



## June 9 COOLNow Webinar Chat Transcript

*Planning an Onsite Composting Facility • June 9, 2026.*

*Reaction-only and emoji-only messages have been removed for readability.*

**13:03:52 — Neil Seldman:** neil seldman ZW USA

**13:03:52 — Lester Almanza Hernandez:** Lester Almanza, Edmonds food bank

**13:03:54 — Karl Johnson:** Karl Johnson, YES Compost LLC in Belgrade Montana.

**13:03:54 — John Cline:** John Cline, New Earth Farm. Small food waste hauler and composter

**13:03:58 — John Cline:** st louis

**13:03:59 — Tim O'Connor:** Tim O'Connor, Park City Compost Initiative - Bridgeport CT

**13:04:00 — Courtney Curtner:** Courtney Curtner- The Foodbank, Inc. in Dayton, OH!

**13:04:05 — Sandy Briggs:** Greetings from the City of Boulder, Colorado, and the Colorado Composting Council!

**13:04:07 — Robert Wadley:** Robert Wadley, TN Department of Environment and Conservation, Nashville, TN

**13:04:16 — Peter Moon:** Peter Moon: O2Compost in Edmonds, WA

**13:04:17 — Katsi Pena:** Katsi Pena, Salt Lake City Sustainability Department

**13:04:19 — Toby Alves:** Product and Zero Waste Specialist and GMT fan

**13:04:23 — Cheryl Wheeler:** Cheryl Wheeler, Efinity Harvest Farm, Trotwood, Ohio

**13:04:23 — Francisco Niembro:** Francisco Niembro - Aldea Verde - Mexico Hello to everyone!!!

**13:04:34 — Jeff Lundt:** Jeff Lundt - Edmonds WA, helping local food bank determine if composting is appropriate for their operations.

**13:04:35 — Rachael Reese:** Hi! I am on Suquamish Land, also known as Bainbridge Island, WA.

**13:04:35 — Basil Rutz:** Hi, I'm Basil. I work for Schmelly's Dirt Farm in New Orleans. Looking into building out an outreach program to support local gardens develop compost sites

**13:04:35 — Mohammed Hamdi:** Hello, Hamdi from Saudi Arabia

**13:04:36 — John Orrell:** John Orrell, Tacoma WA

**13:04:39 — Celia Peterson:** Hello. I'm Celia from Park City, UT. We are trying to extend the life of our landfill by diverting organics (among other things).

**13:04:40 — Nicole Berg:** Thanks for hosting! I am Nicole and work at the University of Michigan. Although we send most of our food waste off to a large scale commercial compost site, we are interesting in managing our own smaller site for campus-as-lab and circular economy purposes.

**13:04:45 — Emily McDougal:** Chicory Market (Local Grocery store supporting local farmers) Oxford, MS

**13:04:46 — Paige Hermanson:** Hello from eastern South Dakota. Looking to help improve small-scale compost infrastructure. Open-minded to opportunities to get these projects started. Looking forward to this, thank you!

**13:04:47 — Stewart Martin:** Stewart Martin, Providence Gardenworks, Providence RI

**13:04:47 — Ruta Jordans:** Ruta Jordans, Zero Waste Kauai, Kauai, Hawaii

**13:04:47 — Buddy Lane:** Buddy Lane. Golden Heart Waste Management. Fairbanks Alaska.

**13:05:18 — Hayley Howard:** Hello from Hayley with Region D Recycling & SWMD in St. Joseph, MO

**13:05:23 — Heather Trim:** Heather Trim, Zero Waste Washington

**13:05:35 — Alejandra Torres:** Alejandra Torres, Ironbound Community Corporation. Exploring zero waste practices to reduce waste sent to the nearby incinerator and we have an urban garden that accepts some compost!

**13:05:41 — Ashley Kale:** My name is Ashley Kale. I am a Environmental Educator for the Mahoning County Solid Waste District in Ohio. We are in the process of looking into to starting a residential composting program.

**13:05:48 — Stephanie Morris:** Hello from San Diego, CA! I work for a zero waste consultancy called Waste Not Consulting, and I am on the board of a small nonprofit called Sustainability is Sexy. I am interested in small scale composting in general. I see firsthand how slow it has been to get residents and businesses actively separating organics and comply with SB 1383 in California and am wondering if this is a solution for certain situations!

