

# **NORTH CAROLINA COMPOSTING COUNCIL**



**2017-2018**  
ANNUAL REPORT

**Evolving  
Environment**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**About NCCC .....4**

**President’s Letter .....5**

**Financials .....6**

**Advocacy & Public Policy .....8**

**Membership ..... 10**

**Compost Certification ..... 12**

**Executive Letter ..... 14**

**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*

Karl Warkowski, *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

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

*"The achievements of an organization are the results  
of the combined effort of each individual."  
-Vince Lombardi*

## 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

## Evolving Environment



*Dear Composting Community, I have been honored to serve as your NC Composting Council President for the previous two years and have agreed to continue for another two, per the Board's request. 2018 was both exciting and challenging due to our **Evolving Environment**. I believe this term is*

*indicative of both the changes we are experiencing to the climate outside our window and the climate within North Carolina and the NC Composting Council.*

*I am certainly preaching to the choir with many of you regarding the impact humankind is having on the world's climate. Yet, it is amazing the negative connotation the term "climate change" can carry, which is why I chose to use this less polarizing term. Those involved in the composting industry have a strong belief and understanding of what we need to accomplish to help reduce the negative impact civilization is making on our environment. Composting and the use of compost, along with many other sustainable practices, has become second nature to most of us. But there is still a lot of work to be done to educate the general public how they, too, can make a difference. That leads me to the main focus of my message.....we need your help! The efforts exhibited by our current board and committee members have been nothing less than outstanding, but it takes more than those dedicated individuals that devote their time and energies to the NCCC. We have large aspirations, but unless we can encourage some of you and your peers to join us in some capacity, we will not evolve and make the impact the council is striving to achieve.*

*The NCCC's commitment to education continued this year through conducting our annual Compost Operators Training Course in conjunction with the US Composting Council and its Composting*

*Council Research and Education Foundation. We were again challenged with not one, but TWO hurricanes, forcing some of the attendees to not attend or leave early so they could be back on the job helping to prepare their communities for the pending storms. We welcomed attendees from as far away as New Zealand and again received wonderful feedback on the content of the course and the professionalism of our speakers, who graciously offered their services at no cost to the NCCC. We also supported and exhibited at the Waste Not, Living the Low Carbon Life conference, helping the attendees to learn how to become involved with composting and reducing their carbon footprint.*

*Our goals moving forward are much more ambitious, starting with a plan to enact a policy to reduce and manage food waste at the municipal level. This is quite an undertaking and will require a huge commitment of time and effort to work with local and state legislators discussing a potential structure to enact legislation or regulatory requirements for an organic waste ban, hopefully leading to an organics recycling law. We have also begun discussing how the NCCC can enact a program similar to the Marin County Carbon Project in North Carolina, leading to increased carbon sequestration by using compost to amend our soils throughout the state. I would like each of you to 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. I encourage each of you to take a few minutes to learn about our committees and consider offering ONLY 1-2 hours a month by joining in. We look forward to the future and doing what we can to positively impact our Evolving Environment!*

*Respectfully,*

**Gary Gittere, President**



## THE FINANCIAL PICTURE

2018 Expenditures	
COTC	\$ 12,181.39
Meetings	\$ 1,722.58
Website Fees	\$ 419.72
Annual Dues	\$ 1,930.42
CL2 Lab	\$ 1,500.00
CCREF Scholarship	\$ 2,500.00
Educational Support Programs	\$ 2,628.91
Administrative Costs	\$ 8,730.00
Supplies/Misc Costs	\$ 480.71
<b>2018 Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 32,093.73</b>

2018 Revenues	
COTC	\$ 35,095.00
USCC Membership Rebate	\$ 2,720.00
NCCC Supporters	\$ 275.00
Sponsorships	\$ 1,955.00
Trainings	\$ 50.45
<b>2018 Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 40,095.45</b>

**2018 Net Revenue**  
**\$8,001.71**

## 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 NC Green Industry Council's "8th Annual Water Symposium," and the NC Nursery & Landscape Association's "Green & Growin'" show. We also connected with the Carolina Recycling Association and helped organize presentations and a meet and greet at their annual conference.

join **together** collaborate connect unite partner community work share move create build

## NCCC Sponsorships and Exhibits

- Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
- Carolina Recycling 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 third year in a row, the North Carolina Composting Council (NCCC) generously funded a CCREF/NCCC Young Investigator Scholarship. This scholarship is for college students studying at a college or university in North Carolina. The goal of the 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!**

