Using Compostable Plastics to Enhance Food Scraps Collection

5400 Grosvenor Lane | Bethesda, MD 20814
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compostingcouncil.org | uscc@compostingcouncil.org

Composting Council Research & Education Foundation (CCREF)

- Purpose
  - Advance composting technologies, practices, and beneficial uses that support resource conservation and economic and environmental sustainability
- 501(c)3 non-profit providing charitable tax benefits to those that donate to its research and projects.
- Recent projects include:
  - Compostable Plastics Toolkit
  - Curb to Compost Toolkit
  - Update of The Soil & Water Connection: A Watershed Manager's Guide to Organics Management

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A few logistics

Everyone is on mute

Ask Questions!

- Type your question into the question box in GoToWebinar control panel
- We will get to as many questions as we can during the Q&A session at the end

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Today's agenda:

- Introduction
- Real life experience
  - City of San Francisco *Jack Macy*
  - City of Austin *Jessica Kingpetcharat-Bittner*
  - Zero Waste events *Leslie Lukacs, L2 Environmental*
- CP Toolkit Overview
- Developing a Food Scrap Collection system
  - Components *Matt Cotton, IWM Consulting*
  - Toolkit resources

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Search...

Navigating Compostable Plastics

This toolkit is designed to help determine if a compostable plastics program is appropriate for your organization and to guide in properly managing your compostable plastics.

Explore our toolkit by category

- Backgrounds & Definitions
- Policies & Legislation
- Education & Outreach
- Analysis & Field Research
- Certified & Accepted Products

Why Create a Toolkit?

Compostable Plastics:

Offer Opportunities

- Maximize Food Waste Capture
- Save Non-Renewable Resources

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Pose Challenges

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Challenges Identified by CPTF

- Consumer Education
- Identification /Labeling
- Enforcement / Legislation
- Application of ASTM Standards
- Composting Practices
- Contamination of traditional recycling streams

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USDN Funding

- Urban Sustainability Directors Network
  - Network across U.S. and Canada
- Phase 1: Innovation Fund Grant : $50,000
- Phase 2: Innovation Opportunity Fund Grant: $25,000

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Compostable Plastic Toolkit Team

- USDN and Partner Cities- San Jose, CA, Gaithersburg, MD & Asheville, NC
- US Composting Council (USCC) & Composting Council Research and Education Foundation (CCREF)
- CP Task Force - participants represent all industry stakeholders

Manufacturers	Public Sector
Distributors	Compost Operators
Buyers/Users	Legislators, Educators

- 2plus2

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Creating the Toolkit

- Survey of municipalities
  - 153 responses
- Compilation of resources
  - CP Task Force members
  - Local governments
  - Composters, non-profits
- Designed the toolkit
  - Hosted on CCREF site
- Debuted at USCC 2014 Conference in Oakland
- Toolkit went live March 2014
- Updates underway

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Tools

- Currently the CP Toolkit contains 75 tools
- Maintain neutrality
- Educational – not promotional
- Peer reviewed
    - Vetted by the CP Task Force
        - Credibility
        - Relevance
        - Neutrality

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Next Steps

- Keep the conversation going
  - Add more tools
  - Rate and refine current tools
  - Add keyword search functionality to further improve user experience
- Compostable Plastics Task Force – USCC
  - Three Specialized Working Groups:

    Legislation and Enforcement

    Labeling and Education

    Standards and Operations

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