



August 2026

Make Plans to Attend the GCC Annual Meeting

Join us for the GCC Annual Meeting this fall, including a tour on Monday, November 11th. The 1 ½ day meeting includes a special guest keynote speaker, networking, updates on our progress, a service project in partnership with Georgia Recycling Coalition, and much more!



Sessions being scheduled include topics and experts in: Food Service and Composting, Compost Utilization Beyond the Ag Market; End-users Expectations; Soil Basics and Fertility, Improving Soil Health for Resilient Landscapes; and a New and Improved Master Composter program in the works.

Register for Campus Composting Webinar

The webinar, **From Dining Hall to Compost Pile: Successes and Challenges in Campus Composting**, is scheduled on August 27 at 1:00 pm EDT.

When you combine centralized dining, vibrant sustainability programs, and passionate student leaders, you get the perfect breeding ground for composting programs: college campuses. And yet, campus composting programs face unique challenges that require specific solutions.

During the webinar, you'll hear from three colleges across the country with exemplary campus composting programs—Williams College, the Auraria Campus, and the University of Arizona. Topics covered will include funding sources, leadership structures, student and staff engagement, types of food waste collection and hauling, types of composting systems, and utilizing finished compost.

Webinars are FREE for USCC Members—make sure to sign in to your member account before registering to receive your free registration. [Register today](#) for the webinar.

ENDING WASTED FOOD WITHIN A GENERATION

A Recycling Education & Outreach Grant

USCC Joins National Coalition to End Wasted Food and Expand Composting

In September 2025, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), ReFED, WRAP, the Ad Council, the **US Composting Council (USCC)**, and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) formed a coalition to launch a five-year program, “Ending Wasted Food Within a Generation” (EWG Program), to prevent wasted food and expand composting in the United States. This multi-effort program will create systemic change by combining a PSA campaign inspiring consumers to reduce wasted food, compost market development, and local community capacity building. The program runs from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2030. Learn more about the [Ending Wasted Food Grant Application](#) Deadline to apply is **September 1, 2026**. [Read more](#) about the program.

USCC Recognizes Champions of International Compost Awareness Week

International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) is successful because of the incredible volunteers who champion composting outreach in their communities. This year, we recognize two longtime leaders whose dedication has left a lasting impact.



After serving as Missouri's ICAW Volunteer Coordinator since 2018, Steve Callis is stepping down from the role. Steve worked tirelessly to promote ICAW throughout the state, securing annual proclamations from the City of Columbia and, in 2026, helping obtain Missouri's first statewide Compost Awareness Week proclamation. A passionate educator, he also volunteered for many years teaching backyard composting classes and leading ICAW composting workshops in his community.

We also congratulate Gloria Hardegree on her retirement after more than 25 years as Executive Director of the Georgia Recycling Coalition. Gloria has served as Georgia's ICAW State Coordinator for many years and has been a valued member of the ICAW Committee for more than a decade. Her insight, leadership, and support helped strengthen ICAW nationally while growing one of the program's most active volunteer networks in Georgia. We are grateful

that Gloria will continue contributing to the ICAW Committee into her retirement.

Thank you, Steve and Gloria, for your years of service and for helping inspire greater compost awareness across the country!

Article is reprint from USCC/CREF: Compost Research & Education Foundation - July 2026

COTC Training Available This Summer

Did you miss the training in Georgia this past spring? Another training opportunity is coming up soon in North Carolina for you or your team to expand your composting



expertise through the Compost Operations Training Course (COTC). Whether you're looking to launch a composting program, accept a new feedstock, or simply to improve safety and efficiency at your facility, the COTC offers in-depth knowledge through multiple learning styles, from lectures and hands-on activities to peer-to-peer problem solving.

This August 31st - September 4th, the COTC makes its annual appearance in Raleigh, NC under the helm of the North Carolina Composting Council. Known for its seasoned speaker lineup that has included industry greats like Ron Alexander, Frank Franciosi, and Gary Gittere (plus so many more), the Raleigh COTC is a great choice for those who want to learn from the best of the best. [Register today!](#)



USCC Surveys to Address Markets for Compost Use

As the compost industry continues to pursue growth opportunities beyond traditional uses, understanding what drives compost adoption in emerging end markets is critical.

Transportation agencies, landscape architects, developers, and site designers represent significant opportunities for increased compost use, but important questions remain about

awareness, specifications, purchasing decisions, and barriers to adoption.

To help answer those questions, the USCC has launched two national benchmark surveys focused on transportation infrastructure and landscape/development markets. These surveys are designed to gather insights directly from the professionals who influence decisions related to stormwater management, erosion control, soil performance, and site design.

Take USCC Surveys

City of Chamblee to Launch Curbside Compostables Collection

The City of Chamblee is partnering with CompostNow to launch a curbside composting service for all residents this October. “The City of Chamblee is committed to advancing sustainable solutions that reduce waste and strengthen our community,” said Mayor Brian Mock. “Expanding access to composting provides residents with a practical way to make a meaningful environmental impact right from their homes.” Read full article [here](#).



Renew Your GCC Membership!

GCC is halfway through 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.

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 above) in their application! This results in larger rebates to GCC to assist us with local programming & projects!

News and Views

[Organics in orange: FIFA Fan Fest pushes KC Can Compost's concept beyond theory](#) | Startland News

[Ginger Zee says 'keyhole' compost cuts watering by a third, and she skips fertilizer](#) | The Cool Down

['Put the fertilizer bag down': 11 easy ways to start composting, and the ratio that matters](#) | Yahoo Life Singapore

[Where does NYC compost end up?](#) | CBS News

Calendar of Events

AUG
31-
SEPT 4

Compost Operations Training Course
Raleigh, North Carolina

OCT
14-15

GRC Summit & Annual Meeting
Augusta, GA

NOV
12-13

GCC Annual Meeting
Griffin, Georgia

FEB
1-4

USCC 35th Annual Compost Conference
Jacksonville, Florida

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