Compost! Nature’s Way to Grow.

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US Composting Council
Director of Membership

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Organics Management In the US

• One of the fastest growing segments of the recycling stream
• Over 4,000 composting facilities in the US
• Many more collection programs
• Most handle yard debris
• But, on-farm, biosolids and food scraps, too
• Windrow, Static Pile, In-vessel, Anaerobic Digestion
US Composting Council

• Purpose
  – Bringing people together to share information and advocate for the advancement of the composting industry.

• Trade Association incorporated in 1990

• Around 750 members
  – Majority are company/organization memberships
  – Represent compost manufacturers, suppliers, consultants, policy makers, composting supporters
Support and Expand the Industry

- Compost Market Development
- Standard Setting
- Advocacy
- Education

Strong Organization
Million Tomato Compost Campaign Status

- Branding developed – Compost: Nature’s Way to Grow!
- Highlighted on Good Morning America in May
- 88 STA Facilities participating
- 223 Community Garden requests
- 139 STA compost donations
- 2,888 cubic yards reported donated
- ‘Harvest’ phase underway across most of US
  - Tomato counter & slide show of tomato plants now on buy- compost.com
International Compost Awareness Week
May 5-9 2014

• Poster contest started 9/20 and ends 11/30
• This year’s theme: “Compost!... The solution to sustainable soil and water.”
• We’re looking for sponsors!
Compost Market Development

• Outreach through partnerships and exhibits:
  – Garden Writers Conference
  – American Society of Landscape Architects
  – American Public Works Association
  – International Erosion Control Assoc

• Webinar for the PA Recycling Markets Center

• Working to develop model ordinance with specs for use of compost in soil restoration
USCC Standards Setting Programs

- Standards Setting
- Compost Quality
  - Seal of Testing Assurance
- Labeling
- Composting Professionals
- USCC/SWANA
- Consumer Compost Use Program
USCC Advocacy Programs

- Advocacy
  - National Level
    - Legislation
    - Regulations
  - State Level
    - Legislation
    - Regulations

US Composting Council®
Advocacy Program National Level Activities

• Climate Action Reserve comments submitted
• Food Safety Modernization Act submitted
• EPA:
  – Renewable Portfolio Standard rules comments submitted
  – Developing plan to address issue of Persistent Herbicides in upcoming re-registration process
• Compostable Plastics:
  – Grant for toolkit, labeling guidelines, model legislation, field testing protocols
Advocacy Program
State Level Activities

• Strategic Initiatives
  – Model Rules: Completed and being used in GA & MD regulation development
  – Best Management Practice guidance in preliminary development stage

• State Compost Regulation portal now on the USCC website
Advocacy Program
State Level Activities

• Comments submitted in CA, OR, IA, CT

• Michigan
  – Bill introduced to repeal existing ban
  – USCC contributed matching funds to support group developing strategy

• Massachusetts
  – Draft Regs mandates commercial food scraps diversion
  – FOOD Collaboration with ABC, Mass Recycles
  – Testified at hearings in August
Annual Conference

• Oakland Jan 26-29, 2014
• Progress:
  – Exhibitor Prospectus completed
  – Speakers selected
  – Onsite visit conducted
  – Event registration set up in Cvent
• In October will:
  – Finalize workshops
  – Initiate Demo exhibit registrations
  – Begin brochure design
Training Program Progress

• Compost Operator Training Course
  ➢ NC held its course Sept 16-20, 2013
  ➢ 19 students participated
  ➢ MD course will be held Sept 30-Oct 4, 2013
  ➢ 36 students – Sold out!!!
  ➢ CA course will be held in March 2014

• Compost Technician Training
  – Focused on operations staff
  – Scheduling to start for the Winter and Spring

• Compost U
  – Developing program for University Campuses on all aspects of developing a composting program (collection – marketing of compost)
Partnerships

• American Biogas Council & MassRecycle
  – F.O.O.D initiative working well
  – Prepared testimony for support of regulations

• Biodegradable Plastics Institute
  – Supporting BPI compostable plastic labeling program

• BioCycle Magazine
  – USCC’s Official Magazine
  – Signed a media agreement for 2014
  – Submitted article for October issue

• Keep America Beautiful
  – Supported their National Planting Day – Sept. 7
Partnership

• International Erosion Control Association
  – MOU proposed

• Assoc of American Plant & Food Control Officials
  – Attend their meetings
  – Able to counter food safety Powerpoint presentation that attacked compost

• Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)
  – Had a booth at WASTECOn Sept 2013
  – Interested in having us develop a track next year

• Texas Recycling Association
  – Attended Texas Composting Camp
Composting Council Research and Education Foundation

• Green Roof Study
  – Projected has been developed
  – Looking for donations in $5,000 increments to complete study in stages

• Food Scrap Implementation Tool Kit
  – Near completion

• Compostable Plastics Tool Kit
  – Grant received, RFP out for contractor