

Georgia Composting Council Member Newsletter

January 2026

COMPOST OPERATIONS TRAINING COURSE

March 16 - 20, 2026

Griffin, GA



**EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL!**

\$100 OFF
if you register by Feb. 2



If you want comprehensive instruction on the art and science of commercial-scale compost production and marketing, this course is for YOU!



**REGISTER
NOW!**



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Mark Your Calendar for Compost Operations Training Course in Georgia!

Don't miss this amazing opportunity! The Compost Operations Training Course (COTC), a 5-day course offered by the Compost Research & Education Foundation (CREF), gives you comprehensive knowledge on successful compost facility operations, whether you're just getting started or have years of experience. From facility managers and equipment vendors to environmental consultants and local or state regulators, the COTC is for anyone who wants quality instruction on the art and science of commercial-scale compost production and marketing.

Georgia Composting Council will partner with CREF and the UGA Center for Urban Ag in bringing this vital training to Georgia on March 16-20, 2026

at the Center for Urban Agriculture in Griffin, GA. [Learn more and register.](#)



USCC Annual Conference

COMPOST2026 will be held on February 2-5, 2026 in Sacramento, California. It is USCC's Annual Conference and Trade Show and the premiere professional meeting for composting, organics recycling, and related topics. [Learn more and register today!](#)

ReFED Offers Grant Opportunity

Reducing food loss and waste is one of the most powerful levers to cut methane emissions. ReFED's research shows that scaling food recycling and diversion is one of the most immediate, cost-effective strategies to reduce methane today, while tackling loss within beef and dairy systems can unlock major long-term impact.

ReFED's Catalytic Grant Fund is seeking bold solutions and initiatives in two high-impact areas:

Advancing food recycling: Enhancing sorting, decontamination, processing, and access to create more effective and efficient systems.

Reducing methane in the beef and dairy sectors: Cutting loss and waste by lowering animal mortality, improving supply chain efficiency to get more products to market, preventing food waste at the household level, and reducing enteric emissions through climate-smart feed additives derived from waste streams.

Letters of intent are due Jan 21st --the Catalytic Grant Fund generally aims to deliver average awards of approx. \$100-250k. [Learn more and apply now.](#)

GCC/Georgia News



Keep Pickens Beautiful Adds Community Composting

KPB recently added composting bins (pictured above) to the Community Corner near their office. Their in-town Edible Pickens gardens generate a fair volume of compost during the growing season, and they're going to have two food-producing raised beds beginning this spring. Their Teen Squad built the composting bins and skinned them with reclaimed barnwood.

KPB Teens offers weekly community service hours at different locations every Sunday from 2-4pm. They have more than 10 edible gardens that need caring for and need help on other days of the week with trash clean-ups, recycling events, community festivals and lots more. The needs change with the seasons. KPB Teens are notified of opportunities each week and can opt in or out; it's that simple!



Athens-Clarke Gets Artistic at Organics Drop Offs

A new art installation illustrating the compost cycle makes debut at an Athens-Clarke Co. drop off site for compostables (pictured above).

Reminder to Renew Your Membership

Notices and invoices are being emailed monthly to members based on the month they joined a year prior. So please get your renewal done to extend your membership another year. We're making great momentum with your generous support and welcome your input as we continue providing resources, programs, events and projects for our members. If you have questions, reach out to Gloria at garecycles@mindspring.com.

Chapter Credits for USCC Membership Referrals

The USCC pays 20% (double) the rebate for new members who join USCC because they heard about USCC from our members! When you refer people to join USCC, please ask that they check **REFERRED BY CHAPTER** in their application to support the GCC and increase our rebate!



GCC Committee Positions Open

The Georgia Composting Council is seeking members to volunteer for a committee; here's your chance to dig in and be involved in shaping the programs, projects, outreach and advocacy work being done to fulfill our mission in Georgia. [Learn more](#) about the committees and let us know which committee is for you! Email us @ garecycles@mindspring.com

USCC Advocacy Update: USCC 2025 Public Policy Report

The 2025 Public Policy report is now released on the USCC website. This report serves as a concise overview of the 2024-25 legislative cycle. This year's Report focuses on state and federal legislation, policies, and strategies that affected USCC members from summer 2024 through the 2025 legislative season, from Extended Producer Responsibility bills in MD/CO to shifting federal policy on PerFluoroAlkyl Substances (PFAS). The legislative season is formally January through June, when most state legislatures are in session, though previous Q3 and Q4 activity is included.

[Download the 2025 Public Policy Report](#)



USCC Announces Member Connect Initiative

Toward the second half of 2025, the USCC staff leadership saw the need to create real interaction across the country, often challenging to achieve as a national organization. They wanted to provide better support for, and real-time awareness of their chapters and activities, as well as to members in states where chapters don't yet exist. Their Board of Directors liked

this idea and suggested use of existing EPA regions. Since last July, each USCC staff member has been assigned to a region and have been getting to know regional members better through membership renewal calls, reminder calls for surveys, and attendance at meetings. [Learn more](#) about Member Connect and see who your representative is in the region. Feel free to let your representative know if you have a question, concern, something to cheer about, or something going on!

USCC Stance on Acceptance of Compostable Products Packaging

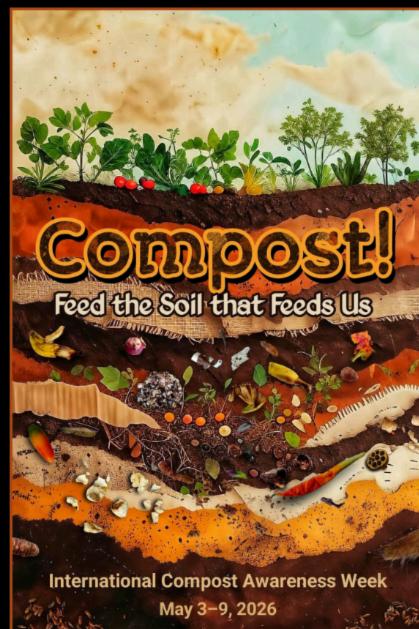
USCC's mission is to advance compost manufacturing, compost utilization, and organics recycling. In policy matters, they prioritize the business independence of their compost producer members. USCC values member input and respects/supports that each compost producer must make decisions that best fit their operation, markets, and communities.

For this reason, USCC remains neutral—or “feedstock-agnostic”—regarding the materials accepted and systems used to process them into valuable compost. The USCC is continuing this approach regarding the acceptance and processing of certified compostable packaging and products.

For those who are considering including certified compostable packaging materials for processing, the USCC produced the Compost Manufacturers' Decision Making Guide to Accepting or Rejecting Compostable Products. [Learn more and download the Guide.](#)

2026 ICAW POSTER

[Click here to learn more about the artist and see the winning bookmark, too.](#)



In Other News

- CBS Sunday Morning: Good news you may have missed in 2025 Compostable Plastics

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Calendar of Events

February 2-5, 2026
USCC Conference Sacramento, CA

March 16-20, 2026
GA Compost Operations Training Course
Griffin, GA

May 3-9, 2026
ICAW 2026

May 7-8, 2026
Spring Training: Compost! Feed the Soil that Feeds Us

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Council**

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