

Food Scrap Composting in the Fox Valley

Jen Nelson

Seven Generations Ahead
Illinois Food Scrap Coalition

FVSN Forum

February 8, 2017

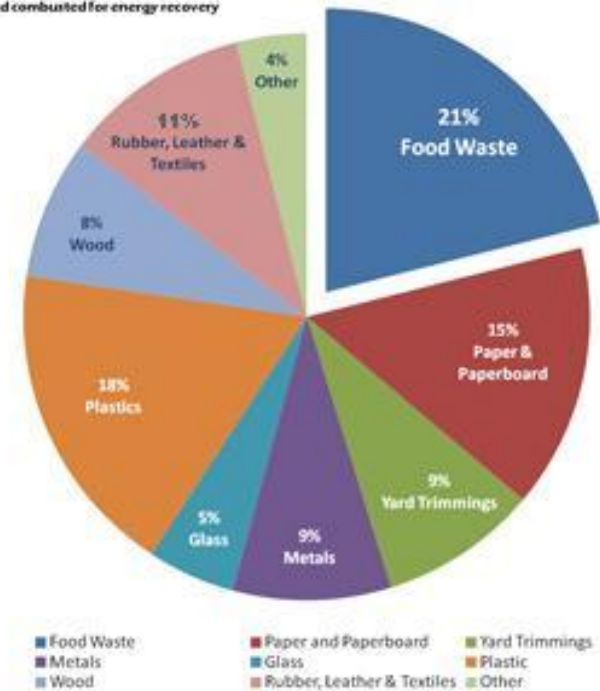
Lost Resources

36 million tons of food scraps in US

21% of MSW is food scraps

Less than 5% diverted for compost

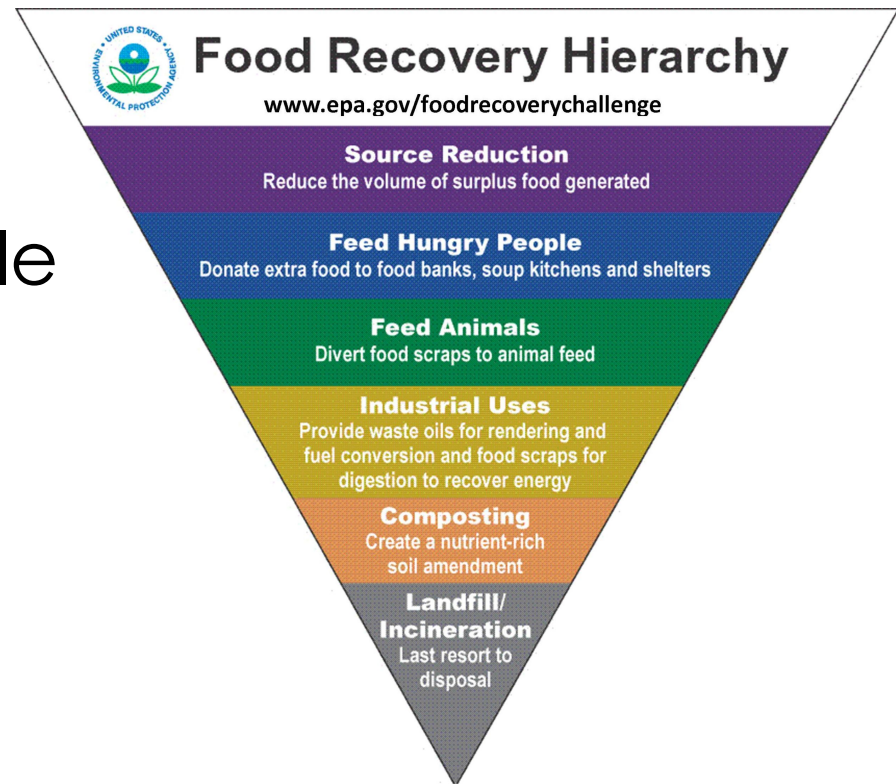
Food makes up the largest percentage of waste going into municipal landfills and combusted for energy recovery



