







STATE OF FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING IN INDIANA - 2020

Food waste comprises roughly 22% of all landfill volume, making it the single largest category of Municipal Solid Waste in America ([REFED, 2019](#)). With an average national recycling rate of 5.3%, food waste is also one of the least recycled waste streams ([EPA, 2015](#)). Inspired by this unrealized opportunity for green jobs, carbon capture, improved soil health, and more, the Indiana Food Scrap Initiative (IFSI) set out to measure the state of food waste composting in the Hoosier state.

This white paper compares Indiana to adjacent states, Illinois and Ohio, against a set of four indicators selected based on data availability and communication power. IFSI hopes this snapshot serves as a starting point for discourse that leads to informed, local solutions that increase food waste composting activities across Indiana. Primary sources of data from the most recent year were used wherever possible; IFSI recommends annually tracking and reevaluating Indiana against this set of indicators, with the potential of tracking more indicators as data becomes more readily available.








INDICATOR 1. PERMITTED FOOD WASTE COMPOST SITES	TOTAL COMPOST SITES 	FOOD WASTE COMPOST SITES 	LAND AREA 	POPULATION 	FOOD WASTE COMPOST SITES PER CAPITA*
Illinois 2018 (IL EPA, 2019 & IFSC, 2019)	51	14 permitted to accept 6-8 currently accepting 50% actively using permit	57,915 sq mi	12,741,080	1 per 1,820,154 people
Indiana 2018 (IDEM, 2018)	103	14 permitted to accept 7 currently accepting 50% actively using permit	36,418 sq mi	6,691,878	1 per 955,982 people
Ohio 2019 (OH EPA, 2019)	316	27 registered 19 currently accepting 70% actively using permit	44,823 sq mi	11,689,442	1 per 615,233 people

*calculated by dividing population by number of compost sites currently accepting food waste (7 - the average - was used for Illinois)









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INDICATOR 2. FOOD WASTE AS A PERCENT OF MATERIAL COMPOSTED	TOTAL COMPOST 	TOTAL FOOD WASTE COMPOSTED 	% COMPOST THAT IS FOOD WASTE 
Illinois 2014 (CDM Smith, 2014) 	560,700 tons	28,600 tons	5%
Indiana 2018 (IDEM, 2019; IFSI, 2019) 	448,831 tons	7,149 tons	1.6%
Ohio 2018 (OH EPA, 2019) 	1,399,196.5 tons	41,723.39 tons	3%
United States 2017 (US EPA, 2017) 	27,000,000 tons (MSW only)	2,600,000 tons	9.6%*

*In 2014, BioCycle reported the average percent of food waste in compost was 7%. EPA figures corroborate that this percentage is steadily growing.

INDICATOR 3. COMMUNITY ACCESS TO COMPOST COLLECTION*	HAULERS 	HOUSEHOLD ACCESS* 	SUBSCRIPTIONS 
Illinois 2019 	19 haulers 14 residential & commercial 5 commercial only 0 residential only (IFSC, 2019)	2,828,543 / 4,818,452 total HH (IFSI, 2019)* 59% of households have access 148,000 / 4,818,452 (BioCycle, 2017)** 12,500 HH's served / 4,818,452 HH with access (US EPA, 2014)***	No data available
Indiana 2019 	8 haulers 5 residential & commercial 3 commercial only (IFSI, 2019)	585,127 / 2,537,189 HHs (IFSI, 2019) 23% of households have access	537 residential & commercial (IFSI, 2019)
Ohio 2019 	7 haulers	751,142 / 4,445,773 (IFSI, 2019) 17% of households have access 73,889 / 4,633,145 (US EPA, 2014) 443 / 4,633,145 (BioCycle, 2017)	No data available

Note on Indicator 3: Uniformity and availability of data for this indicator is lacking. To demonstrate the variability of this data, in the household access column, the most recent, credible sources are listed; that includes primary data calculation by IFSI.








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*IFSI 2019 calculations use US Census 2018 population and household estimates for to estimate service areas listed by haulers. From there, household access is calculated as the total number of households within a hauler’s specified service area.

**BioCycle 2017 “Residential Food Collection in the US” report does not include private haulers, only programs that are actively offered or supported by local government - so these figures are comparatively low.



***US EPA 2014 “Food Waste Management in the US” report cites the “BioCycle Residential Food Waste Collection” report and primary surveys.

