



Annual Report 2024



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Welcome Letter

On behalf of the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI), welcome to the launch of our 2024 Annual Report, the first of its kind.

Last year we celebrated BPI's 25th anniversary, a milestone in our industry's history. As we continue to advance our mission and vision, which you will see were refreshed in 2024 as part of a new strategic plan, this report provides reflections on BPI's achievements and progress.

We saw continued growth in policies on composting and compostable packaging, as well as added a second policy staff person to increase our effectiveness and reach. In multiple forums like the BPI Summit and Future Search, we engaged in robust discussions across the compostable products value chain, not shying away from difficult topics and finding new ways to collaborate.

It's our collective efforts as an association that make BPI stronger, and we thank our Members for their ongoing support. Together, we are building strong composting programs that divert food scraps and certified compostable packaging away from landfills and into high quality compost.



RHODES YEPSEN

Executive Director





About BPI



Company Overview



THE ORGANIZATION

BPI is the foremost association for the circular bioeconomy, convening the compostable products value chain and facilitating inclusive discourse to create consensus on actionable, science-backed standards, claims, and policy. As the leading authority on compostable products and packaging in North America, BPI certifies products to the ASTM standards for compostability, only certifies products associated with food scraps and yard waste, and prohibits intentionally-added PFAS. Certified products display the BPI Certification Mark for easy identification by composters and consumers. In addition to its certification program, BPI leads advocacy and education efforts to help divert food scraps and other organics from landfills. BPI operates as a member-based nonprofit association, governed by a Board of Directors, and supported by a dedicated staff across the United States.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

BPI's guiding principles shape its actions, decisions, and relationships, helping to build trust and define its identity. **The key principles are:**



Trusted Partnership

BPI strives to establish and foster deep trust by working synergistically with all players across the compostable products value chain. BPI strives to remain a neutral entity while cultivating a symbiotic relationship with our partners, from manufacturers to municipalities to composters.



Zero Waste

BPI recognizes the importance of the waste reduction hierarchy that prioritizes reduction, then reuse, and finally recycling and composting. In this way, BPI frames compostable packaging and other biomaterials in the context of the zero waste mission, rather than in opposition.



Respectful Authority

BPI is a renowned association for compostable products with a high pedigree in the industry. BPI aims to share its expertise and educate the industry as it evolves, seeking the truth and debunking myths, while remaining open to and participating in broader landscape discourse.

Company Overview

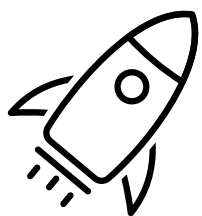
STRATEGIC PLAN

BPI established a new three-year strategic plan to guide key activities and advance the industry from 2025 to 2027, shifting away from—but building off of—the previous three-pillar strategy involving certification, education, and advocacy. **The refreshed vision, mission, and objectives are:**



VISION

A world without organic waste.



MISSION

BPI champions a transition to the circular bioeconomy by collaboratively advancing policy, standards, research, and the systematic science-based verification of claims for compostability and biomaterials.



OBJECTIVES

Three primary objectives will carry BPI forward:



Claims: Advance trusted and scientifically based standards, research, and claims



Adoption: Align and collaborate with stakeholders across the value chain to advance BPI's mission



Policy: Inform policy that supports a systems-based approach to products and materials

Leadership

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To bring diverse perspectives and a comprehensive approach to driving systemic change, BPI ensures the organization has representatives across the value chain—from composters to industry stakeholders—who are aligned with the mission of diverting food scraps and associated packaging away from landfills. This broad representation strengthens BPI's decision-making and ability to address system complexities.



Renaud des Rosiers
Amy's Kitchen



Jeanette Hanna
BASF Corporation



Melissa Tashjian
Compost Crusader



Keith Edwards
Danimer Scientific



Mounir Izallalen
Eastman Chemical Co.



Wendall Simonson
Eco-Products Inc.



Peg Hoks (President)
Georgia-Pacific



Shannon Pinc
NatureWorks LLC



Paul Darby
Novamant
North America



Lynn Dyer
Pactiv Evergreen



Sri Narayan-Sarathy
PepsiCo



Derek Atkinson
TotalEnergies
Corbion BV



Justen Garrity
Veteran Compost DC



Leadership

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

To ensure BPI is equipped to navigate complex and rapidly changing priorities ahead for the compostable products sector, the organization promoted Dan Breton from Operations Director to Managing Director, where he is now responsible for internal affairs of the organization, leading the coordinated near-term execution of work to accomplish strategic plans, and strengthening the operation in a way that supports BPI's mission.

Carving this function off from the Executive Director role will allow Rhodes Yepsen, who has served in that capacity for nine years, to focus on strategic leadership with the Board of Directors and influential stakeholders, providing visionary thinking that builds the reputation and integrity of the compostable products industry and sets up the industry, as well as BPI, for long-term success.



