The Growing Community Composting Movement

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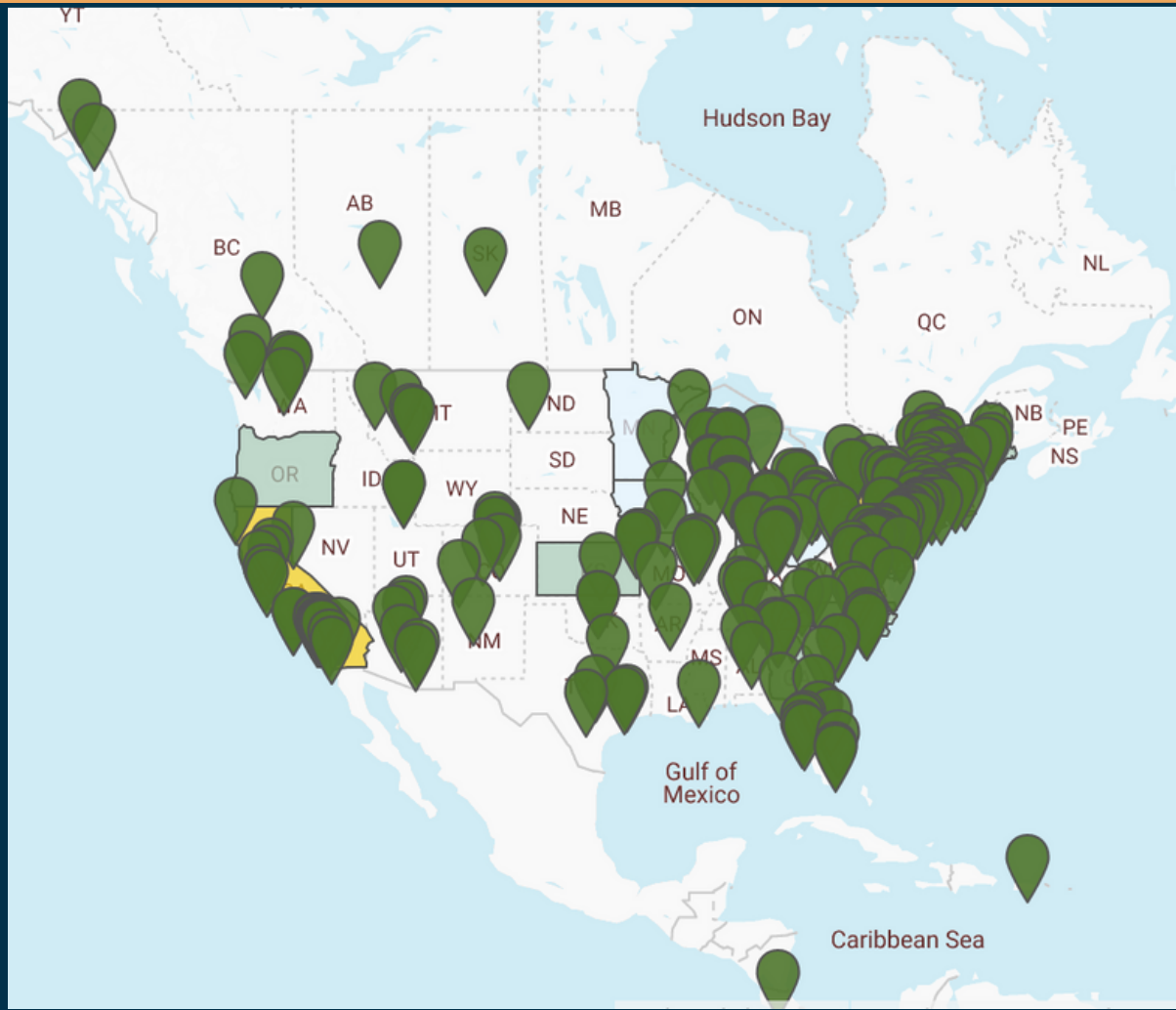
cultivating community composting

Community Composter Coalition

258 members

42 states

+ D.C., Puerto Rico, Canada, Australia, Costa Rica, Iran, Lebanon, New Zealand, U.K.



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Benefits

ilsr.org/composting

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Why a census?

