

The US Composting Council - Programs and Tools for Closing the Loop on Organics Recycling

Recycle Florida Today!
June 14, 2016

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USCC President &
NuTerra Management



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US Composting Council (USCC)

- The US Composting Council (USCC) advances compost manufacturing and promotes compost use to enhance soils and provide economic and environmental benefits for our members and society.
- Established in 1990
- 501(c)6 Trade and Professional Association



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Areas of Engagement

- Market Development
 - Seal of Testing Assurance
 - Consumer Use Programs
- Annual Conference
- Composter Certification
- Advocacy
 - State Chapters
 - State Policy Support
 - National Issues
- Membership
 - Communication
 - B2B
 - Networking
 - Fiscal and Organizational Mgt.

**CCREF—Our 503(c)3 "Sister" Organization
Supporting Research and Education**

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Compost Market Development

- Seal of Testing Assurance (STA)
- Certified Compost
- Consumer Compost Use Program (CCUP)



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Compost Market Development

Our new spokesman:
Joe Lamp'l (aka Joe
Gardener) from
Growing a Greener
World



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STA-The Purpose

- **To assist compost users** to purchase the product they require for their particular project
- To assure that **compost users know the characteristics** of the compost products they purchase
- To **improve overall customer confidence** in compost selection and utilization
- Essentially, ***treat compost in the same way as any other consumer product.*** People need to know what they are buying!!

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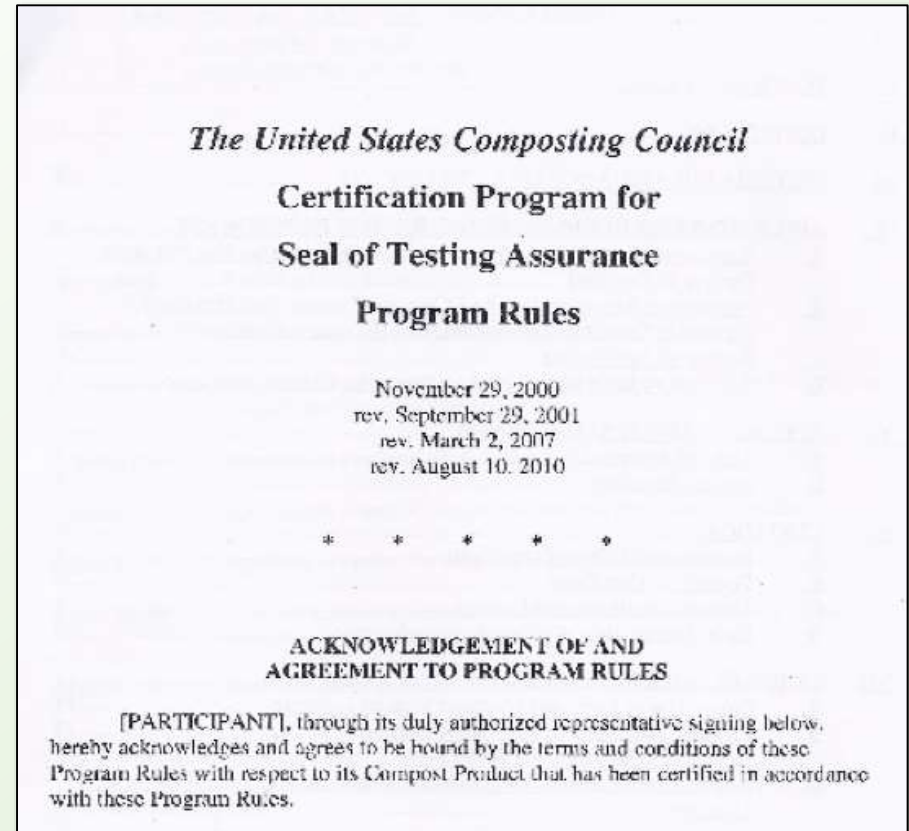


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STA Participants

- **Are Compost Manufacturers!**
- Test and label their compost accurately
- Operate permitted facilities
- Sign and abide by the STA rules



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STA-More Details

Producers must:

- Provide an accurate statement of feedstocks
- Provide specific compost use directions
- Provide Compost Technical Data Sheet showing detailed analysis from an STA-approved lab

STA Compost must meet:

- EPA standards for Class A, EQ quality – *The compost MUST be SAFE to use!*

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Seal of Testing Assurance

2015 Program Stats

- 234 Companies
- 298 Compost Products
- 39 States with STA participants (11 in FLA)
 - States with DOT (and/or state EPA) specifying STA compost
 - CA, TX, OR, WA, CO, NC, MN, NY, FL, WI, IA, SC, AK
- 11 Approved Labs

Over 4,000,000 tons

Approx. 8,000,000 Cubic Yards!

