



2025

IMPACT REPORT

SPREADING COMPOST IN NC SINCE 2007

About the NC Composting Council

The North Carolina Composting Council (NCCC) is dedicated to the development, expansion, and promotion of composting and compost-use in North Carolina, in both domestic and industry settings. Our work is based on sound science, principles of sustainability, and economic viability. NCCC's purpose is to advance organic recycling and compost manufacturing and to promote compost-use to enhance soils and provide economic and environmental benefits for our members and society.



SPECIAL THANKS TO NCCC'S 2025 MAJOR SPONSORS



2025 Impact Report



A Message From NCCC's Executive Director Kat Polk

For more than 17 years, the North Carolina Composting Council (NCCC) has brought together dedicated & passionate composting leaders from across the state to advance composting & sustainable waste management practices. With the support of a part-time Executive Director for the past two years, NCCC continues to expand its programs and gain sponsors, members, & partnerships.

NCCC funding also goes to pay for a dedicated lobbyist, Nick Wood of Blue Heron Lobbying & Consulting LLC. Having a dedicated lobbyist serving the needs of the composting industry provides an invaluable connection to the NC General Assembly, where the NCCC continues to develop relationships and educate legislators.

NCCC operates through a strong committee-driven structure & an actively engaged working-board. Our regional chapters and committees remain central to advancing our mission statewide— including our Education and

Outreach (EOC), Advocacy & Access (AAC), & the Compost Operations Training Course (COTC) Committees. Meetings continue to be held primarily online to maximize accessibility & participation. All committees welcome new members! NCCC extends its deep appreciation to the many volunteers who contributed their time and expertise this year through board service, committee work, and event support.

In 2025 NCCC added 4 new Board Members: Mallorie Ferrigno, of Atlas Organics, Brandis Strickland, of Truist Bank and Organic Life Amendments, Trey Alber of Wilmington Compost Company, and Rita Meriergerd of McGill! This year NCCC also bid farewell to longtime Board Member Kate Sullivan, now on the USCC Board of Directors. NCCC is always looking for dedicated professionals to join our committees and board to help us advance composting in North Carolina and continue to grow as an organization.

2025 AT A GLANCE

90

Members

503

People Engaged
Through Programs

\$11,240

Given to Partner Organizations,
Sponsorships, Grants & Scholarships





2025

Regional Chapters

A major area of growth for NCCC in 2025 was the formal establishment of regional chapters, enabling our mission to take root more deeply at the community level.

The Coastal Composting Chapter, which has collaborated with NCCC in the Wilmington region for more than seven years, continued to expand its local initiatives, including outreach events, the Garbage to Gardens school composting program and pumpkin diversion events.

This year also marked the successful launch of the Mountain Composting Chapter, supported by the leadership of NCCC Board Member Christine Wittmeier and Jen Maxwell, Appalachian State University Sustainability Director. Together, these chapters strengthen NCCC's statewide presence and foster more localized engagement, education, and action.





