WHO WE ARE

The Composting Council Research & Education Foundation (CCREF) is a catalyst for the advancement of composting technologies, practices and beneficial uses that support resource conservation and economic and environmental sustainability.

WHAT WE DO

• Increase awareness and educate the public through supporting public outreach and targeted activities including updating and creating compost resources and publications as well as developing local and national campaigns to raise public knowledge of composting and its importance to long-term sustainability.

• Foster scientific research opportunities. The Foundation’s reputation for credibility and scientific rigor has led to the development of sound composting principles, processes, product end uses and analytical standards.

• Advance the stature and practice of the composting industry by offering professional development opportunities and disseminating best practices throughout the industry.
VISION

Our vision is to advance composting technologies, practices, and beneficial uses that support resource conservation and economic and environmental sustainability.

MISSION

The Composting Council Research & Education Foundation supports initiatives that enhance the stature and practices of the composting industry by supporting scientific research, increasing awareness, and educating practitioners and the public to advance environmentally and economically sustainable organics recycling.
The Composting Council Research & Education Foundation (CCREF) was incorporated on June 9, 1992 in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a nonprofit 501 (c)(3). CCREF is affiliated with the United States Composting Council (USCC) but is its own entity and financials and funding are separate.

Some of the programs the Foundation has developed over the years include the Test Methods for Evaluating Compost and Composting to accurately test the compost produced to assure that high quality compost is being produced and sold and is the foundation of the USCC’s Seal of Testing Assurance program. The CCREF developed the first comprehensive operator training manual that is the basis for the current training program. Other publications produced focus on field guides for the use of compost, brochures on the benefits of using compost, the Soil & Water Connection and the Compost & Climate Connection.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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CCREF STAFF

Frank Franciosi
Executive Director

Beth Simone
Development Officer

Cary Oshins
Education Director

Wayne Howard
Program Manager
This past year has been an exciting one for CCREF! After being dormant for many years, the Foundation has been in the rebuilding phase and has taken on existing programs and establishing new ones. The Board of Trustees is committed to the mission of the organization to advance composting through research and education.

During the past twelve months, the Foundations has taken on two existing programs, the International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) and the Compost Operation Training Program. Both were previously programs of the USCC but because of each program’s mission to educate operators and the public about composting they fit better under the Foundation’s mission. The Foundation has been expanding the outreach of these programs and keeps looking for ways to improve both.

One of the prized programs under CCREF is the Scholarship program that gives grants to college and high schools students to conduct research project or develop education programs. The Board of Trustees was happy to award a scholarship to Clara Tang, a college student in North Carolina. She will be presenting her research at the 2018 USCC Annual Conference in the Foundations Research session.

Most importantly, I would like to thank the many companies and individuals who have donated to the Foundations and made all of this possible. It has been an exciting year for the Foundation and we have all of you to thank for that.

Best Regards,
Ginny Black, Chair
I consider myself lucky. I took over as the Executive Director of the CCREF at a great time. During the past year, the Foundation has grown tremendously and the impact of the work we have been doing has been felt across the country. We have an important mission focused on expanding educational opportunities, encouraging scientific research and building awareness on compost and organics recycling. This work is not just helping people in our industry but also reaching community composters, backyard composters, educators and others.

I remember before I joined CCREF, the Compost Operation Training Course was just an idea and now over the past 8 years we have trained over 1,000 compost operators in the US and abroad. This simply is the best compost operator training in the country that money can buy. Now, I’m overseeing this valuable program and watching as so many others walk away, after an intensive five days, with a new awareness of their jobs and the importance of their work. I’m proud that this program is now being run by the Foundation.

I’m also proud that another premier program, International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), moved from being run by the US Composting Council to CCREF’s management. It made perfect sense with the Foundation’s focus on education and outreach. I must admit that I was thrilled when Ursula Gutowski, a talented graphic designer from Illinois, won the poster contest. She was high on my list, although we received over 200 really wonderful entries, so it was really hard to pick just one. While some of our work can be heavily scientific-based and at times, focused on environmental issues and concerns, ICAW gives you real hope. The poster designs from the children and adults submitted from people all over the world shows that the message is getting out there and that so many recognize the impact compost makes on our soil and long-term sustainability.

I’m also proud of the resurgence of the “Two Cents for Compost Research” Program. I encourage all of you to help fund and support this program. We are putting your dollars to work by funding research and providing documents that support composting and compost use.

These programs are only a few of what CCREF has accomplished this year and we’re working on much more moving forward. It really has been a good time to become a part of this organization.

Frank Franciosi, Executive Director
Our Programs
A Year of Growth and Expansion

2016-2017 was a very productive time for the Composting Council Research & Education Foundation. During the year the Foundation:

Took over the management of the International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW), experiencing growth in all areas from the number of sponsors, posters distributed and sold, and national and international media coverage.

Over 200 creative children and adults from across the world entered the ICAW Poster Contest, using their artistic skills to interpret the theme of Compost! Healthy Soil, Healthy Food. Ursula Gutowski, a graphic designer from Niles, IL, won the contest with her striking design.
ASSUMED MANAGEMENT OF THE
COMPOSTER TRAINING PROGRAM, COTCs

In FY2017, the Composter Training Program, and its flagship class, the Compost Operation Training Course, came under management of the CCREF. This was part of the realignment of programs that started in the USCC but naturally “fit” better with the CCREF. Cary Oshins continued to direct the program, ably assisted by Wayne Howard and Peter Forbes. This past year, 131 students came to classes in Cobleskill, NY, Raleigh, NC, Tucson AZ and Pomona, CA. They came from 33 states, plus DC, Guam, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Saudi Arabia. While the basic structure of the course has not changed, thanks to a grant from the 11th Hour Project instructors from around the country were able to gather for a 3-day retreat to review the course and look to see how it might be improved. “This is part of our core value of ‘continuous improvement’,” explained Oshins. “None of our presentations are ever considered ‘final’, but are always ‘draft’, so instructors know that every time they teach a session they are encouraged to keep making it better. Our industry is still evolving, and our class has to evolve with it.”

INTRODUCED A
NEW PUBLICATION

The Compost & Climate Connection: A Land Manager’s Guide to Organics, was created as a companion piece to the earlier published, The Soil & Water Connection. This new publication offers the reader the why and how of the importance of taking care of our soil as a critical tool to both reduce CO2 emissions and store carbon in soils to help with climate change.

AWARDED A YOUNG INVESTIGATOR SCHOLARSHIP

We awarded this scholarship to Clara Tang, a North Carolina State graduate student, to assist with her research looking at the interactive effect of mycorrhiza and compost on soil and plant health by looking at the change in physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil and how that relates to plant growth.
Financial Report

Please note that this is a 15 month report due to the change in fiscal year. New fiscal year is from April 1st - March 30th.

Revenue:

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<th>Source</th>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Program Revenue</td>
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<td>Other Revenue</td>
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Expenses:

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Revenue Less Expenses $38,002