



~ ACP MEMBER NEWSLETTER ~ SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ACP Members,

We greatly appreciate your support and engagement as we navigate through rapidly changing times in our state. ACP has been working along with USCC and many others on several initiatives related to organics and compost management in California. A review of the contents of our newsletter will bring you up to date. I really encourage you to participate in one or more of the ACP working groups where you can engage with your colleagues in the industry to further your goals and to make a difference in compost market and infrastructure expansion in your region, and throughout the state.

Special thanks to Dan Noble and many others around the state who have been working tirelessly to ensure that the compost industry is well represented and that industry needs are considered among decision makers at the highest levels.

I look forward to working with each of you and seeing you at the USCC conference in Los Angeles this next January where we will dive into these matters more deeply within a special California Track. Please feel free to call me or any of our Board Members or staff to let us know your concerns and/or any ways we can serve you better.

Sincerely, your ACP and USCC State Chapter President, Jeff Ziegenbein,
jziegenbein@ieua.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **STORM WATER AWARENESS WEEK September 26-30, 2016 -Free Workshops Throughout California stormwaterawareness.org**

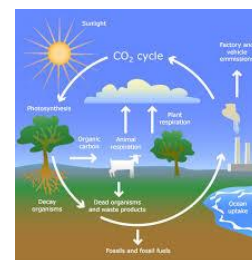


Composters have a unique opportunity to understand how compost is being used to solve stormwater *and* water conservation issues throughout California. Remember, 90% of California's water goes to grow things (80% crops, 10% landscapes). Which means the water goes on soil first! So if we're not building healthy soil with compost, we're not managing our water resources wisely. Not only is this *one* of the biggest values of building healthy soils with compost... it IS your market! Time to learn about this and expand your engagement in the stormwater and water conservation markets. Out of 50 seminars, 9 of them use compost, see that in "[The Rain Events - Sep 2016](#)" and "[Stormwater Workshop Schedule - Compost Based BMPs Sept 26-30, 2016](#)"

- **CBA-ACP Symposium- Nov. 1-2, 2016
"Renewable Carbon Management in California"
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

An exceptional conference on how organics, especially compost, is at the center of building the renewable carbon management industry and markets in California is going to take place in Sacramento next month. See a draft of the event program at the following link:

"[CBA-ACP Symposium Nov1-2, 2016](#)"



- **COMPOST17: 25 Years and Growing!** Jan. 23-26, 2017, Westin Bonaventure, Los Angeles, CA USCC is hosting its annual conference in Los Angeles in January and ACP is putting together the "California Track". *Please take a look at the sessions being put together so far and give Dan Noble your feedback and he will convey it to the ACP and USCC COMPOST17 Program Working Groups.* This is still not final, and many changes can, and will be made prior to being in touch with the folks have submitted abstracts.
<http://compostingcouncil.org/compost2017/>

ACP'S MARKET DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP UPDATES

If you're not already a member of one of ACP's many Working Groups, please don't delay in joining one today. They are an excellent way to collaborate on advancing the compost market of your particular interest! Pick from the "[ACP Working Groups 9.22.16](#)" list, and contact Dan Noble, ACP ED, danwyldernoble@gmail.com to sign up. If you don't see a Working Group that you feel suits your compost market develop needs, then please start one! Again, contact Dan to discuss how to go about doing that. (Unless otherwise stated, these all meet via regular conference calls)

The following is the status of each of the working groups:

- [ACP Legislators Meeting Day \(May 10, 2017\)](#) during [International Compost Awareness Week \(ICAW\)](#) - May 7-13, 2017, - The group attends periodic meetings with the CCREF ICAW team. Join our team to make Leg Day and ICAW the best ever in 2017!