- Representation
- Data for composters themselves
- Baseline for growth
- Document benefits
- Identify challenges

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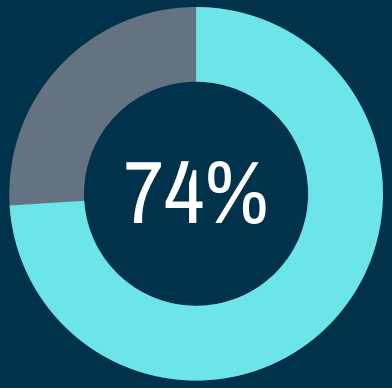
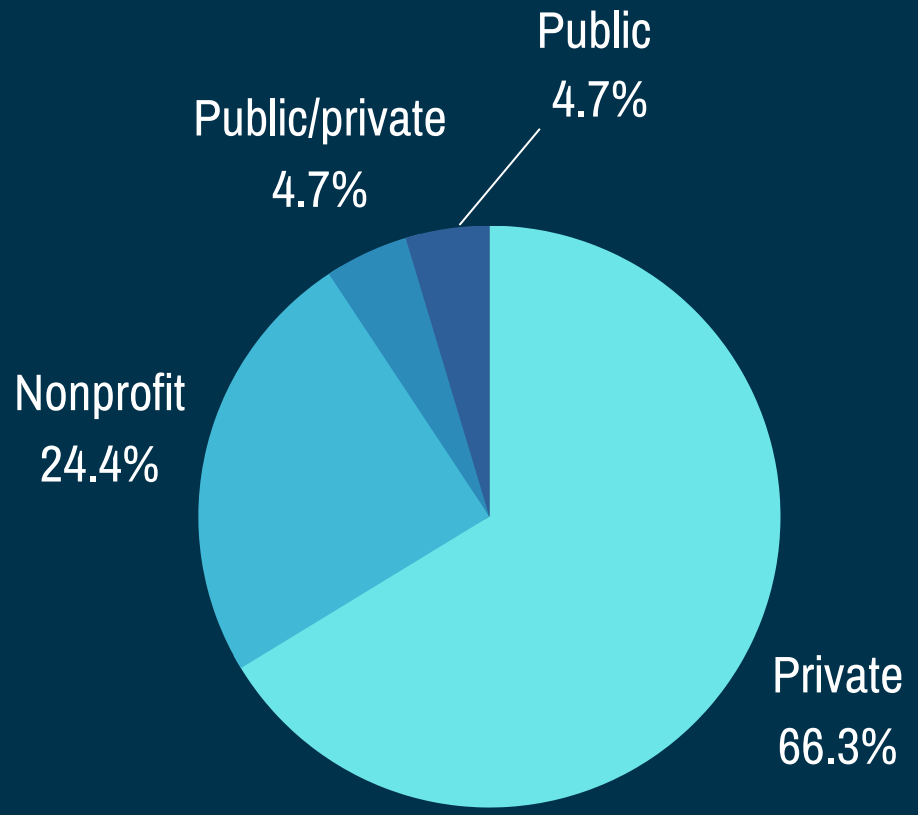
Participants

86 complete responses
33 states (+DC, PR, Canada)



Offer both composting and collection



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Top 5 Revenue Sources

1 Collection service fees

2 Sales of compost

3 Trainings/ workshops/ speaking fees

4 Sales of compost-related products

5 Grants

Community composters have diverse & dynamic operations.