Rhodes Yepsen
BPI Executive
Director




Dan Breton
BPI Managing
Director

2025 BOARD MEMBER CHANGES

Re-elected Board Members include Peg Hoks and Sri Narayan-Sarathy, and newly elected Board Members in place of Lynn Dyer, Derek Atkinson, and Paul Darby include the following:



Savannah Seydel
Better Earth




Renata Neri
Chic-fil-a




Brian Pontius
Ingevity




Membership

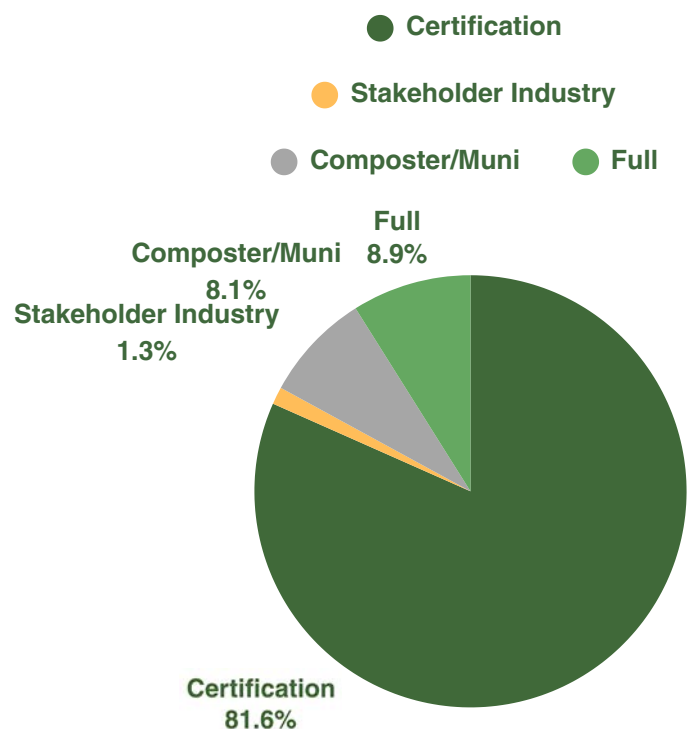
MEMBERS

BPI offers membership opportunities for organizations that are committed to advancing the use and acceptance of compostable products and packaging worldwide, which includes packaging companies, retailers and restaurants, governments, and composters.

Membership provides access to valuable resources, industry insights, and opportunities to support and engage in BPI's strategic efforts.

Membership	Description	Fee
Full Membership	Designed for companies holding active BPI certificates that want to play a leading role in expanding acceptance of compostable products.	\$8,000
Stakeholder Industry Membership	Open to companies and organizations without active BPI certificates that wish to support and engage with BPI on certification, education, and advocacy topics.	\$5,000
Stakeholder Composter/Municipality Membership	A no-cost membership for composters, haulers, and municipalities looking to ensure the downstream perspective is represented in BPI's work.	FREE
Certification Membership	The foundational membership for companies holding active BPI certificates, and vital gateway for companies committed to advancing compostable solutions.	\$3,500

Membership Type by Percentage

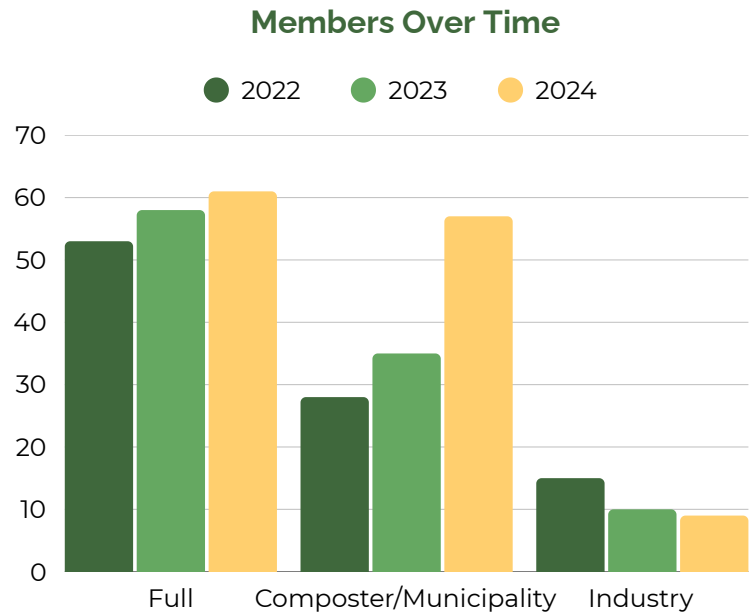


Visit bpiworld.org to learn more about the value of membership, its benefits, and how to get involved.