**13:05:56 — Zero Waste USA - Zoom 1:** Zoom Closed Caption Translation:  
<https://zwconference.org/attendee-checklist-2026/> Upcoming Zero Waste USA Events:  
<https://zerowasteusa.org/zwusa-events/> National Zero Waste Conference: Early Bird Registration now for October 21 - 22 <https://zwconference.org/>

**13:06:00 — Kate Wynne:** *(replying to "Alejandra Torres, Ironbound Community Corporation. Exploring zero waste practices to reduce waste sent to the nearby incinerator and we have an urban garden that accepts some compost!")* Kate Wynne, B2G Compost, Winthrop, WA

**13:07:10 — Taryn Davis:** Taryn Davis, Black Hills State University, Spearfish, SD

**13:07:41 — T.O. Bowman:** T.O. Bowman, City of Oklahoma City, Office of Sustainability

**13:08:50 — Gary Liss:** Gary Liss, Zero Waste Associates, Loomis, CA

**13:08:57 — Timothy England:** Hello from the Sierra Nevada in California. I'm with the CA Alliance for Community Composting.

**13:10:20 — Alejandra Torres:** Wishing your mom well, Betsy!

**13:13:42 — Cheryl Wheeler:** Will we have access to PPT following this Webinar?

**13:14:12 — Zero Waste USA - Zoom 1:** *(replying to "Will we have access ...")* Yes

**13:14:47 — allison allen:** allison allen from manhattan solid waste advisory board (mswab)

**13:16:17 — Duane McDonald:** Duane McDonald, City of Fort Smith Solid Waste Services

**13:16:23 — Muguro David Ngige:** Good evening colleagues. Muguro David Ngige of Dajopen Waste Management Solutions in Kitale Kenya. [dngige2006@gmail.com](mailto:dngige2006@gmail.com)

**13:16:43 — Chris Sparnicht - COOLNow - Zero Waste USA:** *(replying to "Good evening colleag...")* Hi David!

**13:16:53 — Neil Seldman:** Funding through shared savings within city:  
<https://www.biocycle.net/detroits-garbage-future/>

- 13:22:05 — Gary Liss:** Permitted under 30 days? AMAZING!
- 13:22:06 — Eduardo Araneda:** Greetings from Southern Chile 🇨🇱. Eduardo Araneda from Temuco.
- 13:22:29 — Eduardo Araneda:** I love Earth Flow
- 13:23:01 — Rachael Reese:** *(replying to "I love Earth Flow")* What does earth flow mean?
- 13:24:25 — T.O. Bowman:** *(replying to "I love Earth Flow")* Earth Flow™ - Green Mountain Technologies
- 13:24:38 — Rachael Reese:** *(replying to "I love Earth Flow")* Thanks!
- 13:25:25 — Tim O'Connor:** *(replying to "I love Earth Flow")* would love to know more about the conditionally exempt permitting - limitations, conditions etc
- 13:25:36 — Gary Liss:** Grants available: <https://www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste/funding> , <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/funding-opportunities-related-wasted-food>, <https://ilsr.org/article/composting-for-community/composting-grants/>
- 13:27:37 — Muguro David Ngige:** Kindly asking, can organization outside USA be funded, especially from global south, who in Circular Economy Entrepreneurship Industry. Like my organization train other actors in composting the urban biodegradable waste.
- 13:27:49 — Gary Liss:** lease-purchase approach is a great idea!
- 13:31:30 — Neil Seldman:** Local success in Baltimore financed by loan from city — <https://ilsr.org/article/composting-for-community/baltimores-camp-small-zero-waste-initiative/>
- 13:31:47 — Gary Liss:** Are most of these "on-site" composting systems located at colleges and universities?
- 13:32:40 — Courtney Curtner:** *(replying to "Are most of these "on-site" composting systems located at colleges and universities?")* Our composting operation and Earth Flow are located at our Urban Garden space at The Foodbank.
- 13:33:29 — Michelle Minstrell:** *(replying to "Are most of these "o..." )* Not necessarily, I've visited them at a Public Works yard (on asphalt), and in a wooded edge of church parking area/park access.
- 13:34:18 — Neil Seldman:** workshop on local financing for composting and reuse; June 24 Community Strategies for Financing Circularity
- 13:34:41 — Courtney Curtner:** *(replying to "Are most of these "on-site" composting systems located at colleges and universities?")* Another example in Ohio that just opened up: Class II Composting Facility Opens in Central Ohio - SWACO, OH

**13:37:03 — Chris Sparnicht - COOLNow - Zero Waste USA:** If you haven't already, please introduce yourself, where you're from and what brings you here!