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Windrow

Bin system

Vermicomposting

Static pile

Forced aeration

Passive aeration

Batch system

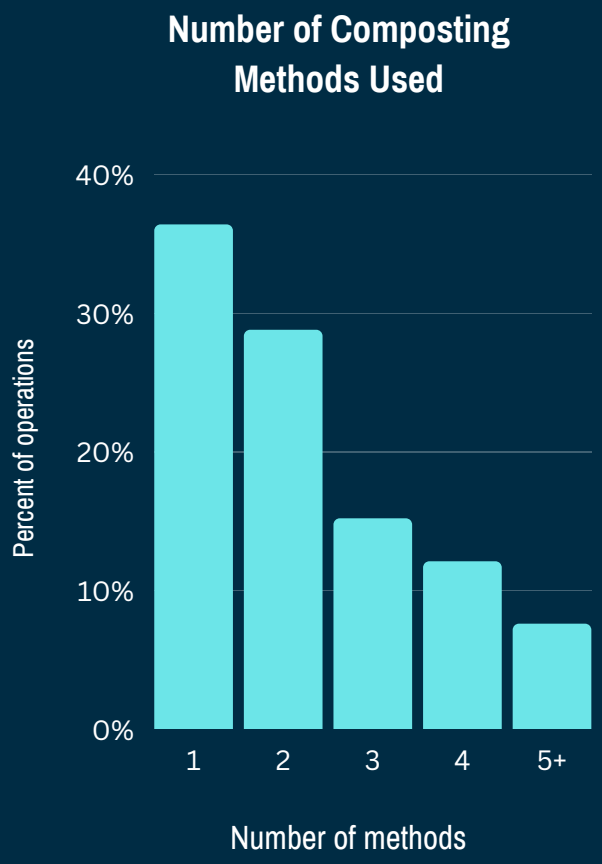
In-vessel

Tumbler

Bokashi

Continuous flow system

& more



1. Windrows

2. Bin System

3. Vermicomposting

Community composting tackles wasted food.

Food = single largest component of solid waste in landfills and incinerators.

Food scraps = **only around 10%** of the total municipal solid waste composted in the U.S.

71%
of U.S. composting operations compost **only yard trimmings**

vs.

97%
of Census respondents report handling **food scraps**

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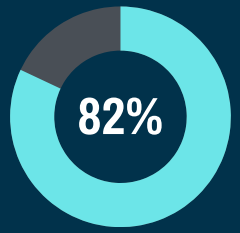
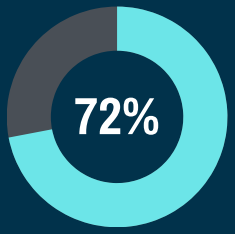
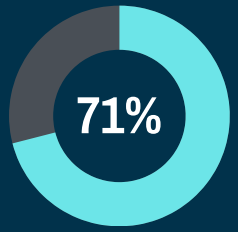
Community Impact



of composting sites located within areas served by collection



use some, most, or all of their product on-site



provide community engagement opportunities

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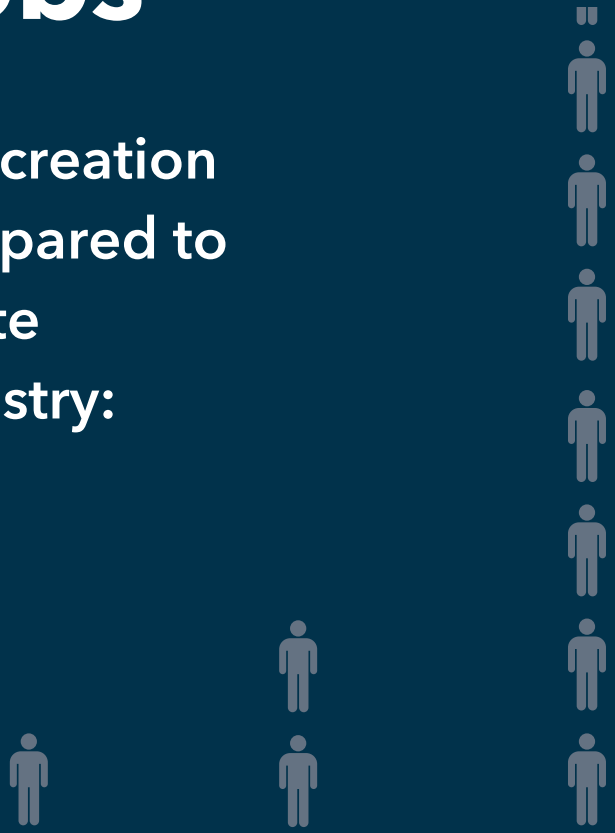
Jobs

Job creation compared to waste industry:



1

job per 10,000 tons per year of material incinerated

2

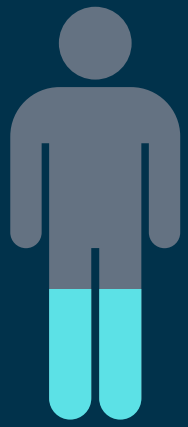
job per 10,000 tons per year of material landfilled

6.2

full-time jobs per 10,000 tons per year of material composted

Waste industry:

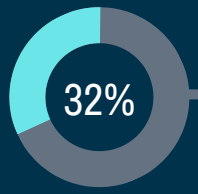
83% male



Community composters:

33% male

Respondents report an average of



LGBTQ+ staff

That's over

4.5x

the national percentage of LGBTQ+ identifying adults in 2021 (x).