Membership

GROWTH AT ALL LEVELS

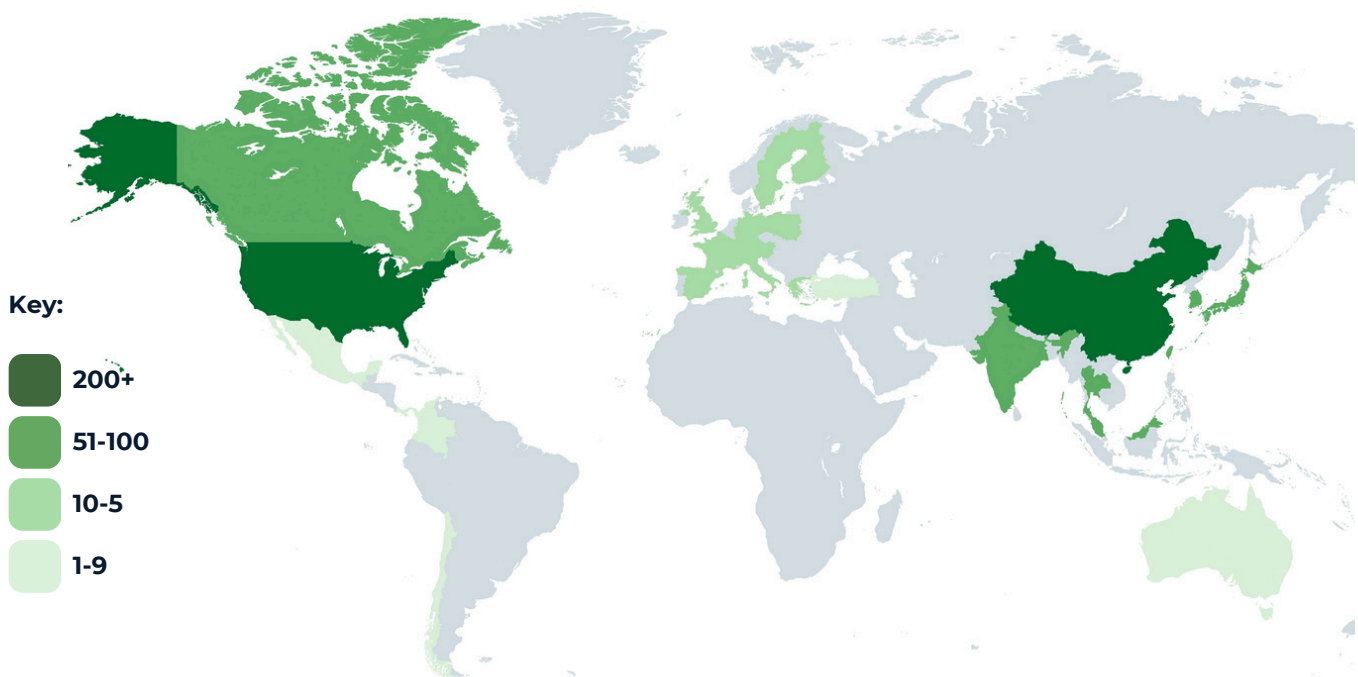
Engagement across all membership levels increased in 2024. Industry Stakeholder Members opted for Full Membership, recognizing the value of maintaining committee access and deeper industry involvement. Composter/Municipality Memberships grew by over 60% in 2024—an exciting expansion for BPI!



ACROSS THE GLOBE

BPI's full name is the International Biodegradable Products Insitute. This map demonstrates the global value seen in certified compostable products as a sustainability solution.

Membership by Geography



Financial Overview

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

BPI closed 2024 in a healthy financial position, with a net income of \$200k for the year and a robust asset pool of \$3.4M. While the bulk of expenditures drove BPI's core Certification program, for the second year in a row, investments in the BPI Summit allowed for a convening of industry voices in Berkeley, CA. Membership and licensing income was also directed to efforts engaging with partners and industry stakeholders, and fueled an expanding Legislation & Advocacy footprint aligned with BPI's mission.

INCOME

- Membership and Licensing.....\$2,755,521 (78%)
- BPI Summit.....\$133,668 (4%)
- Certification Fees.....\$630,450 (18%)
- **Total.....\$3,519,639**

EXPENSES

- BPI Summit.....\$341,349 (10%)
- Certification Program.....\$1,508,166 (45%)
- External Engagement.....\$581,173 (18%)
- General & Administrative.....\$591,307 (18%)
- Legislation & Advocacy Program.....\$297,235 (9%)
- **Total.....\$3,319,230**

TOTAL ASSETS AT END OF 2024

.....\$3,428,405



Organization-Wide Efforts



HOME COMPOSTING CERTIFICATION

In 2024, BPI continued its efforts to develop a home composting certification program, dedicating time to analyzing and communicating research results, legal review, certification scheme development, and stakeholder engagement. This process included input from the BPI Board of Directors and committees, stakeholder reviews, and industry experts. BPI also developed new certification marks and procedures in preparation for the launch. With an official rollout planned for 2025, the foundational work in 2024 will ensure the program's success.

