

Compost Use by Local Government: Policies and Projects
December 3, 2020

Gregg Thompson, City of Eagan Watershed Specialist

Title: City of Eagan – Soil Management for Stormwater Volume Control

Gregg Thompson graduated from South Dakota State University in 1994. He provides technical support to reduce stormwater runoff impacts on water resources, through land projects and watershed stewardship activities. Originally from a farm in South Dakota, where he began his fascination with soil, vegetation, and water, his background is in landscape architecture with over 30 years of experience working in residential, commercial, agricultural, and public-land projects.

Joseph Shamala, City of St. Louis Park Sr. Engineering Project Manager

Title: You can use “Organics – coming to a boulevard near you.

Joseph Shamala leads the public engagement, design, and construction of multi-million-dollar public infrastructure projects.

In 7 years with the City of St. Louis Park – he has overseen the construction of over 50 million dollars of infrastructure. He has also lead award winning projects receiving awards from the American Public Works Association, City Engineers Association of Minnesota, and the American Council of Engineering Companies.

Prior to joining St. Louis Park, Joseph worked as a consultant for 3 years and for the City of Chanhassen for 7 years.

A graduate from the University of Minnesota, Joseph holds a degree in Civil Engineering and is a licensed professional engineer in the State of MN. When not hard at work delivering quality projects to the residents, Joseph enjoys fishing, traveling, and coaching youth sports.

Kala Fisher, City of St. Louis Park Solid Waste Manager

Title: Developing City Policy: Compost derived from the City’s Curbside Collection Program.

Kala is the Solid Waste Manager for the City of St. Louis Park. Kala oversees residential recycling and organics recycling programs for the city and has served in similar roles at the county and regional level in both Florida and Minnesota. She has worked with commercial composters, haulers, educators, businesses, schools, and residents to expand organics recycling and promote the use of compost. Kala is a graduate of St. Cloud State University where she majored in Environmental Studies.

Chuck Joswiak, Specialized Environmental Technologies, Inc.

Title: “Food for thought - The necessity of organics end use markets.”

Chuck is the Sales Manager at SET while helping oversee the daily operations at the 6 main compost processing and transfer facilities they operate around the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area. For over 20 years he has helped develop and educate others on the diverse uses and opportunities for compost so that it can be looked at as a resource rather than just a necessity in our current diversion systems. Knowing that different feedstocks and processing systems will provide finished composts that are not always equal is key to operating a successful program. Markets for those finished compost products can be challenging if we choose to look at compost as a generic all-encompassing product used for every application.