



Left to right: Herman Carnie of Greater Chicago Food Depository, Karen Lehman of Fresh Taste and Gary Cuneen of SGA.

SGA, other groups explore food waste solutions for region

Fresh Taste Initiative and Seven Generations Ahead convened a half-day meeting at the Greater Chicago Food Depository on May 16 to explore food waste solutions in the Chicago region. Presented under the title, "Exploring Food Waste Solutions in the Chicago Region," the meeting brought together groups on both sides of the food waste reduction equation—those involved in food scrap composting and those who recover food to feed those in need.

On the composting side, the [Illinois Food Scrap Coalition](#) (IFSC) advances food scrap composting in Illinois through education, program implementation, policy and advocacy. IFSC is comprised of members from solid waste agencies, counties, businesses, community organizations and local governments. Groups focused on agriculture surplus capture are the Illinois Commission to End Hunger and Emergency Food System Work Group.

"It became clear there's a logical coalition here that could work for

policy change," said **Karen Lehman**, executive director of Fresh Taste, an initiative headed by 12 Chicago-region foundations that are working together to relocalize the Chicago foodshed and improve equity of access to good food. It was Fresh Taste that first approached SGA Executive Director **Gary Cuneen** and **Kate Maehr**, CEO of the Greater Chicago Food Depository, about holding the meeting.

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2nd FVSN forum looks at solar energy's advantages

Solar energy was the topic for **Fox Valley Sustainability Network's** second forum on June 8 at the Two Brothers Roundhouse in Aurora. The network is a project of **Seven Generations Ahead, Kane County**, the **City of Aurora**, and **a5 Inc., Branding + Digital** in collaboration with the Fox Valley communities and counties.

Among those giving presentations were **Steve Johnson**, vice president of business development for **Convergence Energy** and **Everton Walters**, Ph.D., president and CEO of **WCP Solar**.

Johnson talked about how solar can work in markets where electricity is inexpensive. "A few years ago we found a way to monetize stored solar to create a business base called intelligent solar," he said. "This allows consumers to invest in solar in areas where electricity is expensive. Mainly commercial, residential is on its way."

Walters, an electrical engineer and president and CEO of Naperville-based WCP, has more than 30 years experience in renewable energy and consulting in solar systems. He addressed the potential for solar in Illinois, which "only gets 3 percent less sun than Miami," or the same amount as New Jersey, second in the U.S. with the total number of homes and businesses that have solar panels installed. "Germany has the highest concentration of solar in the entire world," Walters said. "But the U.S. gets a lot more sun. Where we are, we can do just as much as Atlanta and Georgia."

WCP specializes in solar photovoltaic and thermal systems. Earlier this year, WCP constructed roof-mounted solar panels on a Buffalo Grove, Ill.,

building that hosts a skating rink. The grid-connected system ties directly into ComEd's power grid and generates enough electricity to provide power to more than 23 percent of the facility's electrical needs.

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Zero Waste makes strides in Chicago Public Schools

The law of conservation of mass states that matter is neither created nor destroyed. This principle applies to all matter, including waste sent to landfills. Though waste cannot be destroyed, students at **Solorio High School** in Chicago have taken it upon themselves to find a way to put it to better use.

Sophomores at Solorio study the law of conservation of mass and chemical processes that occur in waste landfills and incinerators. The students also expand their critical thinking skills by addressing waste production.

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Farm to School Summit cooks up local lunch

On June 7, the first Annual Illinois Farm to School Summit brought together teachers, food service staff, community advocates, and farmers from around the state. Designed to be interactive, the summit gave attendees a chance to prepare the lunch menu onsite and from scratch using locally sourced ingredients.

"We wanted to revise the school lunch menu to reintroduce real food and demonstrate how districts can deliver nutritious, all-local meals," said **Lydia Mills**, IFSN coordinator and co-organizer.

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Micro Brew Review returns Aug. 20

The [9th Annual Oak Park Micro Brew Review](#) and the largest zero-waste craft beer fest in the Midwest is on tap for Saturday, Aug. 20, 2016 in

downtown Oak Park. This year's sponsors are **Haymarket Pub & Brewery, WXRT 93.1, WBEZ 91.5, The Country Malt Group, Maple Leaf Farms, Canada Malting Co., Beer Shop, G.H. Cretors and Lakeshore Recycling**



Systems. Eighty brewers, 12 bands and 10 restaurants are all set to bring the brews, the music and the bites at one of summer's most popular festivals.

- **VIP tickets** (\$90) allow early access, starting at 1 p.m. to the VIP areas and the Hop Challenge. VIP guests also get a 7 oz. souvenir tasting glass.
- **Tickets to The Hop Challenge** (\$65) include 40 tasting coupons, 5 oz. tasting glass, early entry at 2 p.m. and a chance to vote for the best single-varietal dry hopped pale ale, as presented by the 20 participating brewers.
- **General admission tickets** (\$55) include 40 tasting coupons, entry at 3 p.m. and 5 oz. tasting glass.

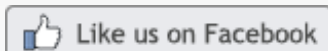
Purchase tickets online [here](#).

The Oak Park Microbrew Review is a fundraising event for Seven Generations Ahead. Tickets are non-refundable.

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