NATIONAL ORGANICS PROGRAM (NOP) AND CALIFORNIA WORK

In 2024, BPI worked with industry stakeholders to publicly support BPI's petition to the USDA to include compostable products as allowable in organic agriculture. At the same time, the organization focused on mitigating the challenge posed by California's AB 1201 2026 deadline, which will prevent compostable products from being labeled as such unless they meet the aforementioned criteria. BPI continues to pursue potential solutions to ensure compostable products can be labeled in California, including potential legislative action. While efforts are ongoing, BPI remains committed to resolving these issues in support of the industry and the environment.

COMPOSTING MICROGRANTS PROGRAM

BPI's 2024 Composting Microgrants Program, which aimed to support composters across the United States, saw 77 applications requesting over \$300,000 in funding—far exceeding expectations. In response, BPI increased the total funding from \$35,000 to \$47,210, awarding grants to 12 recipients nationwide. Projects included education, outreach, and equipment upgrades to expand composting access and awareness.



Legislation & Advocacy

PURPOSE AND PROGRESS

The L&A department at BPI is committed to advancing smarter policies across the value chain by improving access to compost systems, promoting innovative products, and informing consumer choices. This work directly improves packaging and organic waste management outcomes in North America by developing and presenting policy-based solutions to various stakeholders.

BPI encourages members to stay engaged and informed about advocacy efforts, as they play a crucial role in advancing the standards and practices that benefit us all.

LEGISLATION & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

This committee served as a collaborative forum for addressing legislation that impacts compostable products, packaging, and the composting industry.

Led by industry experts and chaired by representatives from BASF, NatureWorks, and Ingevity Corporation, the committee worked to identify advocacy priorities, track legislative developments, and influence policy through coordinated efforts. Monthly calls provided a platform for discussing emerging legislative threats and opportunities, drafting model bill language, and strategizing public engagement.

Subcommittees focused on key regions, including Canada and California, ensuring targeted advocacy in critical markets.



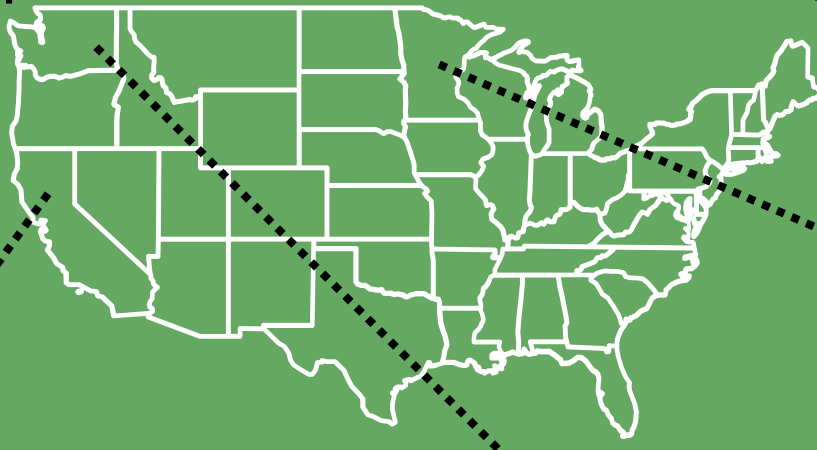
Legislation & Advocacy

MAJOR LEGISLATION ADVANCED

- BPI reviewed over **60 individual bills across 16 states**, in many cases providing analysis to Members, as well written and/or verbal testimony where necessary. Although many bills didn't pass, BPI helped improve them enough to support their return in 2025, including **labeling in New Hampshire, EPR in Washington, and a Needs Assessment in Hawaii**.
- BPI applied successfully to become a **Federal 'ecolabel'** to encourage sustainable Government purchasing.

BPI submitted a **formal request to CalRecycle** in December to extend the deadline for compostable products to meet NOP requirements another 5 years, from January 2026 to January 2031, as provided by Assembly Bill 1201.

BPI also successfully challenged **CalRecycle's Senate Bill 54 regulation text**, affirming compostability based on science and standards, rather than market whims.



Minnesota became the fifth state to pass an **EPR law** for products and packaging, the third law that is aligned with BPI's policy principles, thanks to BPI-led efforts.

A BPI-supported **Washington state organics bill** included a study on compostable Price-Look Up (PLU) stickers. BPI also participated as a **selected representative on an advisory council in Washington State** to make official policy recommendations to the state government for 2025 and beyond.

