



**US Composting
Council**

***International Compost
Awareness Week***

For Immediate Release

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US Composting Council Announces the 2016 International Compost Awareness Week Poster Contest – Call for Entries for Poster Design

The US Composting Council (USCC) is seeking designs for the annual International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) poster contest, incorporating this year's theme, Compost—The Soil and Water Connection.

The contest runs September 1 through November 14, 2015 and is open to anyone who wishes to share their artistic interpretation of compost and its ties to soil health. The winning poster will serve as the 2016 International Compost Awareness Week promotion and be distributed to more than 1,000 US Composting Council members, state recycling offices and non-profit organizations nationwide.

“This is the best way for us to educate the average consumer about the vital tie between compost, soil health and water retention, which is especially important as more and more areas of the world face drought and poor soils,” said Rod Tyler, USCC president.

International Compost Awareness Week is a multi-media publicity and education event that showcases composting and compost products. It features everything from composting in home backyards to large-scale commercial composting facilities and businesses serving entire communities.

The ICAW Poster Contest winner will have his/her winning poster design reproduced and distributed nationwide as the official 2016 ICAW poster, and featured on the USCC website.

The overall winner will receive a \$500 prize; and divisional winners (junior, defined as third through eighth grade; senior defined as 8th through 12th grade; and a category of college/adult) will be highlighted on the USCC website and social media.

Compost is produced from the recycling of organic materials to create a valuable soil amendment. When incorporated into soil, it provides plants with essential nutrients, protects against the threat of erosion, and increases soil health without the use of chemicals. It also reduces water pollution.

Poster contest submissions must arrive via email to the USCC by Midnight Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015 to be eligible. Online judging by members will take place in November.

Previous winning posters, as well as this year's registration forms and rules can be viewed at www.compostingcouncil.org/icaw and click on Poster Rules and Application. For questions, please email icaw@compostingcouncil.org.