OF
VOLUNTEERS:
45

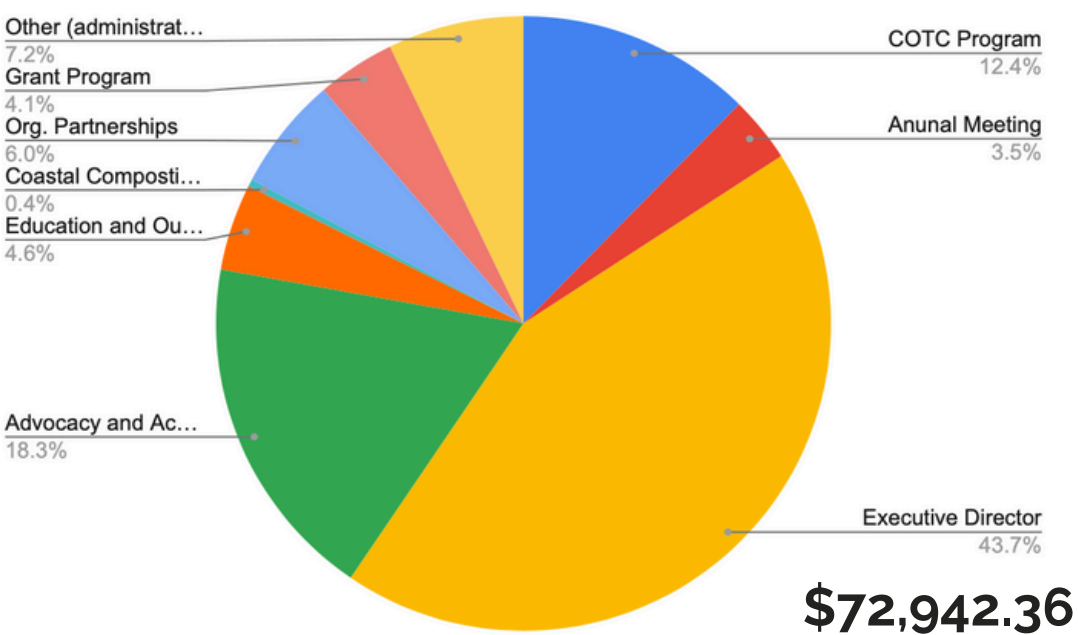
OF
SPONSORS:
17

Amount of
Sponsorships
& Grants
Received
\$25,050

OF
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS:
60+

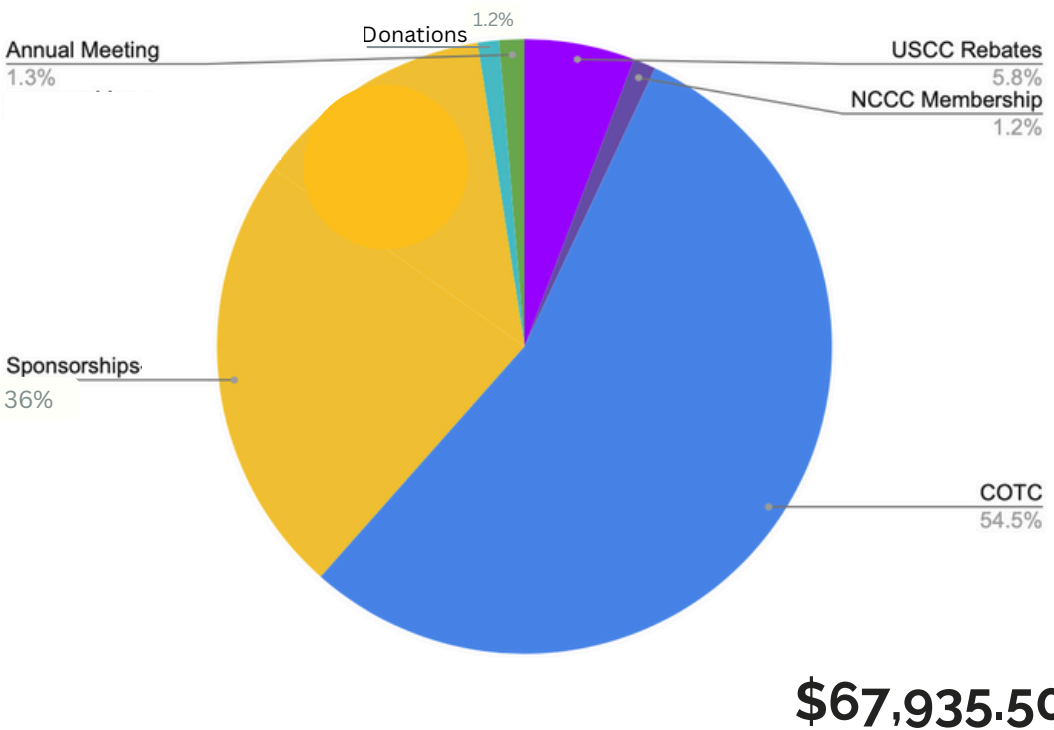
2025 expenses

as of December 1, 2025



2025 revenue

as of December 1, 2025





2025 Programs

IN REVIEW



The NC Compost Operations Training Course (COTC)

NCCC's Compost Operations Training Course (COTC), hosted in partnership with the Compost Research and Education Foundation (CREF), remains a flagship program for NCCC. In 2025, the course welcomed 33 students from across the globe, reflecting its reputation as a premier training opportunity in the composting industry. NCCC continued its strong collaborations with NC State University, the City of Raleigh Yard Waste Center, the City of Durham Solid Waste Department, McGill Compost, Atlas Organics, and expert volunteers statewide, all of whom play a vital role in delivering this high-quality program.

This year, NCCC awarded two scholarships to support greater access and representation within the field; scholarship recipients were from North Carolina and Mexico. We were proud to host students from 12 states and 4 countries in 2025! Special thanks to NCCC's COTC Sponsors, whose generous support makes it possible to offer an exceptional, hands-on compost operations training experience.





SUSTAINABLE SPIRITS 2025



HOSTED IN WILMINGTON, CARY, BOONE, DURHAM, RALEIGH, & CHARLOTTE IN 2025!



THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SUSTAINABLE SPIRITS SPONSORS:





2025 Annual Meeting

For Members & Supporters

NCCC's 2025 Annual Meeting for Members and Supporters, themed "Strong Economies and Communities Start with Compost," highlighted composting's vital role in building resilient local systems and the strong economic opportunities within North Carolina's composting industry. In mid-June, more than 50 professionals from diverse backgrounds gathered at NC State University's Plant Sciences Building. Dr. Chyi-Lyi (Kathleen) Liang delivered a keynote on entrepreneurial strategies for integrating composting into community development.

Attendees also heard from leading North Carolina composting experts, the US Composting Council's Executive Director, updates on the NC Council's recent legislative work, and reports from grant recipients and the Board of Directors. An expert panel featuring Kate Sullivan (McGill), Sarah Justice (Town of Cary), Frank Franciosi (US Composting Council), David Valder (Crown Town Compost), and Dr. Liang (NC A&T) explored compost's role in infrastructure, policy, and agriculture.

The day was highly interactive, and we are grateful to Wanu Organics and XFORMS for sponsoring the event.





2025 Grant Recipients:

Appalachian State University, Making Pitt Fit Community Garden, and Sustainable Sandhills!

App State University



App State University expanded on-campus food scrap collections by adding a roofed-structure & compost-collection system, serving as a model for the community. App State also expanded collaborative solid waste management efforts in the high country to establish the Mountain Composting Chapter of the NC Composting Council!

Making Pitt Fit Community Garden



Making Pitt Fit Community Garden expanded their vermicompost system and educational composting programs in 2025. This grant also enabled participating schools and community groups to engage with an ongoing vermicomposting project!

Sustainable Sandhills



Sustainable Sandhills, in collaboration with Organic Life Amendments and Cumberland Mills Elementary School, launched and maintained a school composting pilot program, aiming to connect their community, educate youth, and collect metrics for a robust composting outreach program!



ADVOCACY & ACCESS2025

NCCC MOBILIZED AND EMPOWERED NC COMPOST INDUSTRY LEADERS TO ADVOCATE IN THE NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SECURING BROAD SUPPORT AND THE INCLUSION OF COMPOST IN THE DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURE IN THE 2025 NC FARM ACT, NOW PENDING PASSAGE!

- 3rd year working with Nick Wood of Blue Heron Lobbying and Consulting to set and meet NCCC advocacy goals
- Attended ~12 legislative meetings for Lobby Day at the NC General Assembly
- Supported 5+ Compost Facility Tours
- Advocated to include Compost in the NC Farm Act for the 3rd year in a row
- Collaborated with other USCC Chapters
- Precept for UNC Public Policy Capstone Class Project to investigate and map the policy landscape for composting in NC



THANK YOU TO NC COMPOST BUSINESS LEADERS FOR YOUR STRONG ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT THIS YEAR IN MOVING COMPOST-FRIENDLY LEGISLATION FORWARD!





2025 Organizational Partnerships & Memberships



The NC Composting Council proudly partners with and supports organizations that promote:

- Healthy Soils & Sustainable Agriculture
- Circular Economies & Nonprofit Development
- Responsible Land and Waste Management
- Resource Conservation



Thanks to World Centric for a Generous Gift



North Carolina Conservation Network





Thank You to Our 2025 Community Partners:

App State Sustainability Department	North Carolina A&T University
Atlas Organics	New Hanover County Soil and Water
American Floral Endowment	New Hanover County Cooperative Extension and Arboretum Center
Blue Heron Lobbying & Consulting LLC	New Hanover County Recycling and Solid Waste (Garbage to Gardens)
Brooks Contractor	New Soil Vermiculture
Carolina Farm Stewardship Association	Orange County Recycling and Solid Waste
Carolina Recycling Association	Organic Life Amendments
Center for Environmental Farms (CEFS)	Piedmont Conservation Council
City of Asheville	Pomegranate Books
City of Durham	Raleigh City Farm
City of Goldsboro	Salem Soil Solutions
City of Raleigh	SCS Engineers
City of Raleigh Yard Waste Center	Simply Green Recycling
Coastal Carolina Riverwatch	Smith + Gardner
Coastal Credit Union Music Park	Sustainable Generation
Composting Research and Education Foundation	Sustainable Sandhills
CompostNow	Sustainabloom
Crown Town Compost	The Recollective
Crystal Coast Compost	Toward Zero Waste
Denali	Town of Cary
EcoSafe	Toxic Free NC
Finn Corporation	Trees for the Triangle
Friends of Keep Charlotte Beautiful	University of North Carolina Chapel Hill- Public Policy Department
Green Camps/Green My Team	US Composting Council
Green Industry Council	Vermeer All Roads
Green Mountain Technologies	Wake County Master Gardeners
Happy Roots	Wake County Soil and Water
Innovation Barn	Wanu Organics
Keep Durham Beautiful	Waste Reduction Partners/Land of Sky Quasi-Regional Group
Making Pltt Fit Community Garden	Waste Technology Services
McGill Environmental	Wilmington Compost Company
NC Center for Nonprofits	World Centric
NC Conservation Network	Xforms
NC Department of Environmental Quality	
NC State University- Biological Studies, Horticulture, Agriculture, Life Sciences, Composting Facility & Research Cooperative, & Waste Reduction/Recycling	