MEMBER INVOLVMENT/ENGAGEMENT

- BPI created a new **L&A Landing Page** on the organization's Member Hub to provide members with quick and direct access to agendas, minutes, meeting summaries, action items, and bill tracking.



- BPI held **36 meetings** across its main L&A committee and two subcommittees for California and Canada, plus **webinars on key issues** like Colorado labeling regulations and Federal agency authority changes.

Certification

COMMERCIAL COMPOSTABILITY CERTIFICATION

BPI is the leading authority on compostable products and packaging in North America thanks, in large part, to its certification program that has been operating for over 20 years. That program, and the Certification Mark associated with it, is the most reliable, widely-recognized third-party verification of whether an item meets ASTM's compostability standards—a metric required by every US state that has regulatory language around the definition of compostability, and a method for meeting the FTC's requirement that all claims of compostability are supported by scientific evidence.

Meeting the ASTM standards is only the beginning of what BPI's compostability certification verifies for the entire value chain. **Additional elements of BPI's program include:**

- **Eligibility Requirements** – Only items related to desirable feedstocks for composting, like food scraps and yard trimmings, qualify for BPI Certification, reducing contamination and increasing organics diversion to compost facilities.
- **Ingredient Safety** – PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) and other intentionally added fluorinated chemicals cannot be present in formulations for BPI-certified items, which is ensured by a test report under 100 ppm organic fluorine, a signed manufacturer statement and a formulation review. Ingredients known or presumed to be Carcinogenic, Mutagenic or a Reproductive Toxin (CMR) or classified as Persistent, Bioaccumulative, or Toxic PBT under US EPA or EU REACH Annex XIII are prohibited from BPI-certified compostable products.
- **Labeling Requirements** – BPI reviews all product and packaging artwork to ensure that the BPI Certification Mark is present and compliant with the BPI License Agreement.
- **Online Product Catalog** – A searchable online database lets users verify BPI-certified items are valid.

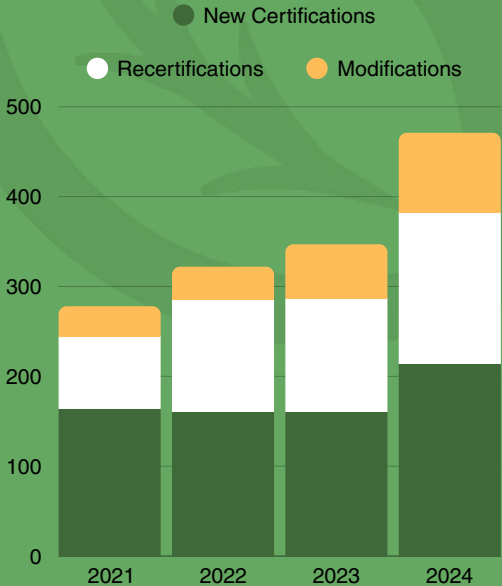


Certification

Year In Review By The Numbers

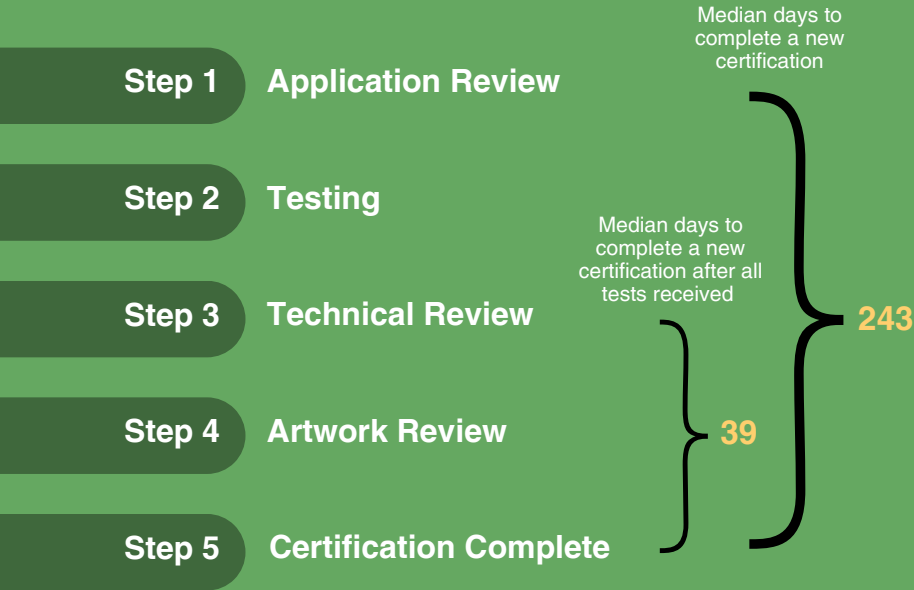
ITEM	2023	2024
BPI-Approved Labs	30	35
Active Certificates	932	1046
Active Sublicenses	716	882
Project Managers	8	8
Certified Items	24,102	38,700
Change in Application Fees	\$0	\$0
Additional Assessment Fees	N/A	\$190
		\$375

