

Compost Summit and Training – October 14th-16th, 2019
AGENDA (draft)

MONDAY, October 14th

8:00 Registration

8:15 Welcome / Introductions

- **Risa Weinberger, Risa Weinberger & Assoc.**
- **Greg Weidenfeller, New Earth Compost**
- **Jordan Fengel, Executive Director STAR**

9:00 Fundamentals of Composting

- **Risa Weinberger, Risa Weinberger & Associates, Inc.**
This session covers the basics of the art and science of composting for facility operators, including feedstock characteristics, preferred carbon/nitrogen ratio, basic requirements for aeration, moisture level, time and temperature management, and troubleshooting.

10:00 Break

10:15 The Compost-Climate Connection AND Writing an Odor Response Plan

- **Matt Cotton, Integrated Waste Management Consulting**
This presentation addressed the role that compost can play in addressing climate change. A second topic is why compost facilities should have a written odor response plan.

11:30 Class Exercise

- **Risa Weinberger, Risa Weinberger & Assoc.**
Students break into small teams and select a mix of feedstock materials to produce an active compost pile. New Earth staff builds piles according to team preferences. Students inspect piles and monitor temperatures over the next two days at the compost pad, then optimum feedstock ratios & proper blending are discussed.

12:00 Lunch – sponsored by Ecoproducts

12:45 Suitability of Use – Understanding Compost Test Results

- **Noel Garcia, TPSL**
Learn about several biological, chemical, and physical properties that may be beneficial for growing plants and improving soil, but some properties may limit their use. Understand how testing is important for characterizing the beneficial properties of a compost as well as for identifying potential problems with compost use.

1:45 Compost Marketing Basics and New Trends

- **Ron Alexander, R. Alexander Associates**
Students will learn how to make intelligent choices in compost market development, current and new markets for compost use, and explore the value in blended products. Students will understand key characteristics of compost and how it affects sales and usage by specific markets.

2:45 Break

3:00 Writing a Fire Plan and Safety Issues at Composting Facilities

➤ **Matt Cotton, Integrated Waste Management Consulting**

Ensuring and maintaining a safe environment at your compost facility is crucial. This presentation will cover multiple topics including common hazards at a composting facility, how quickly things can go bad, and how to motivate employees to follow the plan.

4:00 Contamination in the Organics and What We Do About It

➤ **Panel Discussion**

Nick Galus – City of San Antonio (Residential Composting Implementation Follow up – Municipal Perspective)

Bill Kish – Q2Earth (Residential Composting Implementation – Processing Perspective)

Paul Kuhar – Champion Waste & Recycling (Commercial Composting Hauler– Private Perspective)

We found three brave and honest professionals who are willing to bare their souls in order to teach us a few of the lessons about contamination that they had to learn the hard way. We will also explore ways to combat these issues in your program.

5:00-7:00 Networking Reception

TUESDAY, October 15th

7:15 First bus leaves hotel for New Earth site

8:00 Tours, Equipment Demonstrations / Monitor Test Piles

➤ **Carolyn LaFleur**

Observe on-site composting operations at the New Earth compost facilities. Vendors will demonstrate various types and multiple brands of grinders, windrow turners, screens, and other mulch and compost processing and application equipment, provide specific information and answer questions on appropriate technology for managing small-to- large amounts of various feedstock materials, and meeting desired specifications for particular markets and applications. Students will observe on-site composting operations at demo site.

12:30 Lunch Provided at New Earth (sponsored by Q2 Earth)

1:30 Tours, Equipment Demonstrations / Monitor Test Piles (continued)

➤ **Carolyn LaFleur**

This is not a duplication of the previous session, but a continuation of the day's activities at the New Earth site.

5:30 Adjourn

WEDNESDAY, October 16th

8:00 The Use of Compostable Food Service Packaging

➤ **EcoProducts**

We will discuss the integration of compostable food service packaging (CFSP) in Zero Waste programs, discuss the benefits and challenges for composters, and discuss the composting conditions that affect CFSP.

- 9:00 Texas Composting from the Small Business Perspective**
- **Lauren Clarke & Kristen Leiber, Turn Compost | Brandon Castillo, Cowboy Compost | Moderator – Jordan Fengel**
Hear the perspective of two Texas compost operators who are a Small Business. Learn about what the state and local governments provided as assistance to the facility operators on matters of compliance and other technical assistance. Attendees learn how they can use local, regional, and state services.
- 10:00 Composting in Texas – Authorizations and Regulations**
- **Jaspinder Singh, TCEQ**
This presentation is an overview of the TCEQ regulations, insight into how to obtain authorizations for composting operations of various types, and how to apply for and receive rebates under the compost rebate program.
- 10:45 TCEQ Compliance and Enforcement – What a TCEQ Inspector is Looking for on Your Site**
- **Rhonda Reza, TCEQ Compliance and Enforcement, Region 13**
Learn to assess your composting site from the point of view of an Inspector from the Compliance and Enforcement Division of TCEQ. Increase your odds of staying in Compliance and staying out of Enforcement.
- 11:30 Class Exercise Results and Lessons Learned**
- **Risa Weinberger, Risa Weinberger & Assoc.**
Students will learn how each team's recipe performed and discuss why some piles heated up faster than others. Discuss how and whether this exercise relates to the real world of composting. Crown the 2019 winning Team!
- 12:00 Wrap Up Q&A, Thanks, Congratulations, Award Certificates**