As a grassroots organization, the NC Composting Council & the industry thrives much like a mycelium network— connecting, strengthening, & nourishing the communities around us. Every person who shows up, lends a hand, starts a program, shares knowledge, spreads the word, & keeps on composting is another vital strand in this living network. Because of you, our mission reaches farther, our impact grows deeper, and our composting community becomes more resilient each year.



2025 Community Connections

IN REVIEW



2

Official Regional Chapters
of NCCC

3

WEBINARS HOSTED

6

NEW NCCC
YOUTUBE VIDEOS

1063

LISTSERV SUBSCRIBERS

805

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS
(178 new in 2025)

1400

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS
(100 new in 2025)

Having a dedicated Executive Director enables NCCC to sustain & expand professional communications with key stakeholders across multiple platforms. In 2025, NCCC continued to build it's network on Facebook, Instagram, Linked In, & YouTube- reaching a broader & more engaged audience.

Additionally, NCCC delivered more than 22 newsletters this year, each packed with resources, NCCC updates, & sector highlights! In 2025, NCCC also partnered with Green Mountain Technologies, NC State University, & the American Floral Endowment to host free educational webinars.



2025 Events & Webinars

- **Compost2025-** Phoenix, AZ
 - Presented
- **Carolina Recycling Association Conference & Coffee with the Council**
 - Sponsored and presented
- **Earth Day Events**
 - Wilmington, Cary & Salisbury
- **Cary Arbor Day**
- **ICAW Events & Webinars**
 - Durham Composting Class
 - Back to Earth: A Compost Celebration
 - Webinar: Adding Food Waste to a Composting Facility
- **NCCC's Annual Meeting**
- **USCC Chapter Meeting**
- **GIC Water & Soil Symposium**
- **Coastal Credit Union Concert Series**
- **Green Drinks Wilmington**
- **Good Hope Farm Harvest Festival**
 - October and November
- **Community Pumpkin Diversion Map & Diversion**
- **DNA Sequencing & Technology Webinar**
- **CFSA Sustainable Ag Conference**
 - Sponsored, Tabled and Presented





Cultivating What Comes Next



2026

Regional Chapter Formation & Growth

NCCC is expanding its capacity through the formation of official regional chapters, enabling organized groups of leaders and stakeholders across the state to increase our reach and impact. The Coastal Composting Chapter—active since 2017—continues to lead composting programs and educational outreach in the Southeast coastal region. In 2025, NCCC formally codified regional chapters and added the Mountain Composting Chapter to serve Western North Carolina as well.

Compost Corps Workshops

In 2026, NCCC hopes to expand educational opportunities both in person and online to meet the statewide need for support in starting and maintaining small-scale composting systems. To address this, NCCC plans to pilot, if awarded grant support, a Compost Corps workshop series to train composters across North Carolina and produce a professional “how to start and maintain a 3-bin composting system” video, which will be available for free on NCCC’s YouTube channel.

Compost Capital & Financial Literacy Workshop

NCCC, in partnership with Wanu Organics, will host a compost capital and financial literacy workshop in the Raleigh–Durham area in 2026. Designed for both emerging and established compost business owners, this workshop will strengthen financial literacy specific to composting and hauling operations and connect participants with local and regional resources to help grow their businesses.

Increased Industry Engagement

Building on success from the 2025 NC Compost Operators Training Course (COTC), NCCC is working to expand opportunities in North Carolina for compost facility tours and equipment demonstrations. NCCC will continue working with a lobbyist to further the composting industry’s interest in State rules and legislation. We will utilize this year’s UNC-Capstone study findings to build a legislative agenda for the year to come.



Thank you to NCCC's sponsors, members, supporters, partners, and volunteers.

Special thanks to NCCC's 2025 Executive Committee—Muriel Williman, Christine Wittmeier, Erika Fye Nunna, and Kat Polk— and to former treasurer Kate Sullivan for her lasting legacy. Their dedication, leadership, passion, and expertise drive NCCC's continued advancement and success.

Your commitment played a vital role to advance our mission in 2025! We are grateful for the support that enabled these significant outcomes.



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