Completed Project Types Over Time

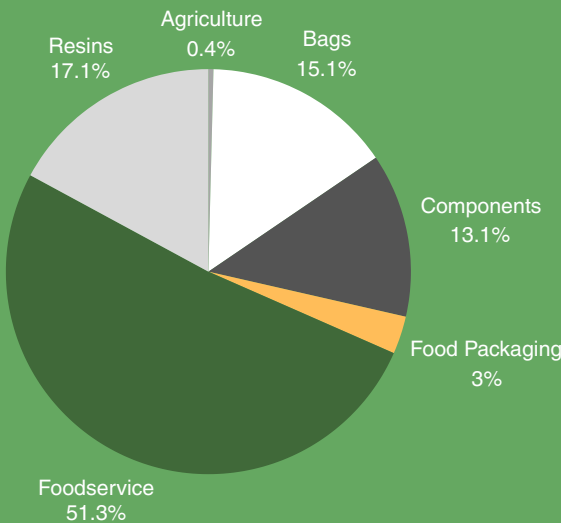


Additional Test Schemes
Additional Sets of Verification Samples

Certification Process & Timeframe



Certifications Completed by Product Category



Marketing & Communications

ADVOCATING TOWARD SOLUTIONS

BPI drives awareness and adoption of certified compostable products through targeted marketing. The Marketing Department's efforts focus on educating consumers and businesses about compostability, advocating for consistent labeling, and promoting sustainable alternatives to reduce waste and support a circular economy.

BY THE NUMBERS

10

media pieces,
2 press releases and
8 earned coverage



16

emails to
Member
contact list



15

webinars,
3 public and
12 Member



42

third-party events,
17 as speakers and
25 as attendees



5

new Youtube
videos



64

committee/
subcommittee
meetings held



2,860

followers gained
across all social
media accounts



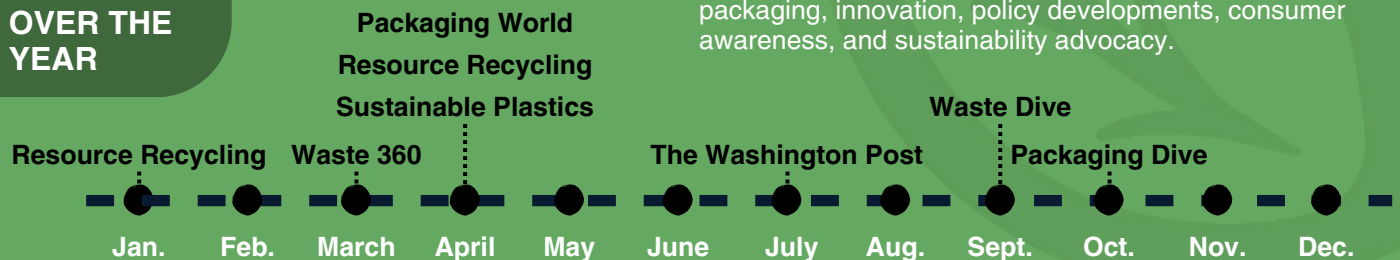
OTHER COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES

- **PR & Crisis Communications:** Onboarded a new PR agency, secured top-tier coverage, and led crisis communications to maintain BPI's visibility.
- **Content Strategy & Execution:** Launched content across multiple channels and revamped the Member Hub, collaborating with the Communications Committee on key resources.
- **Summit & Stakeholder Collaboration:** Led the second annual BPI Summit, securing speakers and key event components through cross-departmental and external collaboration.



Marketing & Communications

MEDIA COVERAGE OVER THE YEAR



SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS

@BPICertified



253,623 Impressions
22,047 Engagements

This account focuses on B2B marketing and communications, engaging businesses, nonprofits, and BPI Members on LinkedIn. It serves as our largest platform for sharing thought leadership and educational content within the composting industry.



26,355 Impressions
1,858 Engagements

This account focuses on B2C marketing and communications, engaging primarily composters and consumers of compostable products.

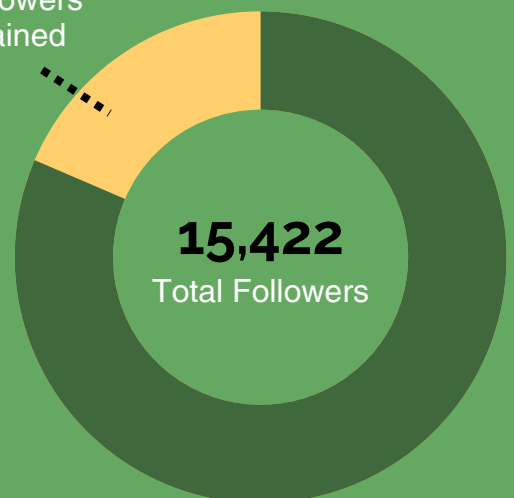


14,650 Impressions
566 Engagements

This account focuses on engaging primarily municipalities and other governmental agencies.

