

# NORTH CAROLINA COMPOSTING COUNCIL



## 2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



US Composting  
Council®

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The North Carolina Composting Council, Inc. (NCCC) is an authorized affiliate organization of the US Composting Council as approved by the US Composting Council in April 2007. As a state-level affiliate, it is charged with promoting the programs and activities of the national US Composting Council to advance composting and promote compost use, to enhance soils and provide economic and environmental benefits for our members and society. Its members envision that composters, generators of organic residues, policy-makers, regulators, professionals, and consumers will pursue this mission.

## BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### PRESIDENT:

Gary Gittere, *McGill Premium Compost*

### TREASURER:

Jim Lanier, *Earth Farms Organics*

### SECRETARY:

Gary Bilbro, *EcoSafe Zero Waste*

### BOARD EMERITUS

Bianca Howard, *Wake County*

Brian Rosa, *BE New Organic World*

Carl Sigel, *NC Interfaith Power & Light*

Glen Roberts, *Natural Green Lawns*

Karl Warkomski, *Tar River Trading*

Noah Marsh, *Food FWD*

### ***Committee Leadership***

***Executive:*** Gary Gittere | Jim Lanier | Gary Bilbro

***Advisory:*** Carl Sigel | Jim Lanier | Gary Bilbro

***Outreach:*** Karl Warmkoski | Bianca Howard | Brian Rosa

***Communications:*** Kate Sullivan | Noah Marsh | Glen Roberts

***Compost Operations Training Course:*** Gary Gittere | Gary Bilbro

## ABOUT US

### Our Vision

We believe that the recycling of organic materials is central to achieving healthy soils, clean water and a sustainable society. We will work to achieve this vision by:

- Educating professionals, policy-makers and the public;
- Serving as an advocate to promote composting;
- Encouraging and promoting research and adoption of best management practices; and
- Bringing together organics management and allied professionals, generators of organic residuals, policy-makers, regulators, and product users to pursue this vision.

### Our Mission

The NC Composting Council (NCCC) advances composting and promotes compost use to enhance soils and provide economic and environmental benefits for our members and society. It will achieve this mission by:

- Encouraging and guiding research;
- Promoting best composting practices;
- Establishing standards;
- Educating professionals and the public; and
- Enhancing product quality and markets

We will work to achieve our mission and vision by:

**Serving**  
**as an advocate to promote composting**

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**Educating**  
**professionals, policy makers and the public**

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**Encouraging & Promoting**  
**research and adoption of the best management practices**

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**Bringing Together**  
**management and allied professionals, generators of organic residuals, policy-makers, regulators, and product users to pursue our mission and vision.**

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## A YEAR OF **FOCUS**



Dear Composting Community,  
It is a great pleasure to be part of the NC Composting Council (NCCC) and work with such wonderfully dedicated people. The NCCC is a leader in the Organics Movement, both state and nationwide, which would not be accomplished without the commitment of our supporters and members. It is dedicated individuals like you that

have helped North Carolina become a leading state for organics recycling. We continue to see new and innovative composting programs being instituted in North Carolina, helping to achieve the USDA and EPA's first-ever national food waste reduction goals. States and cities out west and in the northeast are leading the charge in organic food waste reduction, which will hopefully lead to implementing additional programs here in NC.

The NCCC maintains its commitment to education - focusing on both composting and use of compost. We continued this commitment in 2017 by holding our annual Compost Operators Training Course (COTC) in conjunction with the US Composting Council and its Composting Council Research and Education Foundation during the 2nd week of September. We were challenged as hurricane Irma bore down on NC a few days before COTC was scheduled to begin, but the decision was made to move forward with the training. I received an email from an attendee in FL pleading with us to not cancel the training as she was leaving FL early to take "safe haven" in NC as Irma was to make landfall near her home. She, like all attendees, offered wonderful feedback regarding the content of the course and the professionalism from all the speakers, which offered their services at no cost to the NCCC!

Our Premium Sponsor, Caterpillar, supported the NCCC not only with a very generous donation, but again by conducting the 3rd CAT Loader Training at their facility in Clayton. Attendees were provided instructions on safety along with hands-on CAT equipment training, followed by lunch and a tour of the CAT facility. CAT incurred all expenses and very graciously donated all registration fees. A few dedicated board members donated their time exhibiting at the NC Nursery & Landscaping Association's Green & Growin' show in Greensboro, along with the Green Industry Council's Water Symposium at NCSU.

As the NCCC enters its 2nd decade, we continue to build new partnerships with various groups and organizations that are committed to organics recycling and improving damaged soils with compost. Please join me in thanking all of our sponsors and the many individuals that have offered their time and efforts in their commitment to the council and the composting community. We have several new programs planned for 2018, but would love to commit to more if we could encourage more participations from all of our members and supporters. Please take a few minutes to learn about our three committees and consider offering 1-2 hours a month by joining in. We have done wonderful things over the past 11 years, and with more help from committed composting nerds, I am certain we can accomplish even more!