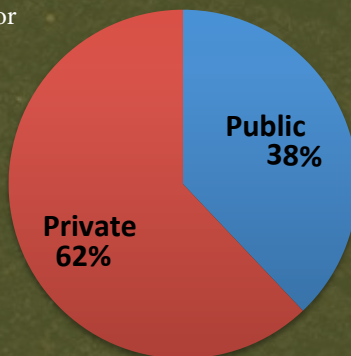
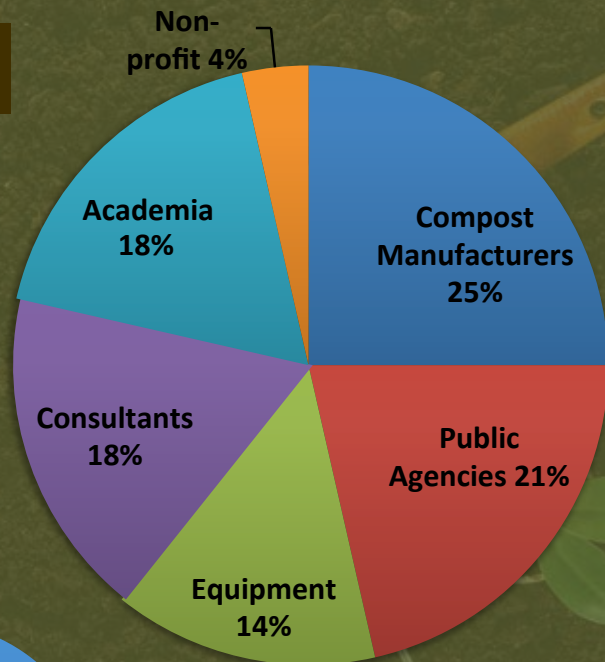
**In 2018, the NCCC hosted/co-hosted 8 Sustainable Spirits events and garnered over 300 attendees.**



## 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

**Join us next year for our annual CAT Loader Safety & Maintenance training. We really appreciate CAT's dedication to this program and look forward to seeing you attend in 2019!**



**The 4th Annual Members Meeting was held at the Governor's Club in Chapel Hill and brought together over 40 attendees.**

# COMPOST OPERATIONS TRAINING COURSE

## About

During the Fall of 2018, 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 30 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), regulations
- Day 3: Composting facility tours and NCDA Soil Lab
- Day 4: Compost testing, product quality, compost uses and marketing
- Day 5: Facility management, trouble-shooting and analyzing compost piles

## Tours

- Durham Museum of Life Sciences
- McGill Environmental Composting Facility
- City of Raleigh Yard Waste Composting Facility
- NC Department of Agriculture's Soil Testing Lab





## 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

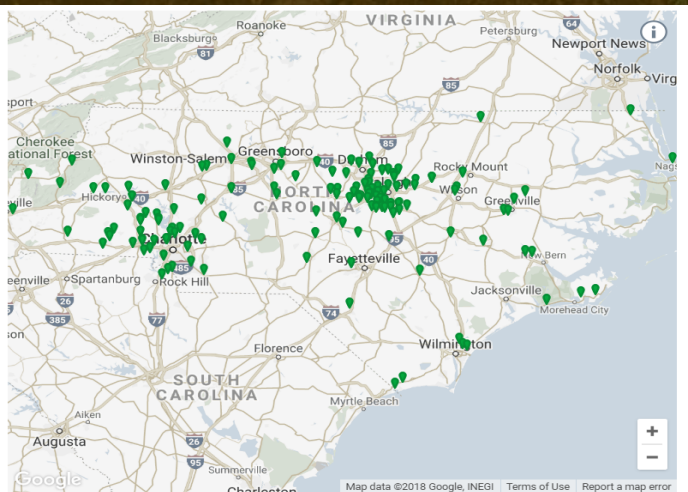
The Advisory Committee is tasked with securing organizational partnerships to help aid the NCCC in its mission to increase composting and compost use in North Carolina. The advisory committee also gives advice to the governing board.



### 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.



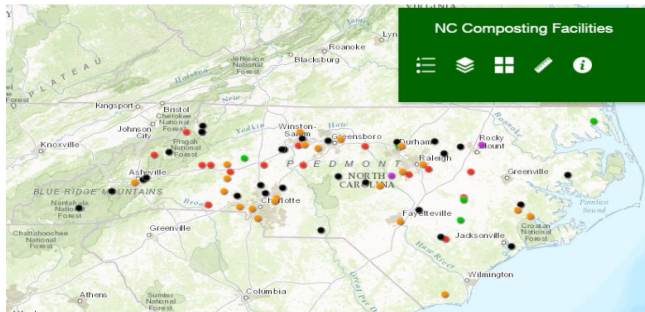


Show [near me](#) or near [Zip code](#)  
 Show: [All compost](#) [STA cert.](#) [OMRI cert.](#)

## 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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