



May 2026

Highlights from International Compost Awareness Week

International Compost Awareness Week is a week dedicated to educating the public on why recycling organics and using compost is beneficial to the soil and environment. To officially kick-off the week in Georgia, **Governor Kemp** proclaimed May 3-9, 2026 as Compost Awareness Week in Georgia! [Read the full proclamation.](#)



How did YOU observe International Compost Awareness Week? Send us photos and an overview of your event(s) to garecycles@mindspring.com so that we can highlight your activities in our next issue.

Food Well Alliance Soil Festival

Join **Food Well Alliance** this 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.

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

[Learn more and buy tickets](#)

City of Decatur Composting Program

GCC and USCC Member **CompostNow** is expanding composting service options to the residents of **Decatur, Georgia**, through a partnership with the city. Through this initiative, Decatur residents can now subscribe to weekly curbside compost collection services to divert food scraps and other compostable materials from landfills.



Photo credit: City of Avondale Estates/Decaturish.com

This program builds on the momentum and learnings gained through a 6 month-long composting pilot program that the City of Decatur operated for 100 residents. The City is supporting this effort through community education and outreach, helping residents understand the benefits of composting and how to participate. Finished compost produced will go back into enriching the soils of local farms and community gardens in the Atlanta Metropolitan area. Read more about the initiative in [Waste Today Magazine](#) and [Decaturish](#).

Making the Climate Connection (Excerpt from Drawdown Georgia)

What if one of the most effective climate solutions for Georgia communities is something many residents throw away every day? Composting is gaining traction as a practical way to reduce methane emissions, cut waste, and turn organic material into a valuable resource that supports healthier soils and local economies. **Drawdown Georgia's** blog shares a [helpful guide from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance designed specifically for local policymakers](#). It offers a clear, step-by-step roadmap for scaling composting, from building community support and shaping policy to funding programs and launching pilots that can grow over time.

Read [Drawdown Georgia's blog](#) to see how composting can help your community reduce emissions, extend landfill life, and deliver tangible benefits that residents can see and use every day.

Taking the Educational Show on the Road: Worm Composting 101 Visits Altama Elementary

Keep Golden Isles Beautiful, the KAB affiliate covering Brunswick and the coastal islands had the pleasure of spending time in April with Altama Elementary School's *entire* third grade to share their "Worm Composting101" program where the students learned about worm anatomy, worm importance and roles, general composting, and worm composting. They received worm composting educational materials, met living wiggly squiggly worms up close thanks to petri dishes, and peeked inside a real worm composting bin. "THANK YOU Altama Elementary School for inviting us to spend the morning with our wiggly squiggly friends and your third graders! We appreciate our overarching partnership with Glynn County Schools and the individual schools themselves!", said Lea King Badya, KGIB Executive Director, pictured below.



Renew Your GCC Membership!

GCC is well into its third year of operation as a state chapter. 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.

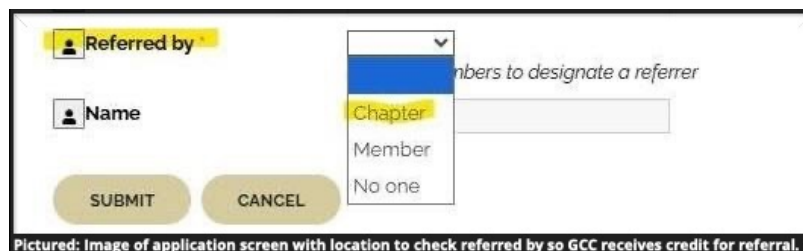
Committee Positions Open

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 [email](#) us if you are interested in joining a committee.

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!



News and Views

[Designing Your Site for Success | Waste Advantage](#)

[Singing the Praises of Composting | Los Angeles Times](#)

[Rooted in practicality, victory gardens make a comeback in Atlanta and beyond | AJC.com](#)

[Compost Is Magic | The New Yorker](#)

[Bette Midler Changed My View of the Environment | Consumer Brands Association](#)

Calendar of Events

May 16, 2026

Soil Festival

Atlanta, GA

June 9-10, 2026

Organics Recycling Conference

Nashville, TN

The Organics Recycling Conference(ORC) is quickly approaching! This event brings together leaders dedicated to advancing organics recovery and reduction solutions

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