OHIO ORGANICS COUNCIL

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, November 12, 2026

Procter Camp & Conference Center
11235 State Route 38, London, Ohio 43140

MORNING: policy, people and planning

8:30–9:00 a.m. — **Registration**

9:00–9:15 a.m. — **Welcome and USCC Update**

Nathan Rutz, Rust Belt Riders; Chris Snow, USCC (recorded)

Start the day together and hear a national view of composting.

9:15–10:00 a.m. — **OHOC Policy**

Elsa Higby, Ohio Organics Council

Learn about OHOC's policy work and ways to help move it forward.

10:00–11:00 a.m. — **Connecting with Community Leaders**

Ron Miller, Holmes Township; Jennifer Michaelson, Clark County Health Department; Michelle Balz, Hamilton County ReSource.
Moderator: David Andre, GoZERO.

Build trust with local officials and neighbors. Find ways to solve problems and act on new ideas.

11:00–11:15 a.m. — **Morning Break**

11:15 a.m.–noon — **Planning and Markets**

Ángel Arroyo-Rodríguez, Ohio EPA; Marcie Kress, ReWorks.

Hear about Ohio's organics and solid waste plans. Learn how the Materials Management Advisory Council (MMAC) guides state planning and markets.

Noon–12:45 p.m. — **Lunch**

12:45–1:00 p.m. — **Annual Business Meeting**

Nathan Rutz, Rust Belt Riders

Council business and member votes.

Conference Resources

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AFTERNOON: leadership and lessons from the field

1:00–1:30 p.m.

State Leadership

John Logue, Director, Ohio EPA.
Kip Studer, Conservation Programs Manager, Ohio Department of Agriculture.
Moderator: Nathan Rutz, Rust Belt Riders.

Hear state leaders' views on organics, nutrients and opportunities to work together.

1:30–1:40 p.m.

Ohio EPA: Annual Composting Update

Phil Cherosky and Tony Blevins, Ohio EPA.

Hear the agency's annual composting update.

1:40–1:50 p.m.

CREF Update

Diane Hazard, Compost Research & Education Foundation (recorded).

Learn about compost research, education and industry resources.

1:50–2:00 p.m.

Afternoon Break

2:00–2:45 p.m.

Commercial Operators

Rosie Berger, Hirzel Canning Company and Farms; Marie Beroske Hopkins, Queen City Commons; Kevin Watson, Rathlin Soils; Ross Andre, Andre Farms; Blake Williams, The Compost Exchange.
Moderator: Mike Stepic, Rubber City Engineering and Environmental.

Share practical lessons from commercial composting.

2:45–3:30 p.m.

Institutional Operators

Patrick LaPerle, University of Dayton; Steve Mack, Ohio University; Tim Sundrup, Xavier University; Jerry "JD" Compston, SWACO.
Moderator: David Andre, GoZERO.

Share lessons from campus and institutional composting.

3:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Nathan Rutz, Rust Belt Riders

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