



US COMPOSTING  
COUNCIL

## ACP – USCC State Chapter Proposal:

**A Proposal for the Association of Compost Producers (ACP) to be a  
“State Chapter” of the U.S. Composting Council (USCC)**

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### **By ACP Board of Directors**

Jeff Ziegenbein, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, ACP Board President  
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The purpose of this Proposal is to establish the specific steps and mutual benefits and obligations of the Association of Compost Producers (ACP, [www.healthsoil.org](http://www.healthsoil.org)) to become affiliated as a “State Chapter” with the US Compost Council (USCC, [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)).

State and National Chapter membership will apply to *existing* and *prospective joint* ACP & USCC members. Joint ACP & USCC membership standards:

- 1) Are consistent with the USCC guidelines for “existing 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations wishing to become affiliated with the USCC”; following the “USCC State Composting Association” procedure in the USCC “Procedure for State Affiliations,” (see Appendix, of this proposal) and
- 2) Are based on ACP membership dues structure modified to be more consistent with the USCC membership dues structure. The dues structure changes are designed to encourage State USCC members to additionally become Supporting members in a structure similar to that of USCC, to avoid confusion.

This proposal includes a formal “policy and procedure document”, to be approved by both the ACP and USCC Boards of Directors, as needed to make this a formal relationship between the two existing associations for their joint members and member benefits.

## Proposal Elements:

### 1. Revised ACP Membership Guidelines - A Two Tiered ACP Membership

The ACP membership dues structure provides a “two tiered” choice for State Chapter (ACP) membership, as follows:

**Tier 1: “Basic”** – Membership in ACP as a *Dues Paying Member of USCC*, with one or more facility or office locations in the State of California (ACP receives 10% of their USCC Annual Dues).

**Tier 2: “Supporting” - California Compost Market Expansion** – Additional dues payment to ACP to help fund the member’s own and the state compost market expansion, i.e. the quantity and quality–price–of compost being sold in California, using ACP’s unique set of *compost market expansion tools*, combined with ongoing work that supports compost and composter friendly California regulations.

### 2. ACP – USCC Joint Membership Dues Structure

Member Level	Compost Production or Sales Level	USCC Member & Tier 1 – “Basic” ACP Member	ACP “Supporting” Member Tier 2 – “Supporting” ACP Member
Benefactor	> 100,000 tons/year	\$10,000	\$10,000
Corporate Sustaining	> 50,000 tons/year	\$5,000	\$5,000
Corporate	>25,000 tons/year	\$2,500	\$2,500
Large Business	>100,000 tons/year	\$1,000	\$4,000
Medium Business	> 50,000 tons/year	\$500	\$2,000
Small Business (composter/chip & grind)	<25,000 tons/year	\$250	\$1,000
Small Business (Associate)	Non Composter	\$250	\$500
Large Government	>100,000 tons/year	\$500	\$4,000
Medium Government	> 50,000 tons/year	No Class	\$2,000
Small Government (composter)	<25,000 tons/year	\$250	\$1,000
Small Government (Associate)	Non Composter	\$250	\$500
University	Non Composter	\$250	\$200
Non-Profits	Non Composter	\$250	\$200
Individual (non-voting)	Non Composter	\$100	\$150
Students (non-voting)	Non Composter	\$50	\$25

### 3. Membership Benefits under a Two Tiered California Membership System

#### Basic Members

- Seamless Co-Membership: New and Existing California Members of USCC can seamlessly be members of ACP, at no additional cost to them other than their USCC membership
- ACP Monthly E-Newsletter: Receive a monthly newsletter produced by the ACP Staff that is supported by the “Supporting ACP Members”
- State Representation to USCC: California State representation to the national, USCC, association.
- USCC liaison to State members: Receive routine updates on USCC items provided through committees and the USCC ED.

#### Supporting ACP Members:

- Basic Member Benefits: All the benefits of a Basic Member
- “Supporting” Member Meetings: Participation in ACP Monthly Supporting Members Meetings
- Participation in State funded projects: ACP staff will be technical advisors to State funded compost market expansion projects in which ACP members and professionals are engaged
- ACP Board Participation: Potential for being on State Association Board of Directors and guide the strategy and tactics (policy and initiatives) of ACP
- Organizational Assistance: Cost effective strategic and tactical California compost market expansion services
- Professional Representation: California State Level Compost Projects will receive professional representation by ACP Staff (eg Executive Director)
- Professional Involvement and Consultation: ACP Staff to *support member organization’s compost production and end-use market expansion.*

## Appendix

### ***Procedure for an Existing, 501(c)(3) non-profit (like ACP) to become affiliated with the USCC (as of July 2010)***

#### USCC State Composting Associations

1. New or existing 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations wishing to become affiliated with the USCC must submit a Resolution of their Board of Directors requesting such status to the Executive Director of the USCC.
2. The Executive Director shall refer the request to the State Relations Committee (SRC) of the Board of Directors (BOD) for action.
3. The SRC will communicate with all the new or existing 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to discuss this procedure and to verify that all parties understand their obligations and benefits.
4. The SRC will evaluate the request with respect to other ongoing composting activities in that particular State to ensure that this request for a potential new USCC State Composting Association is consistent with the best interests of the composting industry in that State and with the best interests of the USCC.
5. The SRC will formulate a recommendation to the USCC Executive Director and BOD as to whether to accept the request and to designate this requesting group as the “USCC State Composting Association of (insert State name)”. Once approved by the BOD, the SRC will formally notify the new or existing 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of the BOD decision to accept or reject the application.
6. If accepted, the new or existing 501(c)(3) non-profit organization will be required to sign a “USCC State Composting Council Affiliation Agreement” and to obtain a non-profit group membership in the USCC at the prevailing membership rate (currently \$250.00). In addition, all members of the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization must become full members of the USCC, at the appropriate membership level.
7. Any USCC member in good standing residing in that State will automatically become a member of the new “USCC State Composting Association”.
8. The new “USCC State Composting Association of (insert State name)” will have the following obligations under this Agreement:
  - a. Actively promote all of the USCC programs, both those now in place and those under development;
  - b. Assign one Association member to be that State’s representative on the USCC SRC Committee and to attend the annual State Relations Committee meeting at the Annual Conference.
  - c. Actively promote International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) and designate one Association member to represent that State on the USCC’s ICAW Committee;
  - d. Encourage existing composting facilities to become enrolled in the USCC Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) program and actively work with compost user groups in that State to encourage the development of compost use specifications that require the use of STA compost;

- e. Formally request the appropriate regulatory agencies in that State to require that at least one (1) employee of each composting facility in that State become certified under the USCC's Professional Certification Program;
  - f. Encourage interested parties in that State to become members of the USCC; and
  - g. Provide information to the USCC on composting activities in that State for publication in the "Compost Communicator", the USCC's Quarterly Newsletter;
9. The new "USCC State Composting Association of (insert State name)" will have the following benefits under this Agreement:
- a. The right to use the USCC logo in all Committee communications;
  - b. Ten percent (10%) of all USCC annual dues paid by members of the State Association shall be returned to that State Composting Association by the USCC to help fund state-specific programs;
  - c. Access to the USCC Executive Director, members of the BOD and/or other USCC members to help promote compost industry goals and objectives in that State (subject to schedule and budget limitations);
  - d. The current Chair of the USCC State Composting Association shall have the right to a 25% reduction in registration fees for the Annual Conference and Trade Show of the USCC.
10. Other benefits to be extended to USCC State Composting Associations will be evaluated and added in the future as time, monies and interests allow.