Data from the 2012 Municipal Solid Waste Characterization Report

Food Scraps are NOT Waste

- Reduce waste
- Feed hungry people
- Feed animals
- Food digested to make energy
- Compost to regain nutrients for soil



Economic Development Opportunities



- Cost Avoidance re: Landfills
- Efficient Use of Discarded Resources
- Local Job Development
- Key Element of Building Local Food Economy

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Environmental Benefits



Reduce **GHG** emissions



Improve **soil quality**

Added nutrients + reduced erosion



Filter and retain **water**



Support **local food production**



Water Quality Protection

Reduce need for synthetic fertilizers



Sequester carbon

Commercial Composting



1. Sort food scraps



**2. Haul to a
compost facility**

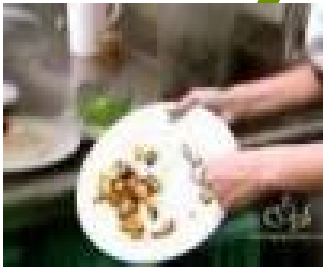


**3. Compost in
windrows**



**4. Use Finished
Compost**

Commercial Food Scrap Composting in Illinois





IFSC

ILLINOIS FOOD SCRAP COALITION



IFSC Mission and History

Mission: Advance Food Scrap Composting Toward Building a Viable Industry in Illinois

- DuPage Food Scrap Meeting 2012
- GreenTown Highland Park 2012
- IFSC formed in 2013
- 2014-15 Illinois Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions Report
- 2016 Incorporation and Formalization of Board of Directors
- 2016 Food:Land:Opportunity project



Research and
Education

Policies and
Permitting

WeCompost

End Market
Development

**From 8 in 2012
to
over 150 in 2016**

Membership
& Benefits

Incorporated and formed
Board of Directors in 2015

Social Media and
Website

Communications
and Outreach



Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois Report

January 2015



Prepared and submitted by **Seven Generations Ahead**
on behalf of the **Illinois Food Scrap Coalition**



Guidance and Grant Funding
Provided by:



Food:Land:Opportunity Grant IFSC Economic Impact Study



- Legislator education
- Four policy forums
- West Loop pilot
- Economic impact report
- Education Campaign



**ECONOMIC IMPACT AND MARKET STUDY REPORT:
ELEMENTS OF THE CASE FOR ADVANCING FOOD SCRAP
COMPOSTING INDUSTRY AND THE LINK TO BUILDING ILLINOIS'
LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY**

*Final Report
December 2016*

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We Compost

- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Hospitals
- Breweries
- Universities
- Museums



We Compost Fox Valley

- Fermilab in Batavia (silver)
- Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva (silver)
- Q Center in St. Charles (gold, founding partner)



Municipal Food Scrap Programs



Collection of food scraps (compostable food-soiled paper, compostable service ware and other organic wastes) through adding these to an existing yard waste collection program



Seattle Public Utilities **WHY WASTE A GOOD THING? Food and Yard Waste**
Put these items in your food and yard waste cart

Food Scraps Fruits Vegetables Coffee grounds & filters Tea bags Shells & bones	Food-Soiled Paper Paper bags, towels & napkins Greasy pizza boxes Uncoated food-soiled paper Shredded paper (mix with yard waste)
Plant & Yard Waste Flowers & houseplants Leaves, branches & grass clippings	No Plastic, Glass or Metal

Composting in the Fox Valley



Yardwaste Collection

- 18 out of 25 municipalities (72%) in Fox Valley provide leaf and yardwaste collection services

Christmas Tree Collection

- 14 municipalities participated in Christmas tree drives

Food Scrap Composting in the Fox Valley



Municipal Food Scrap Collection

- Geneva, McHenry, and Oswego have food scrap collection programs



Pumpkin Collection

- In 2016, Elgin and Geneva participated in SCARCE's pumpkin composting drive



Lake County

Food Scrap Program Expansion



- In 2015, 26 grocery stores in Lake County diverted 973 tons of food scraps, approximately 37 tons per store per year.
- The seven commercial franchises in Lake County all have food scrap pricing in the contracts.
- Midwest Organics Recycling made a significant investment in expanding its site this year, the largest in Lake County.