Respectfully,

***Gary Gittere, President***  
***North Carolina Composting Council***

## THE FINANCIAL PICTURE





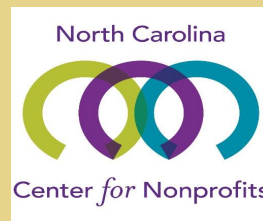
## CONNECTING WITH FRIENDS AND ALLIES

Some of the best things happen when we work with partner organizations and mutually leverage our influence to get great things done. As such, the NCCC had a presence at the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association's "Sustainable Agriculture Conference," the NC Green Industry Council's "Annual Water Symposium," and the NC Nursery & Landscape Association's "Green & Growin'" show.



## NCCC Sponsorships and Exhibits

- Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
- NC Center for Nonprofits
- NC Conservation Network
- NC Green Industry Council
- NC Nursery & Landscape Association
- NC State College of Agricultural and Life Sciences





**For the second year in a row, the North Carolina Composting Council (NCCC) is generously funding a CCREF/NCCC Young Investigator Scholarship. This scholarship is for college students studying at a college or university in North Carolina. The goal of this scholarship is to bring assistance and attention to emerging young professionals in the field of compost research and to spark interest in the future of the composting industry.**



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**Research &  
Education Foundation**



## **Sustainable Spirits**

**Sustainable Spirits is a casual monthly gathering for the sustainability community organized by the North Carolina Composting Council. It started on June 2013, and since then it has rotated around the [expanded] Triangle and the coast through different establishments creating a space for people to gather, meet each other, and engage in fun and meaningful conversations. It's free, unstructured, and open to everyone interested in anything from renewable energy and civic engagement to green building, organic farming, and beyond!**

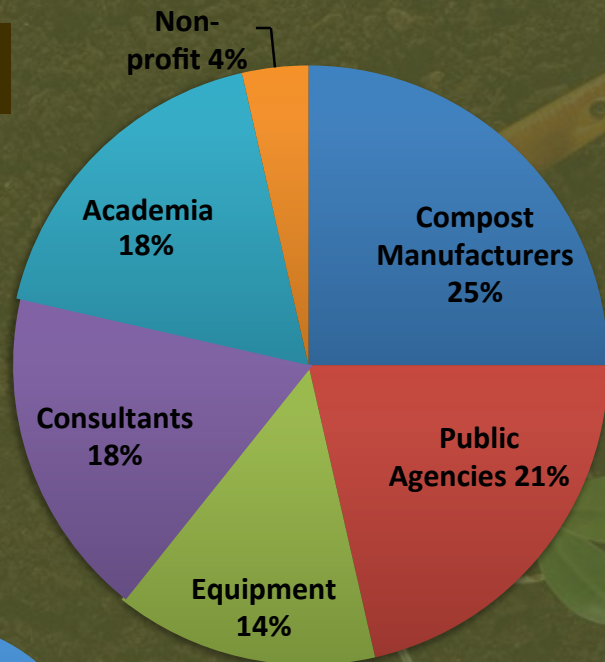
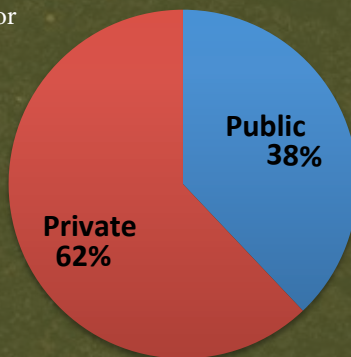
**In 2016, the NCCC hosted/co-hosted 13 Sustainable Spirits events and garnered over 800 attendees. In 2017, we had over 500 attendees total at our 9 events.**



## MEMBERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP BY SECTORS

As a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, the council relies on your support to not only keep our current programs in place but also to continue educating the benefits of composting and compost use throughout North Carolina. Please consider renewing your NCCC Supporter Status with a Supporter Level of \$25 or Premium level \$50 tax-deductible donation, which 100% of your donation going to the NCCC. By supporting the NCCC you will help advance the composting industry in NC, encourage the knowledge and use of compost, help create new jobs, and increase the amount of wastes diverted from landfilling. Some of the benefits you will continue to enjoy as a supporter are:

- Electronic communications regarding the composting and organics management scene locally
- Discounted rates to NC Composting Council events
- Access to composting professionals who can help create and/or improve a composting program in your area
- Eligibility to serve on the NC Composting Council Board of Directors or Committees



## NCCC EVENTS

**For the 3rd consecutive year, the NCCC teamed up with the Caterpillar Global Training Team to teach the latest in loader technology and safety techniques. The day-long training was attended by over 20 professionals from local government, college, and private sectors and included a tour of the Caterpillar plant.**

**ANNUAL MEETING PIC HERE**



**The 3rd Annual Members Meeting was held at the JC Raulston Arboretum and brought together over 40 attendees. Presentations were followed by an interactive breakout session in the afternoon as well as a tour of the arboretum.**

# COMPOST OPERATIONS TRAINING COURSE

## About

During the Fall of 2017, the NC Composting Council partnered with the US Composting Council to put together the week-long Compost Operations Training Course (COTC) at NC State University in Raleigh. The training brought together 22 professionals looking to advance their composting training to the next level.

