



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: \$352 for USCC members, \$435 for nonmembers

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

CCOM™/CCP™ PDHs: 7

Agenda

8:30 – 8:45 am	Greetings, Course Objectives
8:45 – 9:30 am	Why Composting?
9:30 – 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:

Matthew Cotton has worked in the composting industry since 1986. He has served as a consultant, educator, researcher, and advocate for new and expanded organics recycling and composting programs in California and beyond. Mr. Cotton has completed hundreds of significant organics projects, including permitting and assisting in the development of some of the major composting facilities in California. Mr. Cotton served on the Board of Directors of the [US Composting Council](#) for almost two decades, including

three terms as president. He currently serves on the Board of [Californians Against Waste](#). He has published research on compost odors, compost use, climate impacts, compostable plastics, and compost facility infrastructure. Mr. Cotton is a lead instructor for the week-long Compost Operator Training Program operated by the Composting Council's Research and Education Foundation.

Bob Rynk has been researching and teaching about composting for over 30 years. Bob is Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York, Cobleskill campus (SUNY Cobleskill), having retired in 2019. His areas of expertise include waste management, natural treatment processes and alternative energy. At SUNY Cobleskill, Bob taught courses on composting, waste management and bioenergy. He also coordinated the Environmental and Energy Technology Bachelor's degree program at SUNY Cobleskill. Prior to SUNY Cobleskill, Bob was Senior Technical Editor for BioCycle magazine and Executive Editor of the peer-reviewed journal, Compost Science and Utilization. Bob is the principal editor and an author for the recently-published book, *The Composting Handbook*, and editor of its 1992-predecessor, the *On-Farm Composting Handbook*.