Net followers gained as a portion of total followers across all accounts

2,860
Followers Gained



300
Published posts across all accounts

Top-performing posts involved topics like International Compost Awareness Week, thought leadership on PLA and the benefits of compostable products, and a 2024 BPI Summit recap.

2024 BPI Summit

CONVERSATION AND COLLABORATION IN BERKELEY, CA

The 2024 BPI Summit in Berkeley united industry leaders to advance collaboration within the compostable products value chain. The event featured panels, keynotes, and networking opportunities, focusing on strengthening food scraps diversion and exploring solutions for compostable products, food waste, and policy.

BY THE NUMBERS

220+

Attendees

42

Speakers

15+

Sessions

2

Tours

3 Inspiring Keynotes



BEN VON WONG
ARTIST AND
ACTIVIST



RENATA NERI
SR. PRINCIPAL
TEAM LEADER,
PACKAGING



ELI BECKMAN
MAYOR OF
CORTE MADERA,
CALIFORNIA



**17 BPI staff
members
attended!**

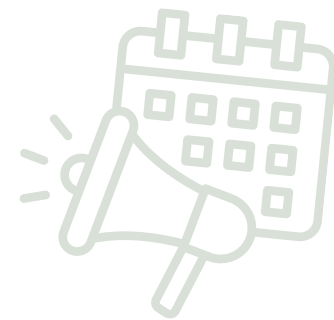


**Tour of the Napa Recycling
and Composting Facility in
American Canyon, CA**

**Roundtable discussion during the
Summit. Session topics ranged from
composter perspectives on the
industry to biopolymer innovations
to calls for legislative reform.**



Other Events



BPI'S ENGAGEMENT AT INDUSTRY EVENTS

In 2024, BPI actively participated in over 40 events, speaking at and attending numerous industry gatherings to drive awareness and advance the goals of compostable products and the circular bioeconomy.

40+
Events

UNITED NATIONS INC-5

BPI hosted an event endorsed by the US State Department at the UN's INC-5 in Busan, South Korea. Experts discussed the role of biopolymers as an alternative in a Global Plastics Treaty.



COMPOST2024

As a sponsor of COMPOST2024, BPI highlighted the role of certified compostable products in food waste diversion and emphasized collaboration for achieving zero waste and healthy soil.



STAFF RETREAT

BPI's Staff Retreat allowed employees to bond, recharge, and gain new perspectives, enhancing collaboration and morale for the next chapter of BPI's journey. This year the organization had the unique opportunity to celebrate its 25th anniversary, reflecting on where BPI has been and setting the stage for future impact!