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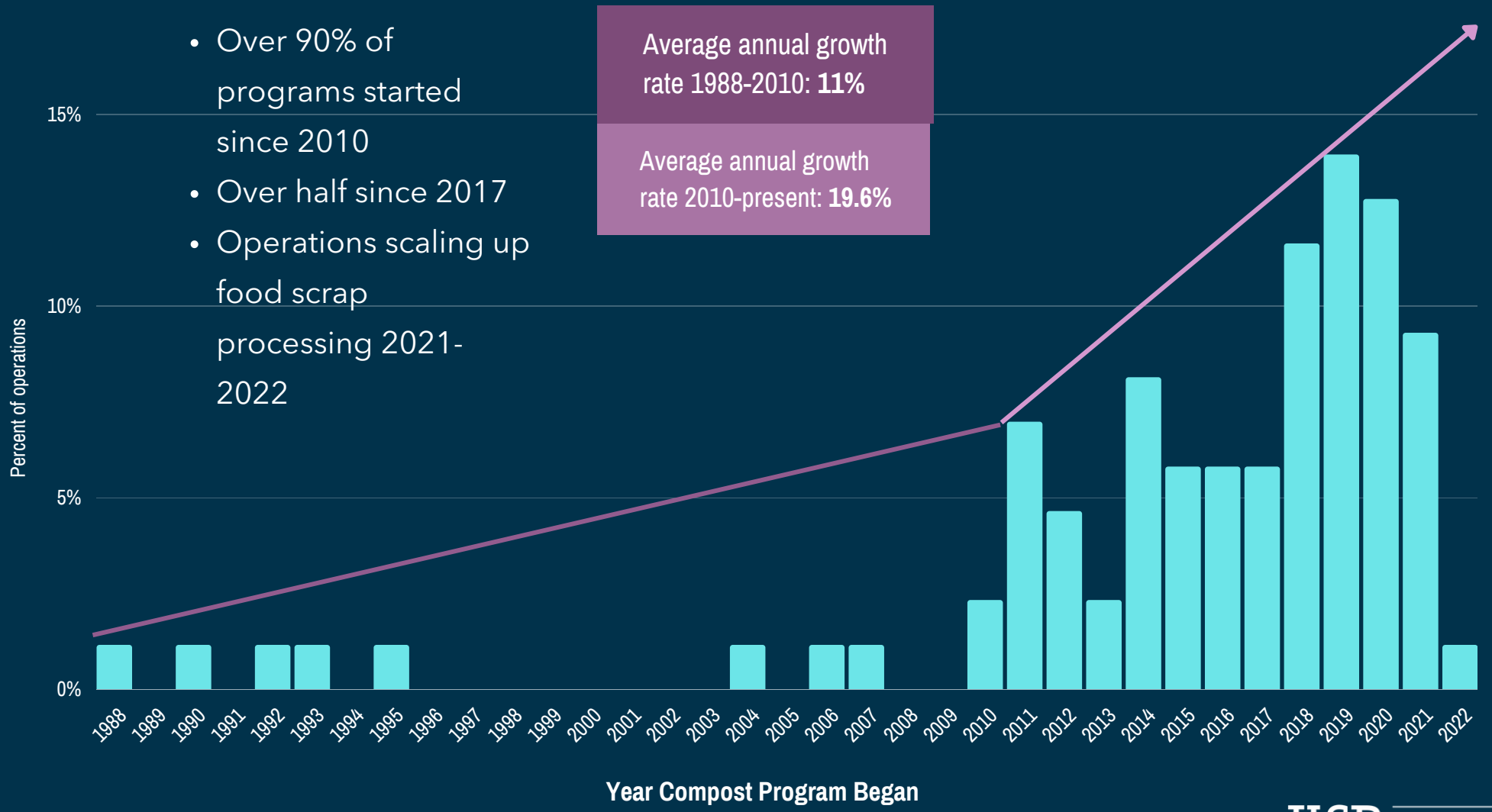
Growth

- Over 90% of programs started since 2010
- Over half since 2017
- Operations scaling up food scrap processing 2021-2022



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Challenges

#1: Scaling up (63%) Graphic included = Over 40%

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What's next for the Community Composter Coalition?

What's next for the Community Composter Coalition?

Census results

Networking

Communication

Peer Learning
Community
Events

Pledge

Leveraging
collective
power

Knowledge-sharing

Collaboration

Grants

Circle.so?

Working groups

Thank you & let's chat!

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