



**Pre Conference Workshop FULL DAY
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM**

Foundations of Composting

Perfect for new (or veteran) compost operators, facility managers, and regulators, join us for this intensive, interactive one-day training designed to give you a solid foundation in the science and practice of commercial compost production. This is a great refresher for experienced professionals and covers everything you need to understand and improve composting operations:

- Core principles and biological processes of composting
- Feedstock properties and process management
- Compost quality, testing, and market opportunities
- Environmental concerns: water management, odor control, and good operational practices

This workshop also serves as an excellent **review for the Certified Compost Operations Manager™ or Certified Composting Professional™ exams**. Build your confidence, sharpen your technical know-how, and take your composting expertise to the next level! Because we all need to be better composters.

Join Bob Rynk, Editor of [The Composting Handbook](#) and Matt Cotton, Lead Instructor for CREFs [Compost Operator Training Courses](#) for an enlightening day of compost theory and practice with lots of time for questions and answers.

Instructors:

Matt Cotton - Owner, Integrated Waste Management Consulting, LLC
Dr. Bob Rynk - Professor, Emeritus, SUNY Cobleskill

Fee: \$445.00 for USCC members, \$495.00 for nonmembers

Duration: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, with one hour for lunch (on your own)

Date: February 2, 2026

CCOM™/CCP™ PDHs: 7

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.