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New Plans Underway to Celebrate International Compost Awareness Week Across the Country

April 16, 2020, Raleigh, NC...Environmental and recycling businesses, organizations, community groups and individuals around the U.S. are making plans to celebrate the Annual International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) coming up the week of May 3 – 9. Traditionally, ICAW is promoted by holding group activities and events but even though those types of activities will not be held due to Covid-19, the goal of the program is still the same - building awareness on the benefits of compost use and organics recycling. This year plans for ICAW have shifted toward using social media, Zoom, videos, emails and other creative ways for people to share the program’s message.

Compost is important for improving or maintaining high quality soil, growing healthy plants, reducing the use of fertilizer and pesticides, improving water quality and protect the environment. Organics recycling plays a key role in keeping valuable materials out of landfills. Each year a theme is chosen to promote the week. The theme for this year is Soil Loves Compost. A poster contest was held in the fall, open to children, youth and adults from throughout the world. Artists were asked to create a design based on the theme. This year’s winner is Magnus Kallas from London. His design was chosen from over 700 submissions.

“Regardless how ICAW is celebrated this year, the sentiment “Soil Loves Compost” message is strong and clear — there are undeniable benefits of compost and composting in completing the cycle and building healthy soil.” Said Teri Sorg-McManamon, ICAW Committee Chair. “Compost is a quality product to enhance our soils. We appreciate whatever efforts communities of people, companies and organizations can make in celebrating this valuable resource.”

International Compost Awareness Week, a program run in the US by the Composting Council Research & Education Foundation is the largest and most comprehensive education initiative of the compost industry. It is celebrated nationwide and in other countries each year during the first full week of May. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary, ICAW was started in Canada in 1995. Since then, ICAW has continued to grow as more people, businesses, municipalities, schools and organizations are recognizing the importance of composting and the long-term benefits from organics recycling. Sponsors of this year’s campaign include: Elevate Packaging, Specialized Environmental Technologies, Plant Based Products Council, Laurel Valley Soils, BioBag WeCare Denali, ReoTemp Compost, Rooflite, A1 Organics, Waste Management, Republic Services, Naturcycle, McGill Environmental Systems, Filtrexx, Natur-Tec, Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA), Minnesota Composting Council (MNCC), Vermeer, SoilPro, BioCycle Connect, MSW and Composting News.

More information on ICAW can be found at www.compostfoundation.org

The Composting Council Research & Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that 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.