

# A Snapshot of a year in review at SWALCO

By Ivy Klee



# Overview

- ▶ This presentation will include a snapshot of the communications and outreach efforts that I participated in while at SWALCO
  - ▶ SWALCO background
  - ▶ What I learned
  - ▶ Application of knowledge through communication, education and project work
  - ▶ Key collaboration with many stakeholders

# What is SWALCO?

- ▶ SWALCO's Mission
- ▶ Municipal Members
- ▶ My role



# What I learned

- ▶ Introduction to SWALCO functions
- ▶ The Waste Industry and Market - the market for recyclables and food scraps
- ▶ SWALCO acts as a liaison between the waste industry, residents, municipalities, county government, federal government and local organizations
- ▶ SWALCO's role in position and power to implement new legislation, protocols and programs





# Importance of communication

- ▶ Communicating with residents
  - ▶ Updating guidelines
  - ▶ How to reach residents
  - ▶ How to get residents to interact with these materials
- ▶ Communicating with larger organizations
  - ▶ School Cafeteria Programs: working with haulers, students, teachers, consultants
  - ▶ Commercial Food Scrap Programs: working with restaurants, business owners, consultants, haulers, municipal leaders
  - ▶ Communicating our work on a broader level: presenting successes and challenges to a variety of organizations, task forces and committees and sharing our knowledge



# RECYCLE

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:

<p><b>CANS</b> Aluminum &amp; Steel Cans Empty &amp; Rinse Vacíe y enjuague</p>	<p><b>CARTONS</b> Food &amp; Beverage Cartons Empty &amp; Replace Cap Vacíe y reemplace la tapa</p>	<p><b>GLASS</b> Bottles &amp; Jars Empty &amp; Rinse Vacíe y enjuague</p>	<p><b>PAPER</b> Cereal Boxes, Newspaper, Magazines &amp; Mail, Flattened Cardboard &amp; Paper Tubes</p>	<p><b>PLASTIC</b> Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles &amp; Containers Empty &amp; Replace Cap Vacíe y reemplace la tapa</p>
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## DO NOT RECYCLE:

**Do Not Bag Recyclables (No Garbage)**  
No coloque los reciclables en bolsas (No basura)

**No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap**  
No bolsas ni envolturas de plástico

**No Tangles, Cords, Hoses or Chains**  
No a los artículos que se enredan, cordones, cuerdas ni cadenas

**No Bulky Items**  
No artículos voluminosos

**No Foam**  
No espuma/ poliestireno

**SWALCO.ORG/RLB**  
**VILLAGEOFRoundLakeBeach.COM/RECYCLE**

# RESIDENTIAL FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING PROGRAM

April is the start of the season for Residential Food Scrap Composting Programs in your community. If your town participates in a ride along food scrap composting program that allows you to add food scraps to your landscape waste (served April-November), we want YOU to take advantage of this environmentally beneficial service today! Please see below the simple and easy guidelines for how to compost your food scraps.

## Why Compost Food Scraps?

**It's Easy!** Collect food scraps into a container & set out as part of your community's seasonal landscape waste collection program.

**It rides along free with your landscape waste!** As part of the sticker program or subscription option, please call your hauler if you have questions.

**Reduces garbage and preserves landfill space.**

**Reduces greenhouse gas production at landfills.**

**Creates compost** - a great soil amendment!

## What Happens to My Food Scraps and Landscape Waste?

Food scraps and landscape waste that is collected curbside is taken to a permitted compost facility where the food scraps and landscape waste are processed into a final compost product.

Composting food scraps and landscape waste reduces the amount of waste dumped into our landfills and helps reduce greenhouse gas production. Compost can be used on your lawn, in your garden or landscape project, and to suppress weeds, conserve water and increase soil health.

## How to Compost Food Scraps:

**Collect acceptable food scraps** in your kitchen collector. Do not use plastic or biodegradable bags to line your collector.

**Empty the food scraps** into a rigid curbside landscape waste container (line with a brown paper landscape waste collection bag if needed).

