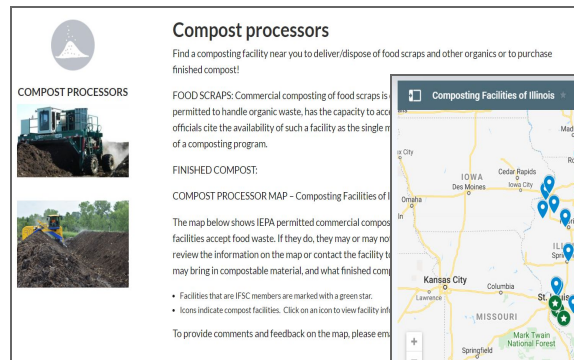
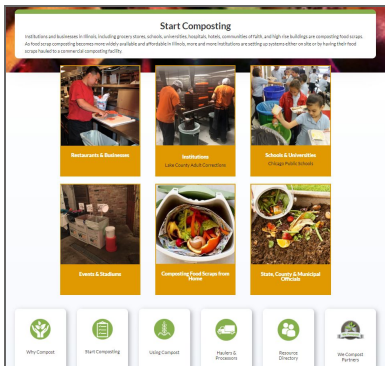


2019 Update

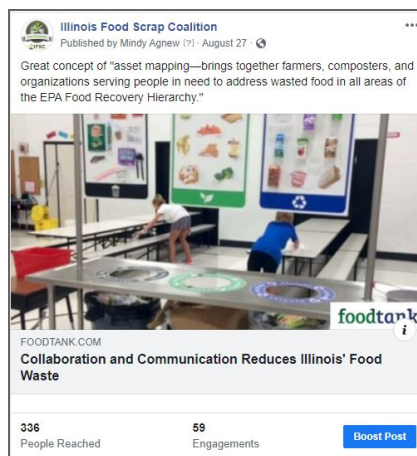
- **114 paid members/partners**
- **539 email reach**
- **Over 2,000 followers/ members across social media platforms**



New website launched



Social media impact



Collaboration: The IFSC takes a collective impact approach to solving local problems related to waste management and reducing wasted food. These are organizations with which IFSC collaborates: Chicago Sustainability Task Force, Illinois Counties Solid Waste Management Association, Illinois Recycling Association, Illinois Restaurant Association, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, One Earth Film Festival and Wasted Food Action Alliance.