**13:38:07 — Jordan Lane:** Are all three of these systems capable of processing high food waste feedstock?

**13:38:10 — Charlotte Canner:** Charlotte Canner, Recycling Coordinator in Southern RI

**13:39:00 — Michelle Minstrell:** SWANA Mid-Atlantic chapter will be hosting an in person Compost Operations Certification course this fall: <https://swana-midatl.org/category/training/>

**13:39:04 — Sonal Ferns:** Does this setup require complete waste segregation at source ? Does ambient environmental temperature interfere with the anaerobic digestion process?

**13:39:04 — Courtney Curtner:** *(replying to "Are all three of these systems capable of processing high food waste feedstock?")* We only process food waste feedstock (along with wood chips as a bulking agent) in our Earth Flow.

**13:39:15 — Jordan Lane:** Jordan Lane, R3 Consulting Group, Solid waste consultancy based primarily on the West Coast

**13:39:45 — Maria Bonner:** Maria Bonner, Rural Action Zero Waste Program, based in Southeast Ohio.

**13:39:57 — Pete Moe:** Hi—Pete Moe, The Exchange, Orcas Island WA  
[www.exchangeorcas.org](http://www.exchangeorcas.org)

**13:40:20 — Viviana Ramirez-Luna:** Hey everyone! Joining from St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Atlantic Canada. Co-founder of the NL Composting Co-op, created to support/grow small-scale composting in our province

**13:40:57 — Liv Johansson:** Liv Johansson - Golden Roots Organics Compost Consulting - Washington State

**13:44:58 — Michelle Minstrell:** After your process, you will still need a couple months of curing before the compost is actually ready!

**13:48:00 — Peter Moon:** What was the total cost of the Beaufort County In-Vessel System (including purchase, shipping and commissioning)? Also, what are the operational costs (power demand, operator labor, equipment, etc.)?

**13:48:03 — Sasha Faminoff:** Hi! Question re Earth Flow: does the auger manage to get all the material up off the floor? In the schematics it seems like the auger tip is a bit up off the floor. I wonder if the edges manage to get into the hot parts of the mass. Does the machine have thermometers at the edges, the parts that touch the inside walls?

**13:49:19 — Muguro David Ngige:** Does the Enclosed Aerobic composting release the methane gas to the atmosphere?

**13:53:56 — Robert Wadley:** (*replying to "Does the Enclosed Ae..."*) less than an anaerobic process

**13:54:13 — T.O. Bowman:** Great presentation! I have to run to another meeting.

**13:54:44 — Sasha Faminoff:** Oh sorry! didn't introduce myself. Sasha Faminoff, small scale organic farmer in Gothenburg Sweden (originally from Vancouver BC). Ran an ASP-pilot at the municipal green waste composting site here, now working on starting an on-farm decentralized compost facility.

**13:57:59 — Buddy Lane:** we have a container headed to Alaska in the next few weeks

**13:59:06 — Tim O'Connor:** thank you

**13:59:09 — Gary Liss:** Which states have the best regulations that encourage investments in these small-scale systems (for others to replicate)?

**13:59:23 — Timothy England:** Thanks Betsy!

**13:59:43 — Robert Wadley:** Wouldn't this be the opposite of "hub and spoke"? That term seems more appropriate for "centralized" systems.

**14:00:04 — Ashley Kale:** Could we see and possible take the 5-minute composting quiz to get an idea of the question they ask?

**14:00:17 — Celia Peterson:** In Utah, end markets for compost are having challenges due to PFAS contamination. Are you seeing this in other communities, and are you aware of any invessel units that can destroy those molecules?

**14:00:21 — Duane McDonald:** (*replying to "Does the Enclosed Ae..."*) Aerobic decomposition produces little methane, which is mostly a product of anaerobic decomposition.

**14:04:18 — Paige Hermanson:** Does the system require being filled continuously 7 days a week? Or does it operate if you don't have enough inputs to fill it continuously, and can just fill in as the materials come in?

**14:08:13 — Madison NB:** As for the question about funding in other countries, this was a great question and we have a follow up question. Trying to start community composting in Saudi Arabia. Is there any support material you could point us to or a specific person we could speak to who could guide us a bit with creating a financial spreadsheet that we would present to secure a public/private partnership?

**14:08:39 — Gary Liss:** Camp Small, Baltimore link:

<https://ilsr.org/article/composting-for-community/baltimores-camp-small-zero-waste-initiative/>

**14:10:12 — John Orrell:** What wear parts or maintenance schedule does the Earthflow require? Is this done by a professional or can be done by the operator?