- Seminars-Presentations Working Group – Chair: Craig Kolodge, ACP Board Member

This working group is sending out a survey to determine the market development needs of our members. We have a special focus on expanding the stormwater and erosion control markets for compost. Please take the survey when you are provided with your own personal link: [ACP Market SurveyMonkey 7.21.16](#)



- COMPOST17 – California Track; Chair: Jeff Ziegenbein, ACP President, IERCA.org, IEUA.org
ACP is working with the USCC Conference team to put together the California Track which promises to show how compost is the solution to many challenges in California. The three session topics are:

- TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITIES - Global Warming Reduction, Environmental Justice and Compost Production Markets
- Biomass Energy in California - it's impact on the compost industry
- How Regulations Can Promote Healthy Compost Facilities & Markets

Sign up now for early registration at: [Register Now!](#)

- Compost Advocacy – Chair: Kathy Johnson, Kellogg Garden Products, Co-Chair, Finian Makepeace, Kiss the Ground

Compost Deserves a New Story! One of nature's most astonishing processes has been undervalued for too long! Compost as the regenerating, probiotic, hero for our depleted land is an idea whose time has come. An idea that needs to sweep the nation. The Compost Story is the perfect solution to spreading this hopeful message! To see the new promotional slide deck for this new project, please

[The Compost Story Deck – 8.16.16](#)

- Healthy Soil Metrics – Chair: Hunter Francis, CalPoly SLO
The group is developing a set of six one-hour “healthy soil” education videos under a USDA Grant. These videos will have the following themes:

1. **The Biological Foundations of Soil Health**
2. **Nutrient cycling and its correlation to soil fertility,**
nitrogen mineralization
and interdependence on carbon
3. **Chemical and Physical Indicators of Soil Health** [Assessment methods, including enzymatic and nitrate quick tests]
4. **Methods for assessing soil biological activity and SOM** [Laboratory and in-situ carbon dioxide respiration methods]
5. **Management for Soil Health:** Compost, Other Organic Amendments, Cover crops, rotation and green manures
6. **Ecosystem Services and Co-benefits related to Soil Health**



More to come on these. If you would like to have your, or your people as part of these videos, please contact Dan Noble, ACP ED, danwyldernoble@gmail.com.

- **Biosolids-Based Compost** – Chair: Sara Hammes, Synagro, The Biosolids-based compost working group is very active in ACP and has the following mission and objectives:



Mission: To enhance the perception of biosolids-based compost products, and expand the volume and value of those compost products sold and used in California.

Objectives: Pursue three main interrelated activities to

- **Create a Benefits Packet** - benefits that build healthy soil in California, includes both benefits and perceived risk monitoring, updated annually. Consider creating a statewide branded program.
- **Market Development** in specific markets, with other ACP members, e.g. agriculture, Caltrans, municipalities, reclamation, government agencies and programs
- **Research** - Link producers with university scientists and coordinate ongoing statewide

The working group is making very good progress on assembling the benefits package. If you would like to learn more, or visit one of the bi-monthly working group meetings, please contact Dan Noble, ACP ED, danwyldernoble@gmail.com.

- **Small Compost Systems Working Group** Chair: Tom Shearer, Soiland After a series of weekly meetings, this working group has determined that it will focus on leveraging ACP's other activities

LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES – STATE AGENCIES

A) Current Legislation In Process

ACP's lobbyist, Kathy Lynch, has been tracking bills of note, and ACP has been weighing in on them as they go through the legislative process, see "[ACP Priority Report CT 9-1-16](#)" A number of important bills did get passed that will potentially benefit and provide new directions and constraints for the compost industry, outline in "[ACP Leg-Req Table 9.27.16](#)":

B) Governor, CalEPA, CDFG, CNRA, BSA

AB 1045 (Irwin)--Organic Waste: Composting. Requires CalEPA in coordination with CalRecycle, the State Water Resources Control Board, the State Air Resources Board, and the Department of Food and Agriculture to develop and implement policies to aid in diverting organic waste from landfills. (Chapter 596). It specifically focuses on compost for which capacity needs to be developed and promoted throughout the state. This work is being chaired by [Grant Cope, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Policy, CalEPA](#). The ACP Legislative Team has created an ACP Policy Priority approach to managing both the existing bills, implemented in policies, programs and regulations by the various agencies, as well as to look for gaps in the law and current policies that ACP can support in a new direction. This can take the form of sponsoring new bills, as well as reducing the threats and enhancing the opportunities in the existing laws and regulations.