This 40-hr, 5-day course focused on giving participants the knowledge needed to run a successful composting facility. In addition to in-depth lectures, the course provided hands-on practice through indoor and outdoor activities as well as tours to local facilities, where the theories met reality.

## Curriculum

- Day 1: Composting process, feedstocks and recipe development, compost systems
- Day 2: Equipment, safety, site design, environmental protection (odors and stormwater)
- Day 3: Regulations, composting facility tours
- Day 4: Compost testing, product quality, compost uses and marketing
- Day 5: Facility management, trouble-shooting and analyzing compost piles

## Tours

- Universal Leaf Composting Facility
- McGill Environmental Composting Facility
- City of Raleigh Yard Waste Composting Facility
- NC Department of Agriculture's Soil Testing Lab

**PHOTOS HERE**



## Get Involved With The NCCC!

**Consider joining one of our three committees to help us further composting in NC. Just 1-2 hours per month would make a positive impact in our industry. To get involved, email [info@carolinacompost.com](mailto:info@carolinacompost.com) or speak to one of our board members.**

### Education & Outreach Committee

The Purpose of the Educational and Outreach Committee (EOC) is to promote compost awareness through the Educational and Professional development of Professional Composters, Backyard Composters, Schools, and other Educational Institutions. The E&O committee shall enhance the level of professional knowledge of members by sponsoring informative programs and/or seminars which are based on new and relevant topics of interest, and shall actively facilitate and encourage participation in the education courses of the NCCC.



### Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is tasked with securing organizational partnerships to help aid the NCCC in its mission to increase composting and compost use in North Carolina. The advisory committee also gives advice to the governing board.

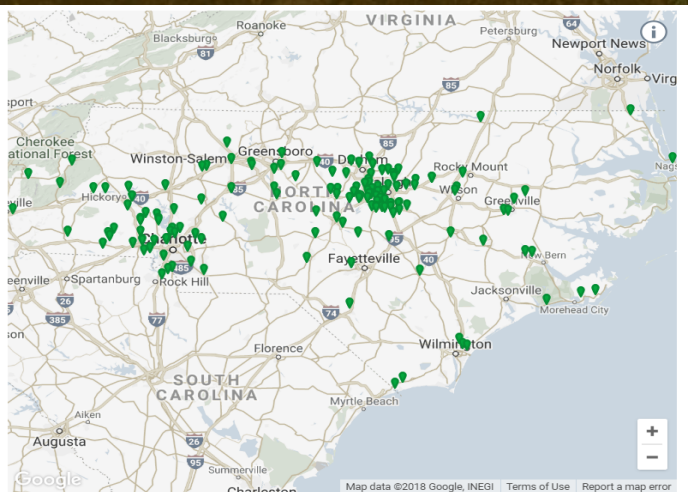


### Communications Committee

The Communications Committee's goal is to keep NCCC members informed about what is happening not only with the council, but also what is going on in the NC composting industry. This is done through email, Facebook, and the NCCC's website.







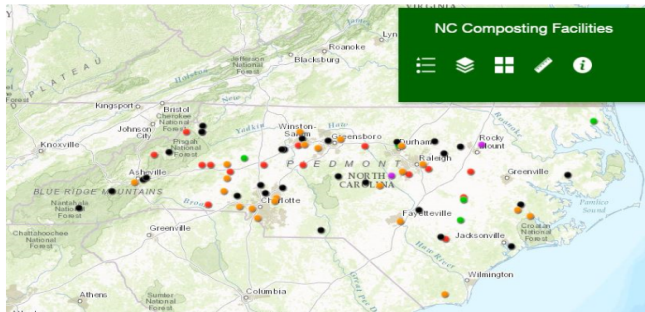
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## NCCC: Providing Tools

### Compost Locator Map

The NCCC launched its first ever "Compost Locator" map, which can be found on the council's website. The map allows user to find bulk STA and OMRI certified compost throughout North Carolina. Be sure to check out this new tool when you are in the market for compost products.



### Permitted Composting Facilities Map

NC Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service developed a map of permitted composting facilities under NCDEQ. The NCCC is proud to link to this map as a service to our membership.



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