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Compost Market Development

Introducing Certified Compost®





25th Annual Conference

- Preconference Workshops
- Tradeshow with over 100 vendors
- Technical program covering
 - ✓ Diversion and Collection
 - ✓ Processing Innovations
 - ✓ Emerging markets
 - ✓ Policy drivers
 - ✓ Facility operations
 - ✓ Hot topics
- Networking and Social Events
- Equipment Show and Demonstrations—see *the latest in Grinders, Turners, screeners and other equipment **IN ACTION!***

Composting Council Research & Education Foundation – Highlights

- \$150,000 grants toward development of certification program from the 11th Hour Project
- Assumed management of Composter Training Program
- Online Resources:
 - Compostable Plastics ToolKit
 - Curb-to-Compost Toolkit
- Young Scholar support
 - High School Scholarship
 - Undergraduate Grant
- 2 Cents for Compost—Research Fund



Composter Training Program

- Compost Operations Training Course
 - 40-hr, 5-day course includes lectures, hands-on activities and field trips
 - focuses on the knowledge and skills to run a successful composting facility
 - taught by leading composting professionals and educators
 - Upcoming opportunities in NY, NC, AZ, CA
- Full- and Half-Day Courses at Conference
- Webinars and other courses



Professional Composter Certification

- Launching Fall of 2016
- First Certification: **Compost Operations Manager**
 - Person with overall responsibility for day-to-day management
 - 9 knowledge domains: Biology, Equipment, Regulations, Markets, etc.
 - Requires training, experience, passing exam
- Will increase professionalism, provide assurance to regulators, reduce risk to owners

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USCC Advocacy Activities 2015 Highlights

Federal and Nat'l Issues

- Supported federal legislation targeting food waste
- Fought Persistent Herbicides
 - Produced “Composter’s Guide to Persistent Herbicides”
- Compostable Plastics
- Organics Summits (NRC, EPA)

State and local Issues

- Supported legislation in California, Maryland, Hawaii
- Nevada--EPA-convened meeting on Food Recovery
- Opposed
 - Landfill ban repeal in Michigan
 - Nutrient-based application restrictions in Massachusetts

Strategic Partnerships: American Hort, IECA, KAB, NFESH, BPI, ABC, GreenBlue, Kimberly Clark Professional

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State Chapters & Committees

- *The US Composting Council Chapters is a vital partner to its chapters as the national organization providing coordination, visibility and access to national resources. As such, chapters recognizes their responsibility to the USCC to promote national membership growth, in local support of national promotions such as International Compost Awareness Week, encourage market development and use of STA/Certified compost, and to assist the national organization As such, chapters recognizes their responsibility to the USCC to promote national membership growth, regional training and national conferences and other programs benefitting the compost industry.*



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Membership

- 800 organizational members representing more than 2,000 people in the compost manufacturing industry
- Compost manufacturers and supporting companies
- Municipalities at all levels
- Equipment Providers
- Universities and Non Profits
- Farm compost operations and individuals
- 5 state chapters and 5 in formation
- Young Professionals Group



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Proud Member

I'm a Soilbuilder!



[compostingcouncil.org/
membership](https://compostingcouncil.org/membership)

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Mission--Support initiatives that:

- enhance the stature and practices of the composting industry
- supporting scientific research
- increase awareness
- educate practitioners and the public
- advance environmentally and economically sustainable organics recycling

501(c)3 Charitable Organization

Thanks!

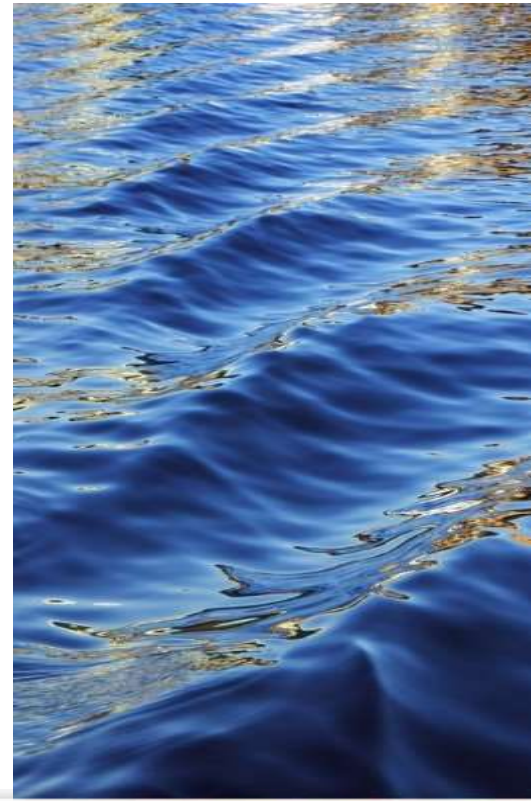
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