Minnesota Composting Council

1:00-2:00 pm
MNCC 2025 Annual Meeting
Board Election Results

Marcus Zbinden
Chair, MNCC

2:00-3:00 pm
Residential Organics Toolkit
Launch & Educational Session

Kellie Kish, MNCC
Ryan Johnson, Framework

3:00-4:00 pm
Dakota Prairie Composting
Facilities Tour

Dustin Montey
CCOM Director

4:30-6:00 pm
Happy Hour
Golden Kitchen, Chaska

207 N. Chestnut St
Chaska

mncompostingcouncil.org

lovetocompost.com

Annual Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Board election results
- Acknowledgements
- 2025 MNCC highlights
- Committee updates

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MNCC Mission

The Minnesota Composting Council is the MN State Chapter of the United States Composting Council. As a state affiliate of the USCC, the MNCC is dedicated to the development, expansion, and promotion of the composting industry based upon sound science, principles of sustainability, and economic viability.

The organization will achieve its mission by:

- Encouraging and guiding research
- Promoting best management practices
- Establishing standards
- Educating professionals and the public, and
- Enhancing product quality and markets.

Thank You 2025 Officers and Board Members

Officers

- Marcus Zbinden – Carver County, Chair
- Ginny Black – Past Chair
- Nick Vetsch – Alliant, Secretary
- Kellie Kish – City of Minneapolis, Treasurer
- Jake Duame – SET/WM, At-Large

Board Members

- Kris Coperine – Circular Action Alliance
- Dori Decker – Resource Renew
- Kala Fisher – City of St. Louis Park
- Chuck Joswiak – Bioenergy Devco
- Dustin Montey – SMSC/Dakota Prairie
- Aric Olsen – Vonco
- Nathan Reinbold – Minnesota Pollution Control

MNCC Staff

MNCC Executive Director
Mary Cich

- US EPA Recycling Education and Outreach Grant - Project Manager
- Administration
- Membership
- Partnerships
- Events

2026 Board Changes

Returning to the Board

Dori Decker
Resource Renew

Kala Fisher,
City of St. Louis Park

Kellie Kish
City of Minneapolis

Joining the Board

Shannon Pinc
NatureWorks

Zachary McCarty
City of Richfield

Special Thanks to our Outgoing Board Members

Ginny Black

- Retired from the MPCA as…
- One of the founders of the Minnesota Composting Council
- Served on the Board of Directors since the MNCC's inception
- Served as Board Chair for over 10 years

Kris Coperine

- MNCC Board: 3 Years
- BOD Executive Committee: Vice Chair 1 year
- Legislative Committee: Co-Chair
- MNCC's Representative: MPCA Packaging Extended Producers Responsibility Advisory Board

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This year's GreenCorps member

2025-26 GreenCorps member
Addie Morrissette

- Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Support
- Plate to Garden
- International Compost Awareness Week
- Education & Communications
- General Support

Former GreenCorps members

Jake Duame 2014- 2015 – SET a WM company (MNCC Board)

Monica Johnson 2025- 2016 - Medical Field

Lydia Kopf 2017-2018 - City of St. Paul

Jamie Marsh 2018-2019 City of Chanhassen

Mikala Larson 2019-2020 - City of Hopkins

Megan Monson 2022-2023 - HIS Haven Ranch

Zach McCarty 2023-2024: City of Richfield (MNCC Board)

Zaria Romero 2024 -2025: GreenCorp, Great Plains Institute

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2025 Highlights

1. USCC Award
2. Kevin Tritz Golf Tournament
3. Compost Operators Training

2024 USCC Chapter of Excellence Award

2025 USCC Conference in Phoenix, Arizona

Accomplishments outlined in the award:

- USEPA REO Grant recipient
- White Paper – Standardizing Compost by Defining Properties, Products and Systems in Minnesota
- Kevin Tritz Memorial Fund Management
- Legislative efforts

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Kevin Tritz Memorial Golf Tournament

Summary of 2025 event:

- 5th Annual
- 9- Holes
- Como Park Golf Course
- Held on August 14, 2025
- Forty Golfers (10 Teams)
- Over $12,000 raised in 2025
- Supports education and research for the composting industry

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Kevin Tritz Memorial Golf Tournament

Presenting Sponsors

SET Specialized Environmental Technologies

WM

Golf Cart Sponsor

HENNEN EQUIPMENT, INC.

Happy Hour Sponsors

VONCO

LORAS COLLEGE

Ruffridge Johnson

Hole Sponsors

RAMSEY/WASHINGTON RECYCLING & ENERGY
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SWS

Xcel Energy®

DAKOTA PRAIRIE COMPOSTING

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Compost Operators Training

Summary of event:

- 30 total participants
- 18 different organizations represented
- Furthest distance traveled - Illinois
- 2 Trainers (Iowa State and UWSP)
- 8 topic speakers
- Hottest pile - 138º F
- Committee members: Dori Decker, Ginny Black, Marcus Zbinden, MaryCich, Nick Vetsch and Aric Olsen

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Compost Operators Training - Sponosrs

Thanks to our sponsors

WM

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Resource Renew
The brand of WLSSD

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Committee Updates

Current MNCC Committees

- Legislative and Environmental Affairs
- Compost Site Operations
- Communications
- Membership Retention and Recruitment
- Grants
- Events
- Sponsorship and Funds Development
- REO Grant Committees

All MNCC members are welcome to participate in committees.

