



For Immediate release
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Seven Generations Ahead receives Chicago Community Trust grant to support commercial food scrap composting project

OAK PARK — Seven Generations Ahead (SGA) is pleased to announce that it has received a \$114,000 grant from the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust to support local, sustainable Illinois food production through development of a viable food scrap composting industry.

“We’re thrilled to have the support of the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust and to be selected as a project of the Food:Land:Opportunity initiative partnership between The Chicago Community Trust and Kinship Foundation,” said SGA Executive Director Gary Cuneen. “This project will enable Seven Generations Ahead and its Illinois Food Scrap Coalition (IFSC) partners to advance the agenda of the IFSC toward building a robust food scrap composting industry in Illinois that provides a foundational component for advancing local sustainable food production in Illinois.”

The project supports goals that will enhance Illinois water quality, conserve water, build healthy soil, reduce erosion and lessen greenhouse gas emissions. The project also will create demand for food scraps through education, policy and pilot projects, while driving infrastructure development and targeted investments. Short-term goals include educating decision-makers on the benefits of composting, its role in local, sustainable food production and strategies to build the industry; making the economic and local food shed development case for composting; and laying the groundwork for food scrap collection route density with businesses, Stroger Hospital, Chicago Public Schools and the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Food:Land:Opportunity - Localizing the Chicago Foodshed is a multi-year initiative that aims to create a resilient local food economy that protects and conserves land and other natural resources while promoting market innovation and building wealth and assets in the Chicago region’s communities.

Funded through the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust, Food:Land:Opportunity is a collaboration between Kinship Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust.

Founded in 2001, [Seven Generations Ahead](http://www.sevengenerationsahead.org)'s (SGA) mission is to promote ecologically sustainable and healthy communities. SGA's name is borrowed from the Native American principle, which states, "In every deliberation, we must consider the impact on the seventh generation." Through community-wide sustainability planning and implementation, educational conferences and consulting, and school-based zero waste and farm to school programming and consulting, SGA is a catalyst for local solutions to global environmental issues. SGA's work covers energy efficiency and renewable energy; transportation; community development; waste reduction; water conservation; green business development; local, sustainable food; open space and ecosystem enhancement; and education.