<p>INDICATOR 4.</p> <p>POLICIES THAT PROMOTE FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING</p>	<p>EASE OF PERMITTING</p> 	<p>GRANTS & ECONOMIC TOOLS</p> 	<p>DIVERSION TARGETS & MANDATES</p> 	<p>PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMS</p> 
	<p>Permit Exemptions</p> <p>10% Ridealong Program - Public Act 96-0418 of 2009 states that if food waste is <10% of total compost volume, no additional permit required</p>	<p>Compost-Amended Soil Construction Act</p> <p>HB 4790 of 2018 requires any State agency undertaking a landscaping project using off-site soil must request a bid for compost, and incorporate compost into the project if the compost bid is < or = to using soil and requires the IL DOT conduct two pilot projects using compost and report findings to IL General Assembly</p>	<p>Solid Waste Planning & Recycling Act</p> <p>ILCS 415.15 of 1994 requires each county to regionally recycle 25% of the MSW they generate</p>	<p>Illinois Food Scrap Coalition</p> <p>Group advancing diversion and composting of organics in Illinois through advocacy, program implementation, market and business development, policy, and outreach</p> <p>Offers resources, technical assistance, networking, and advocacy</p>



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	<p>Permit Exemptions</p> <p>Indiana's food waste composting permit is housed within yard waste permit therefore there is no need to acquire a second, new permit, just note it in your registration renewal.</p> <p>Sites <300 sq ft</p> <p>If generation & composting occurs onsite</p>	<p>Recycling Market Development Program</p> <p>\$1-\$2M grant fund dedicated to growing recycling in Indiana</p> <p>Up to \$250,000</p> <p>50% cash match required</p> <p>2019 started encouraging food waste projects</p>	<p>Statewide 50% Recycling Goal</p> <p>HEA 1183, 2014 established IN's 50% (LINK) recycling rate goal & required yearly reporting on progress</p> <p>Composting included with recycling</p> <p>Not mandated to reach goal by a target year</p>	<p>Indiana Food Scrap Initiative</p> <p>Group of stakeholders working to eliminate food waste in Indiana - increasing food waste composting is a selected strategy</p> <p>Offers resources, technical assistance, networking, and research</p>
	<p>Permit Exemptions</p> <p>Sites <500 sq ft</p> <p>Four classes of compost facilities with varying levels of requirements - food scraps can be composted at Class II facilities which is the third most stringently regulated.</p>	<p>Recycling Market Development Grants</p> <p>MDG began 25 years ago</p> <p>Up to \$250,000</p> <p>50% cash match required</p> <p>In 2006, started encouraging food waste projects</p>	<p>State Solid Waste Management Plan</p> <p>HB 592, 1988 delineates general goals but with no specific diversion rates or target years. The 2009 update includes furthering food waste composting as a goal</p>	<p>Ohio Food Scraps Recovery Initiative</p> <p>Program housed within Ohio EPA that offers resources, technical assistance, regulatory information, and advocacy for food waste composting</p> <p>Partnerships OH EPA & Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction partner to convert closed livestock barns into regional composting facilities with private industries.</p> <p>Select offenders are trained as certified composting facility operators and certified manure managers so they can fill the demand for well trained workers at composting facilities. The two agencies are working on developing 10 such facilities through the state.</p> <p>Training The Ohio State University offers compost training certification course</p>



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Appendix

Table 1. Illinois Community Access Calculations

County in Illinois	Population	Households
McHenry	308,760	110,860
Cook	5,211,263	1,956,561
Lake	703,462	244,523
Kane	515,269	175,930
DuPage	916,924	340,669
TOTAL	7,655,678	2,828,543

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 - 2018.

Table 2. Indiana Community Access Calculations

County or City in Indiana	2018 Population Estimate	Households
Marion / Indianapolis - County	954,670	367,215
Fort Wayne - City	267,633	104,842
Terre Haute - City	60,753	22,723
Bloomington - City	84,981	30,569



Ellettsville - City	6,676	2,773
Carmel - City	93,510	33,158
Whitestown - City	8,627	2,309
Zionsville - City	27,153	9,217
IU Bloomington - Campus	48,514	12,321
TOTAL	1,552,517	585,127

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 - 2018.

Table 3. Ohio Community Access Calculations

Hauler	Service Area	Population Served	Households
Organix	Ohio - statewide service area listed	-	-
Athens-Hocking Organics	City of Athens, Chauncey, The Plains, Nelsonville, and surrounding areas*	25,214 + 1,049 + 3,080 + 5,292 + 2,000	12,211*
Better Bin Compost	Columbia Tusculum, Hyde Park, Mount Lookout, Oakley, Over-the-Rhine, East Walnut Hills (Cincinnati)	301,301	136,180
Rust Belt Riders	Northeast OH/Cleveland - commercial only (curbside anticipated, not yet available)	385,525	211,902
Innovative Organics Recycling	Columbus region; >1,100 residences through City of Bexley's Food Waste Recycling Pilot; drop off recycling in New Albany	879,170	345,282
The Compost Exchange	Columbus (curbside & drop off)	879,170	345,282
Compost Dayton	Dayton & surrounding metro area	140,371	57,778
	TOTAL	1,743,002	751,142

Source: US Census Bureau 2010-2018 and primary research.

*no household data for these cities available so total population divided by three.