Legislative Committee

2025 Priorities

Supporting Kris on Packaging EPR Advisory Board
Compostable Product Labeling law

2026 Legislative Platform

Maintaining integrity of Packaging and Printed Paper EPR Law
Program funding: SCORE
Defining compost
Require yard waste composting facilities to meet PRFP
Market Development
Education
Compost use in public projects
Yard waste: extending metro bagging requirement law statewide

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Compost Site Operations Committee

Co-Chairs:
Nathan Reinbold
and Ginny Black

Committee members:
- Dori Decker
- Chuck Joswiak
- Dustin Montey
- Kellie Kish
- Dan Krivit
- John Springman
- Nick Vetsch
- Gwen Jenkins
- John Exner
- Jake Duame
- Erin Skelly

Compost Certification Program in partnership with MnDOT and Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA)
- Pilot program

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Communications Committee

Chair: Mary Cich
Committee Members: Kala Fisher, Kellie Kish & Nathan Reinbold

2025 Activities:

- Social media, newsletters and website content
- ICAW Educational campaign

2026 Goals:

- Develop a communications plan to find and share pertinent industry information
- MNCC website refresh

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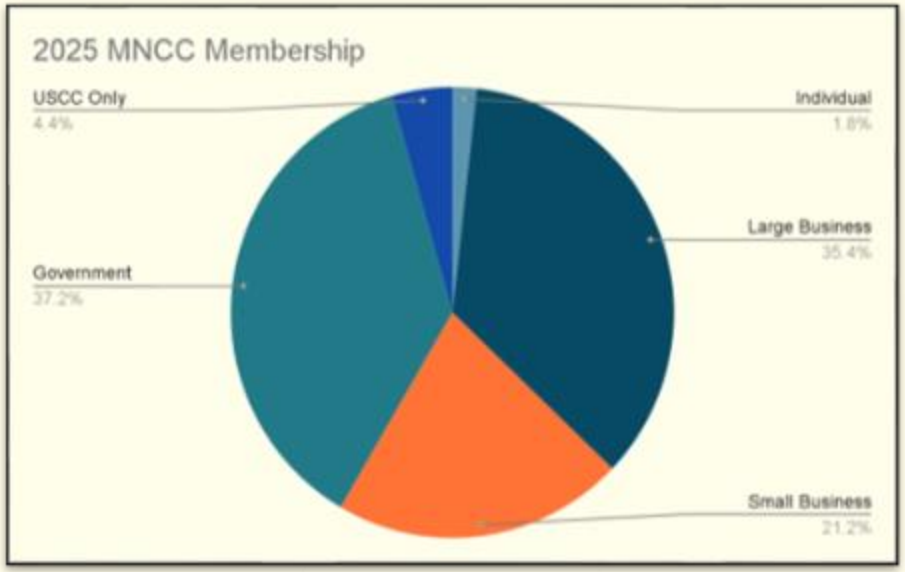
Membership Committee

Chair: Kala Fisher
Committee Members:
Mary Cich, Kris Coperine & Kellie Kish

2025 Members

- **113 total members**
- 42 Government
- 40 Large Business
- 24 Small Business
- 5 USCC Only
- 2 Individual



2026 Priorities

- Expand membership by 25%
- Increase membership engagement
- Annual membership updates - Virtual
- Annual "State of Organics Recycling" event

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Events Committee

Chair: Mary Cich
Sub-Committees: Plate to Garden, Compost Operator Training, Greater MN & Ad-hoc

2025 Activities

April: Plate to Garden events kick-off (Through May)

May: International Compost Awareness Week & Urban Growler - PTG Compost Giveaway

Aug: Kevin Tritz Memorial Golf Tournament

Sep: 3-Day Compost Operators Training

Nov: Annual Meeting/Toolkit Launch Event

2025-26 Priorities

- Continue with current events
- Add member networking events
- Residential organics event

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2025 Plate to Garden Events

- Background
- Events
- Results

plate to garden COMPOST
Recycling organics to help the Earth
MN Composting Council
Be Loyal to Your Soil: Compost!

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2025 Plate to Garden

Sponsors

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SET Specialized Environmental Technologies

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REO Grant Committees

- Gabrielle Batzko
- Ginny Black
- Mary Cich
- Jake Duame
- Kala Fisher
- Kellie Kish
- Cassandra Meuffels
- Dustin Montey
- Nick Rich-Vetsch
- John Springman
- Marcus Zbinden

Project title: **Organics Recycling Toolkit: Increasing Participation & Decreasing Contamination**

Grant award amount: $934,947

Grant Start Date: May 28, 2024

3-year grant

Kevin Tritz Memorial Research and Educational Fund

Total funds raised: Over $46,000

Past Projects of the MNCC and the KTMF

- Standardizing Compost by Defining Properties, Products and Systems in Minnesota White Paper
- Phosphorus & Compost whitepaper
- Stakeholder for MPCA Stormwater Manual Updates
- Economic Impact of Composting in MN Studies (2014, 2018 & 2022)
- CREF Scholarship fund for college students performing composting research
- Sponsoring CREF International Compost Awareness Week

Thank you to our Strategic Partners

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Thank you!

Anything you'd like to share?

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