Small Steps Can Make a Big Difference

Composting Infrastructure

5 years ago most Illinois haulers were in the business of hauling only garbage, recycling and yard waste

- **Organics routes with food scraps now exist for many haulers**

5 years ago Illinois compost facilities accepted only yard waste

- **12-15 compost facilities now add food scraps to yard waste**

Small Steps Can Make a Big Difference School Composting

5 years ago most schools could only compost fruits and vegetables onsite

- **50+ schools in Illinois have commercial composting programs diverting 80-95% of waste**
- **Chicago Public Schools switched from polystyrene trays to compostable trays**



Small Steps Can Make a Big Difference

Residential Composting

5 years ago most “experts” in Illinois said we would not have residential composting – that it was just a “West Coast thing”

- **20 Illinois communities will now be offering this service**
- **Temporary and permanent organics drop-off**



FVSN Waste Group

- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle
- Compost

IN DEVELOPMENT

FVSN Guide to Recycling and Composting



Municipal Services for Residents
February 2017

Municipality (county)	Carpet	Christmas Trees	Curbside Recycling	Electronics Recycling (yr round)	Electronics Recycling (event)	Food Scraps	Leaf Collection	Pumpkins	Medications	Toxic Products	Wastewater Treatment	"White Goods"	Yardwaste Collection	Construction & Demolition	Contact Information
Algonquin (McHenry and Kane)	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	Public Works (847) 658-2700
Antioch (Lake)	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	yes	no	Public Works (847) 395-1881
Aurora (Kane and DuPage)	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	Neighborhood Standards (630) 256-3490
Batavia (Kane and DuPage)	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	Street Division 630-454-2400
Carpentersville (Kane)	n/a	yes	yes	yes	no	n/a	n/a	n/a	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	Public Works 847-836-2464
Cary (McHenry)	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	no	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	Public Works 847-639-0003

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Aurora (Kane and DuPage)	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	Neighborhood Standards (630) 256-3490
Batavia (Kane and DuPage)	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	Street Division 630-454-2400

Oswego (Kendall)	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	Public Works 630-554-3242
Ottawa (LaSalle)	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	no	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	no	n/a	Ottawa City Hall 815-433-0161
Shelton (LaSalle)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Village Hall 815-496-2251
South Elgin (Kane)	n/a	yes	yes	yes	no	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	Public Services 847-742-5780
St. Charles (Kane and DuPage)	n/a	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	n/a	Environmental Services Division (630) 377-4405
Wayne (Kane and DuPage)	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Village of Wayne 630-584-3090
West Dundee (Kane)	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	Public Works 847-551-3815
Yorkville (Kendall)	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	no	n/a	yes	yes	no	Public Works 630-553-4370

NEXT STEPS



- FVSN Guide to Recycling and Composting - which services are provided in each community
- Update Earth 911 to include FVSN recycling and composting information
- SAVE THE DATE for the FVSN Food Scrap Composting Lunch and Learn for municipalities on Wednesday, March 22, 11am - 1 pm

Follow IFSC



Social media links

- Website: illinoiscomposts.org
- Blog: <http://illinoiscomposts.org/ifsc-blog>
- Facebook: facebook.com/IllinoisFoodScrapCoalition
- Twitter: twitter.com/ILComposts
- YouTube: youtube.com/user/IllinoisFSC
- LinkedIn: linkedin.com/groups/8365760

Thank you to our IFSC partners



Get Involved!



For more information, please contact:

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The Searle Funds
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