**Set out** your landscape waste and food scraps on the regularly scheduled waste collection day.

**Tips to Reduce Possible Odors or Pests:** You may want to line your kitchen container with newspaper, paper towels or a paper bag, empty frequently, wash after use, sprinkle with baking soda, keep container closed.

## What can be composted?

Visit our Household Compost Guide here:  
[www.swalco.org/compostguide](http://www.swalco.org/compostguide)

### Fruits and Vegetables

**Coffee grounds, tea bags & filters**

**Bread, rice, pasta, cereal, grains, nuts & shells**

**Meat, poultry, seafood** (including shells and bones)

**Dairy & Eggs** (including shells, no liquids)

**Paper products** (including clean or dirty paper towels, plates, napkins, egg cartons & pizza boxes)

**Plants, cut flowers, leaves, grass, branches, weeds**

### DO NOT INCLUDE:

Plastic (including plastic bags), Styrofoam, glass, diapers, metal, liquids, grease, oil & pet waste



For more information on composting at home, visit [IllinoisComposts.org](http://IllinoisComposts.org)



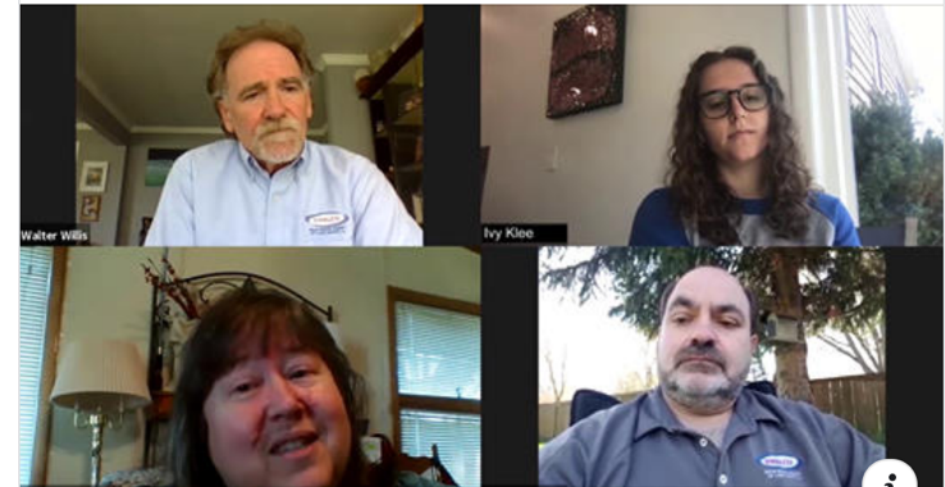
Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO)

May 9 · 🌐



Over the past week we have been celebrating International Compost Awareness Week and highlighting the work that SWALCO and our partners have accomplished in advancing composting throughout Lake County. Please watch this video to learn more about our accomplishments and how you can help improve our environment by composting at home.

#SWALCO #soil loves compost #icaw2020 #ILcomposts  
<https://youtu.be/pXFRoObsg-w>



YOUTUBE.COM

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County Celebrated International Compost Awareness Week



# Applying knowledge

- ▶ Creatively Solving Problems
  - ▶ Compost End Use
  - ▶ Circular Economy
  - ▶ Cart Tag Program - contamination in curbside recycling
  - ▶ Working with County and Municipalities
    - ▶ Waste Audits
    - ▶ Surveys
    - ▶ Data reports
    - ▶ Databases
    - ▶ Research



# Importance of Collaboration

- ▶ Collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders to move waste industry and recycling/composting goals forward
  - ▶ Municipalities and residents
  - ▶ Schools
  - ▶ Local restaurant and business owners
  - ▶ County government and other regional government agencies
  - ▶ Federal government and Springfield/State reps
  - ▶ Task Forces/Initiative Groups - Illinois Food Scrap Coalition, Wasted Food Action Alliance, Lake County Circular Economy, Chicago Sustainability Task Force to name a few
  - ▶ Green Companies and consultants
  - ▶ The Greenest Region Corps!

# Thank you! Questions?

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