

Preconference Workshop Foundations of Composting

This intensive and interactive one-day training will cover the basic concepts, practices and “how to’s” of commercial compost production. The course will provide a broad foundation for novice compost operators, managers and regulators and will refresh veteran composters on the underlying scientific principles. Subjects will include: Basic principles of composting, process insights, facility design and management, feedstock properties, qualities of compost, odor control, major processing methods, and an overview of markets for compost.

Serves as a *review* in preparation for the Certified Compost Operations Manager™ test or the Certified Composting Professional™ test.

Instructors: Dr. Robert Rynk and Matthew Cotton

Fee: \$310 for USCC members, \$385 for nonmembers

Duration: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, with one hour for lunch (not included)

CCOM™/CCP™ PDHs: 7.5

Schedule

8:00 – 8:30 am	Greetings, Course Objectives
8:30 – 9:15 am	Why Composting?
9:15 – 10:30 am	Compost Uses, Markets, Compost Quality
10:30 – 10:45 am	Break
10:45 – 12:00 am	Basic Principles of Composting
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch (on your own)
1:00 – 2:30 pm	Composting Methods & Processing Operations
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Siting and Design
3:30 – 3:45 pm	Break
3:45 – 4:30 pm	Management Issues
4:30 pm	Questions and Discussion

About the instructors:

BOB RYNK is Professor at the State University of New York, Cobleskill campus. At SUNY Cobleskill, Bob teaches courses on composting, waste management, renewable energy and agricultural engineering. He also coordinates the Environmental and Energy Technology Bachelor’s degree program at SUNY Cobleskill. In a previous life, Bob was Senior Technical

Editor for *BioCycle* magazine and Executive Editor of the peer-reviewed journal, *Compost Science and Utilization*.

Bob was the editor of the seminal *On-Farm Composting Handbook*, which remains one of the most useful publications on composting.

MATT COTTON has had the privilege of working for some of the best composters in CA for over 30 years. From providing permitting and planning assistance to new and expanding composting facilities, to providing hand's on odor control mitigations and technical assistance, to conducting important statewide studies of the California organics industry. He has also had the opportunity of working closely with CalRecycle to survey the statewide organics processing industry through four infrastructure projects (latest one [here](#)). He has published research on compost odors, compost use, climate impacts, compostable plastics, and compost facility infrastructure.

Mr. Cotton served almost two decades on the Board of the US Composting Council, including serving three consecutive terms as President of the Board. Mr. Cotton is also on the Board of Directors of Californians Against Waste.