The existing laws and regulations both recent (above) as well as ones that are taking more time to implement are listed in this newsletter.

B) CalRecycle (Policy, Regulations, Legislation)

CalRecycle is in the process of implementing key legislation into programs and regulations that will impact, both positively and in some cases negatively, California composters ... currently and for years to come. ACP will continue to work with our members to support their engagement with this ongoing process. Specifically, we address the following ongoing regulation implementation (*click on any of the headings to go to that CalRecycle webpage*):

**a) Organics Planning AB 876**

AB 876 (Organics Management Infrastructure Planning) Guidance, signed by the Governor in October 2015, to address longer-term planning for organics infrastructure by requiring counties and regional agencies to report the following information in the Electronic Annual Report (EAR) commencing on August 1, 2017, to:

- (1) Estimate of the amount of organic waste
- (2) Estimate the needed additional organic waste recycling facility capacity
- (3) Identify areas in the county or regional authority (RA) as locations for new or expanded organic waste recycling facilities

Composters have an opportunity to participate with local authorities participate directly in this process.

b) Food Recovery, Scraps & AB 1826

In October 2014 Governor Brown signed AB 1826 Chesbro (Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014), requiring businesses to recycle their organic waste on and after April 1, 2016, depending on the amount of waste they generate per week. Many local large quantity generators are choosing to use the impetus of this new regulations, to recycle their waste onsite.

c) Reporting Requirements - AB 901

ACP staff and members attended recent workshops on the development of new State reporting requirements, which applies to all composters. ACP signed on to a coalition letter that supports further collaboration with our industry, and the lowering of the costs and impacts of these new reporting requires. The letter is titled: "[Final Coalition Letter AB 901 09.12.16](#)"

d) Supplemental Environmental Projects – AB 1071

CalRecycle, to comply with AB 1071, intends to develop strategies for identifying and addressing gaps in existing CalEPA programs in order to achieve greater environmental justice [EJ] [called Supplemental Environmental Projects, or "SEPs"]. Once identified, the implementation of SEPs will help bridge these gaps. A SEP allows entities in violation of environmental laws to voluntarily undertake environmental projects as part of settlement of an enforcement action. ***It will be incumbent for composters to engage with their local stakeholders and area residents to enhance the EJ of their communities.***

USEPA Definition of EJ:

[Environmental justice](#) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

D) Water Boards & DWR

a) Water Board Statewide Order D. Noble, Paul Ryan



ACP is working with State Water Board staff to advise them on the "[Development of Performance Measures for Implementation of the Compost General Order](#)". Among other recommendations, at the August 15, 2016 meeting, we recommended that the Water Board add another "Strategy" under Goal #3 (Promote Diversion of

Organic Materials to Composting and Anaerobic Digestion Facilities and Engage in the Healthy Soils Initiative). The new strategy is "3.5 - Use compost for Stormwater Control throughout California". With the Performance Measure and Actions being: "Make compost a Statewide BMP for stormwater and erosion control," and "Measure the implementation of this BMP throughout the state."

There was much discussion at this meeting at CalEPA about how the new General Order will have the effect of putting new, midsize, independent composters out of business due to compliance costs. The Water Board staff said that they will be looking at this under Goal #4: Assess Implementation Costs", and the Board requested that the industry assess these costs and that the Water Board will work with local industry to help modify those costs.

[Attachments in the September 2016 Newsletter library:](#)

1. The Rain Events - Sep 2016
2. Stormwater Workshop Schedule - Compost Based BMPs Sept 26-30, 2016
3. CBA-ACP Symposium Nov1-2, 2016
4. ACP Working Groups 9.22.16
5. ACP Market SurveyMonkey_7.21.16
6. The Compost Story Deck 8.18.16
7. ACP Priority Report_CT_9-1-16
8. ACP Leg-Reg Table 9.27.16
9. Final Coalition Letter AB 901 09.12.16