# Navigating Compostable Plastics

Michele Young
Departing Co-Chair USCC
Compostable Plastics Task Force

US Composting Council

# Opportunities from Compostables

- Maximum Food Waste Capture
- Limited use of
  Non Renewable Resources

- Potential for Renewable Energy in Anaerobic Digestion Systems
- Reinforcing Generator Behavior for Sorting

# Challenges Identified

- Identification / Labeling
- Enforcement / Legislation
- Application of ASTM Standards
- Consumer Education
- National Organics Program Impacts

# USCC – Representing Composters

- **US Composting Council**
  - National Trade Association
  - Standards, Research, Education, Marketing
- **Connecting Key Conversations**
  - BPI – FTC
  - ASTM – NOP
- **Focus on End of Life Processing Issues**
  - Identification
  - Disintegration
  - Product Quality

# National USCC Task Force

- **Participants Represent Full Value Cycle**
  - Manufacturers – Public Sector
  - Distributors – Compost Operators
  - Buyers/Users – Legislators, Educators
- **Specialized Working Groups**
  - Legislation and Enforcement
  - Labeling and Education
  - Standards and Operations
- **Regular Meeting and Conference Schedules**
  - US Composting Council Annual Conference
  - Biocycle West Coast

Join us!

# Legislation and Enforcement

- **Leveraging California Legislation – SB 567**
  - Oregon summarized 10 years – too much
  - North Carolina HB 315
- **Developing Template Bill Language**
  - Using accepted labeling guidelines
  - Certified by scientifically backed third party verifier
- **Collaboration in 2014**
  - Labeling priority during mid term elections?
  - Industry agencies can come together
  - Focused bans: Biodegradable, degradable, decomposable

# Standards and Operations

- **ASTM 5 Year Review Cycle**
  - Refining time, temperature, and disintegration standards

- **Variability Between Compost Facilities**
  - Development of material testing protocols

- **Consideration for National Organic Standard**
  - BPI Petition to NOSB – film plastics
  - Preparing Petition for service ware

# Labeling and Education

- **Labeling Inconsistency**
  - Refer to USCC and BPI Labeling Guidelines
  - Coordination with Operations Working Group
- **Logo and Claim Confusion**
  - Compostable Plastics White Paper
  - Coordination with Legislative Group
- **Lack of Consumer Awareness**
  - Audiences Diverse for Targeted Messaging
  - Municipalities as Facilitators
  - Tool Box Grant

# USDN C.P. Toolbox Grant

- **Urban Sustainability Director's Network $50,000 Grant for Municipal Toolbox**
  - Survey of Municipalities
  - Compilation of Resources
    - Legislation and Ordinances
    - Sample Outreach and Messaging
    - Standards and Labeling Guidelines
  - Design Consultant for Web Tool Development
  - End User Webinars and Workshop
    - January 2014

Join Us!

# What's Next

- Preparation for Go Live – February 28
  - Tool and Content Review
  - Need Foundation Confirmation
- Development of Site Management Plan
  - Working Group Review Teams
    - New content, messages, tools
  - Peter's time limited to higher level programming
  - Foundation Review – structure?
- Marketing Strategic Plan – Funding?

# Thank You

Michele Young – It has been a great ride!

Jeff Krump
City of San Jose
Jeff.krump@sanjoseca.gov
408-975-2617