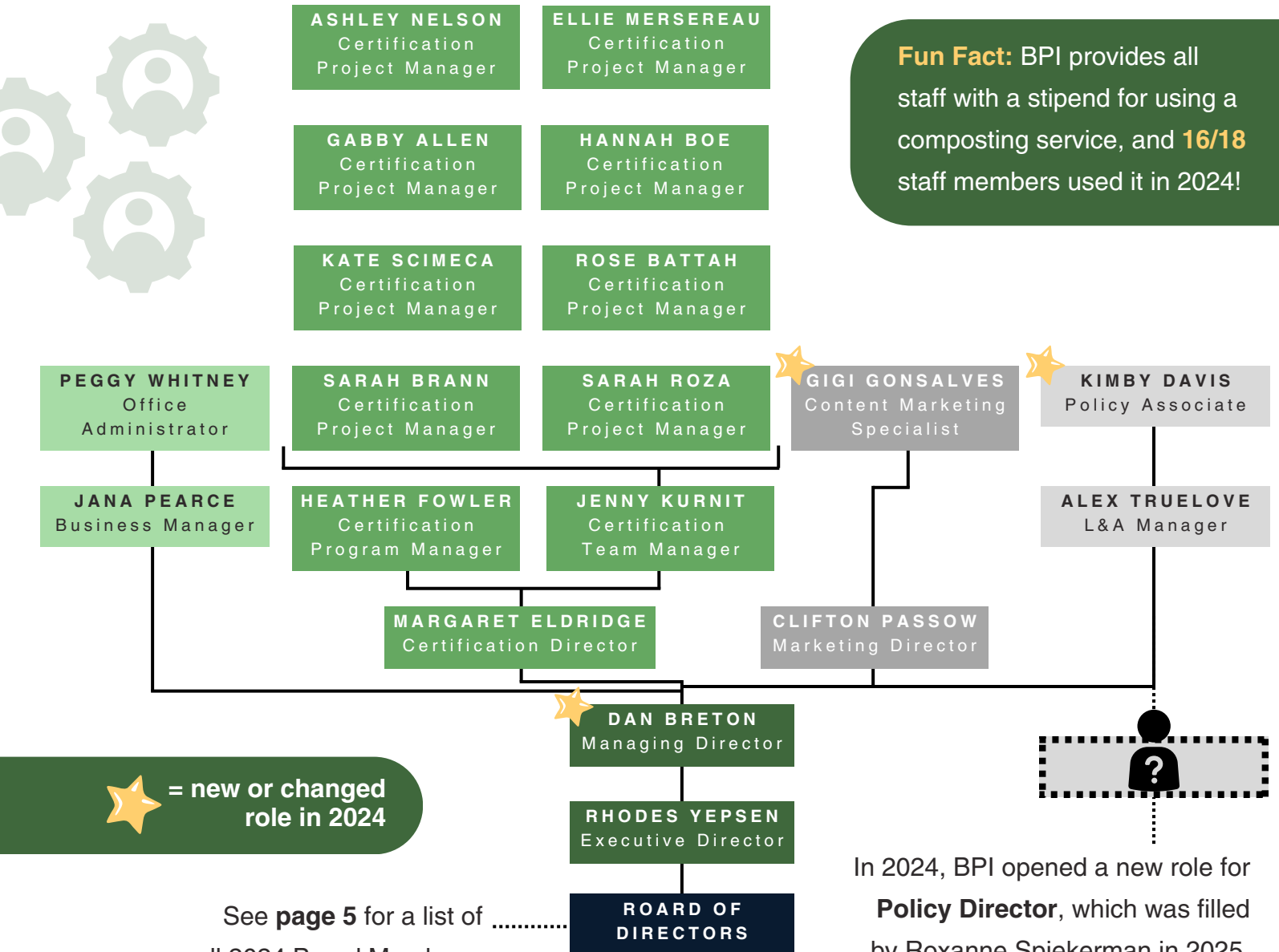
BPI Staff

STAFF ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

BPI's staff has grown over the years, especially since Executive Director Rhodes Yepsen was hired as the first employee in 2015. In 2024, BPI added two new people to the team, as well as opened a new role for a Policy Director.



Staff Organizational Chart



Digging Deeper

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BPI encourages staff to attend composting events, visit certified companies, and engage with composting facilities to enhance their industry knowledge and stay current on sustainability trends.

SARAH BRANN

"I thoroughly enjoyed visiting Earth Matter NY in May of 2024. It was truly incredible to see this circular economy at work, proving that it is possible to implement composting infrastructure and compostable products at a larger scale! I was especially impressed by Earth Matter's commitment to educating the public on the importance of composting and waste reduction and their on-going sustainability initiatives for Governor's Island. The volunteer programs and public outreach really showed me how much potential there is to engage communities to get involved in composting. Their emphasis on community involvement really resonated with me and I believe some of their strategies could be applied to enhance our own initiatives like BPI's education pillar to broaden consumer education on composting and compostable products and help create stronger ties with the communities we serve."



SARAH ROZA

"I visited TC Transcontinental Packaging in Brooklyn, NY this year – though I don't have any photos of their facility because I forgot to ask if it was confidential or not, so I just didn't take any. They manufacture bags for coffee pods, and a compostable lid for coffee pods. Since BPI is all virtual, it's rare that we get to see the different components of a finished product in real life, so it was great to be able to hold each of the components that make a coffee pod. I was able to better understand the manufacturing process of companies that I'm a project manager for, as well as the challenges they face. It was great to meet many of the employees who have a hand in each step of the process in their factory. From the creative team who designs the artwork for labeling, to those on the factory floor overseeing the production."

CLIFTON PASSOW

"During the 2024 Recycle Colorado event, the tour of Compost Queen was particularly insightful as we learned about their efforts to evaluate compostable products within their system. Despite being a small, regionally-focused composter, they employ four marketing staff and experience significant pressure from customers and stakeholders to accept compostable packaging."



JENNY KURNIT, SARAH ROZA

Visiting a chocolate factory in Berkeley, CA while in the area for the 2024 BPI Summit



JANA PEARCE, GIGI GONSALVES

Attending the first Georgia Composting Council event in Athens, GA





Looking Forward to 2025



Future Goals & Plans

WHAT'S NEXT

In 2025, BPI plans to launch its first new certification program in 25 years! To support Members, BPI will begin offering certification for home compostability, expanding into more end-of-life solutions for certified compostable products. If you're interested in helping to steer developments in BPI's certification programs, or get involved with policy work, consider joining a BPI Committee.





888c 8th Ave. New York, NY 10019
888.274.5646

info@bpiworld.org
www.bpiworld.org
