



APRIL 2026

The flyer for "Georgia Compost Connect!" features a light green background with illustrations of hands holding leaves and a QR code. It includes the logos for the Center for Urban Agriculture at the University of Georgia and the GA Composting Council. The text reads: "Compost! Feed the Soil That Feeds Us", "Celebrate International Compost Awareness Week with GCC and UGA's Center for Urban Agriculture! Join us to learn more about composting through panels, presentations, and a hands-on planting service project! Build community with fellow composters and compost enthusiasts", "Hear from our amazing keynote speaker - Daron 'Farmer D' Joffe!", "Thursday, May 7th - Friday, May 8th", "Student Learning Center on the UGA Griffin Campus", and "Scan for tickets and more info!". Pricing is listed as "\$50: non-members" and "\$30: GCC members".

GCC Spring Membership Meeting Announced

Celebrate International Compost Awareness Week with the GCC! Join us May 7th and 8th for our second annual Georgia Compost Connect. This year's event will be in partnership with the University of Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture and will be centered around this year's ICAW theme of Compost! Feed the Soil That Feeds Us.

This 2-day event will feature presentations and panels on compost end use and marketing, soil testing, sustainable

landscapes, and more. Come learn and connect with fellow composters and compost enthusiasts and get your hands in some compost with a plantings service project on UGA Griffin's Campus. [Learn more and register here](#). We can't wait to see you there!



COTC Training Complete

GCC in partnership with the Compost Research and Education Foundation (CREF), completed the first Compost Operator Training Course (COTC) in Georgia last month, with 28 attendees (pictured above) and 40 hours of course work, starting early mornings with both classroom and field work, and including multiple site tours.



During the week, small groups worked together mixing their own feedstocks, creating compost piles, monitoring for temperature and O2 daily from multiple sections of the pile, and then breaking it apart on the last day to look inside.

Tours were hosted at CompostNow and at Complete Resource Management. COTC meets training requirements to become a Certified Compost Operations Manager or Certified Composting Professional through the US Composting Council.



Learn more about
USCC's Training
Opportunities and
Certifications



International Compost Awareness Week

Mark Your Calendar for International Compost Awareness Week. The week-long celebration is May 3-9, 2026.

What's Your Plan for observing International Compost Awareness Week this May? Need ideas? Check the [ICAW Home – Compost Foundation](#) page for inspiration.

Food Well Alliance Soil Festival

Tickets are now available for the 11th annual Soil Festival! Grab your tickets before April 15 and save 20% with the early bird pricing.

Join Food Well Alliance on Saturday, May 16 from 11 am - 4 pm at historic Maddox Park for a day celebrating healthy soil and Atlanta's local food movement. Soil Festival is a community event hosted by Food Well Alliance and WABE where families can connect with local food leaders, learn about agriculture, enjoy delicious food, and so much more. Here's what you can expect at this year's event:

- 🌀 Workshops on composting, beekeeping, and gardening
- 🌀 Farmers market & plant sale featuring local vendors

- ☕ Beer garden
- 🍷 Free compost giveaway
- 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Kids' corner with activities & fun for the whole family
- 🧘 Yoga sessions in our sensory garden

The cost of your ticket goes directly toward supporting over 300 local farms, community gardens, and orchards.

[Learn more and buy tickets](#)

City of Atlanta to Establish Composting Program

GCC members attended the virtual Climate Resilient ATL community meeting in late March, where the City's Climate Resilience Action Plan was discussed. During that call, J. Olu Baiyewu, the City's Agriculture and Food Systems Director, announced that establishing a citywide composting program is now an official action item included on the accountability matrix as part of the City's path to net-zero emissions. Also, developing composting programs and public education on composting is included as part of the accessible fresh and affordable food goal. Both items are slated for action within the next 1-3 years and supported by funding. There was also mention of launching Community Compost Food Waste Reduction Grant projects, where the City will partner with 5 local entities. GCC attendees shared a message in the chat to the 45 attendees to make them aware of our council's interest in how GCC can support Atlanta in general with the two composting-related action items in the plan.

Renew Your GCC Membership!

GCC is well into its third year of operation as a state chapter; notices and invoices are being emailed monthly to members based on the month they joined a year prior. Get your renewal done to extend your membership another year. We're making great momentum and welcome your input as we continue providing resources, programs, events and projects for our members. Questions? [Email](#) us.

Committee Positions Open

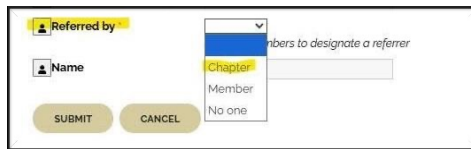
Georgia Composting Council seeks members for committees; here's your chance to dig in and be involved in shaping the programs, projects, outreach and advocacy work being done to fulfill our mission in Georgia. [Check out the opportunities](#) and let us know which committee you want to be right for you by [emailing](#) us.

Chapter Credits for USCC Membership Referrals

One of the perks for state USCC chapters is that we receive annual rebates for new members who join both the national organization and the state chapter. USCC pays 20% (double) the rebate for new members who join USCC because they heard about USCC from a GCC member!

So, if you refer colleagues to join USCC ask them to check **REFERRED BY CHAPTER** (see image below) in their application! This results in larger

rebates to GCC to assist us with local programming & projects!



Pictured above: Image of application screen with location to check referred by so GCC receives credit for referral.

News and Views

[Farm Bill Draft Expands Support for Organics Infrastructure and Research](#) | Biocycle

[How Composters Turn Scraps into Scalable Profits](#) | Waste360.com

Calendar of Events

April 22, 2026	Earth Day	
May 3-9, 2026	ICAW 2026	
May 7-8, 2026	GCC Spring Training	Griffin, Georgia
May 16, 2026	Soil Festival	Atlanta, GA

2025-26 Sponsors

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Georgia Composting Council
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