**14:11:26 — Kournii Brown:** *(replying to "Which states have th...")* Hi Gary! We think California has a successful grant model from GGRF funds that invests in regional CC infrastructure development and local jobs, as well as public education and shared learning opportunities statewide. <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/funding/communitycomposting/>

**14:14:27 — Neil Seldman:** ANOTHER MODEL small scale machine is used by Loop Closed, a composting company in Washington, DC that specializes in school site composting. Contact: Jeffrey Neal, <https://fellows.echoinggreen.org/fellow/jeffrey-neal/>

**14:20:14 — James Hoffer:** <https://www.compostcapital.com/>

**14:20:32 — Sasha Faminoff:** Microfinancing? Especially if you are a non-profit

**14:20:37 — Madison NB:** Thank you

**14:21:09 — John Orrell:** <https://www.kiva.org/> Kiva is a good org for international small biz funds raising

**14:21:48 — Celia Peterson:** In case my question was missed: In Utah, end markets for compost are having challenges due to PFAS contamination. Are you seeing this in other communities, and are you aware of any invessel units that can destroy those molecules?

**14:23:07 — Courtney Curtner:** They have excellent customer support (know from experience)! 😊

**14:23:20 — John Orrell:** Are there liners for the container interior?

**14:23:53 — Ruta Jordans:** Please answer the PFAS question!

**14:26:27 — Robert Wadley:** *(replying to "Wouldn't this be the...")* thanks for your explanation

**14:27:05 — Ashley Kale:** Thank you so much!

**14:27:29 — James Hoffer:**  
<https://bouldercounty.gov/environment/trash/nederland-transfer-and-recycle/>

**14:27:32 — Celia Peterson:** Thank you

**14:29:19 — Celia Peterson:** Thank you for your response! My thought is combining with biochar during the curing phase, which (in theory) can immobilize pfas.

**14:30:24 — Kournii Brown:** *(replying to "Which states have th...")* Community Composting Policy Map by ILSR: <https://ilsr.org/composting/map/>

**14:30:25 — Celia Peterson:** Are in vessel containers able to accept "compostable" plastics?

**14:31:07 — Courtney Curtner:** *(replying to "Are in vessel containers able to accept "compostable" plastics?")* Yes! There have been studies conducted using the Earth Flow as well.

**14:31:46 — Courtney Curtner:** *(replying to "Are in vessel containers able to accept "compostable" plastics?")* Compostable Packaging Disintegration at Composting Facilities - Closed Loop Partners

**14:31:49 — Robert Wadley:** *(replying to "Which states have th...")* Tennessee would allow an in vessel system to operate without a permit if under 100 cubic yards/year of putrescible materials...we don't count the wood chips.

**14:32:07 — Ruta Jordans:** How does bio char work with PFAS?

**14:32:20 — Sasha Faminoff:** BIOBIN in australia is an interesting example of an aerated container system that could be used as a "transfer station"

**14:32:35 — Paige Hermanson:** This has been so helpful, thank you!

**14:33:05 — Courtney Curtner:** *(replying to "Are in vessel containers able to accept "compostable" plastics?")* Compostable Field Testing Program Homepage

**14:34:02 — Sasha Faminoff:** biochar binds heavy metals as I understand, and can be used in the composting process to do so

**14:34:08 — James Hoffer:** <https://www.closedlooppartners.com/composting-consortium>

**14:34:54 — Viviana Ramirez-Luna:** *(replying to "Which states have th...")* Lots of case studies here: Keep Compost Local: A Roadmap for Local Governments to Build Community Prosperity with Composting <https://ilsr.org/article/composting-for-community/keep-compost-local-report/>

**14:35:57 — Sasha Faminoff:** there's some murmurs about biochar being able to bind PFAS too, but that definitely doesn't seem like it's conclusive

**14:36:48 — Sasha Faminoff:**  
<https://lup.lub.lu.se/luur/download?func=downloadFile&recordId=9059536&fileId=9059537>

**14:37:26 — Celia Peterson:** Stabilization of PFAS-contaminated soil with activated biochar - ScienceDirect

**14:38:06 — Courtney Curtner:** Thank you, Betsy!

**14:38:19 — Viviana Ramirez-Luna:** It was incredibly informative. Thank you all!!

**14:38:21 — Celia Peterson:** Thank you all!

**14:38:22 — Kournii Brown:** Love the scarf!

**14:38:22 — Sasha Faminoff:** thanks for a great webinar!!

**14:38:27 — Mags Kassel:** Thank you!'

**14:38:34 — Edgar Milius:** Thank you so much!!

**14:38:41 — Madison NB:** Thank you to everyone!

**14:39:01 — Muguro David Ngige:** Good bye

**14:39:02 — Courtney Curtner:** Thanks, all!

**14:39:22 — Muguro David Ngige:** Thank you

**14:39:23 — Eduardo Araneda:** Thank you so much. Greetings from Chile