

ANNUAL REPORT

SEVEN GENERATIONS AHEAD

2016

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters:

As Seven Generations Ahead (SGA) enters into our 16th year, we are thrilled to be playing a leading role in the Chicago metro area and Illinois to advance sustainability on a variety of fronts. Our Illinois Harvest of the Month pilot is transitioning into a full blown program that links food service directors to a different locally-sourced, sustainable vegetable or fruit each month, as we lead the Illinois Farm to School Network to new levels of education and local food access. Our work through the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition – one of two statewide coalitions we have developed with partners - has demonstrated that food scrap diversion and composting can be integrated into major institutions like hospitals, universities and schools, while our recently completed Economic Impact and Market Study Report demonstrates that a viable food scrap composting industry in Illinois – driven by the right policies – could produce substantial jobs and state sales tax revenues for our Illinois economy. Our 14-school Chicago Public Schools food scrap composting pilot has generated diversion rates of 80% and above, and is laying the groundwork for system-wide food scrap diversion that could position CPS as one of the leading school districts in the nation to implement food scrap composting. From a 300-native garden corridor to energy efficiency upgrades to school gardens, our work through PlanItGreen in Oak Park and River Forest is a model for communities wishing to develop and implement community sustainability plans and track progress with a bi-annual report card. And our efforts to found the Fox Valley Sustainability Network with partners have led to 6 topic forums, a GreenTown event, and the development of multiple projects in process including the replication of the City of Aurora's Bike Share program to other Fox Valley communities; a Green Infrastructure Education Campaign; an Eco-Tourism Bike Tour Series; a local food website; residential curbside food scrap collection and composting programs; and a broad effort to drive renewable energy development.

But what really has us excited about 2017 is our planned leap into Community Solar. In the midst of all of the backsliding and missed opportunities happening on the federal level, we're convinced as ever that market forces along with education, policy and implementation at the local and state levels will continue to drive our transition to a renewable energy economy. Our recent award as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's "Solar in Your Community" program; our participation in the Institute for Sustainable Communities Renewable Energy Training; our emerging partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory; our participation in the Renewable Cities Global Learning Forum in Vancouver; and a scope of work that includes facilitating a pipeline of rooftop, community and ultimately utility-scale solar projects that provide access to low-to-moderate income families and non-profits among other customers – are all moving forward in the wake of the recently-passed Future Energy Jobs Act in Illinois.

Suffice to say, we've been busy and we're more excited than ever to partner with our colleagues to drive the renewable energy economy forward and build healthy, sustainable communities. We're grateful for your support and efforts, and look forward to great work ahead!

Sincerely,

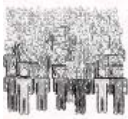
Gary Cuneen
Founder and Executive Director



IMPACT AT A GLANCE



340,073 students crunched into locally grown apples for The Great Apple Crunch.



300+ Illinois Farm to School Network Members in 2016



10,328 students at 14 Chicago Public Schools have been educated on how and why to compost and recycle in their lunchrooms. Collectively they are diverting 1.9 tons of materials from landfills per day.



300 native gardens planted throughout Oak Park and River Forest creating a wildlife corridor between Thatcher Woods in River Forest and Columbus Park in Chicago.



160 attendees from 5 counties and 15 municipalities and 35 elected officials attended the GreenTown Fox Valley Conference and Mayor's Breakfast.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Fox Valley Sustainability Network

Since launching earlier this year, the Fox Valley Sustainability Network (FVSN) has been hosting public forums built around different aspects of sustainability. The forums consistently draw dozens of municipal officials and topic experts from across the region. In July, the Grand Victoria Riverboat Fund in Kane County approved a \$34,000 for Seven Generations Ahead that will support a series of forums for the Network and the production of a Fox Valley Sustainability Report Card that will communicate progress against key goals and success indicators. A forum on Oct. 7 at Aquascape Inc. in St. Charles focused on economic development. Attendees heard "success stories" that can serve as examples for the Fox Valley region. The stories were takeaways from the Sustainable Economic Development Convening, which took place in Cleveland.



Illinois Food Scrap Coalition

Seven Generations Ahead continues to make great progress on expanding food scrap composting in the region. This included convening legislator education lunches, coordinating a series of four regional stakeholder forums, promoting composting in West Loop restaurants and institutions, and creating an education campaign about institution and municipal composting. This was funded through a grant from Food:Land:Opportunity to expand local, sustainable Illinois food production through development of a viable food scrap composting industry.



Illinois Farm to School Network

SGA will continue as the lead agency for the Illinois Farm to School Network (IFSN), as the newly awarded Illinois Core Partner. The IFSN has over 300 members, and a ten-member Advisory Board consisting of state agencies, non-profit organizations and food distributors. The two primary programs of the IFSN are the Illinois Great Apple Crunch and Illinois Harvest of the Month. Both programs have educational features, along with tools to make local food procurement and education easier for school districts of all shapes and sizes. In 2016 the IFSN developed an online cache of training videos for school food service professionals, the Mighty Mini Video series. The nine concise training videos are invaluable for bringing gardens, local foods, and food education into school meal programs.



Among the IFSN programs, the 2016 Illinois Great Apple Crunch included participation by 339,103 children at approximately 1,080 Illinois schools. Students were from 100 districts across the state, an increase from 34 districts in 2015. High participation numbers came from districts including Springfield District 186, Chicago Public Schools and Rockford District 205.

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Oak Park Home Brewers/SGA

Ozinga Bros. Inc.

Pine Hall Brick

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The Barrel Run

The Beer Shop

The Country Malt Group

The Kinderhook Tap

Two Brothers Roundhouse Brewing Company

Unilock

Waubonsee Community College

WBEZ

Welty

Whole Foods Market

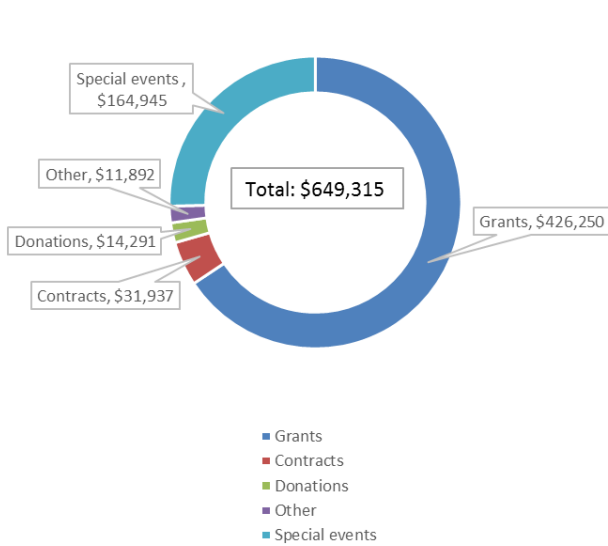
Window World

WXRT

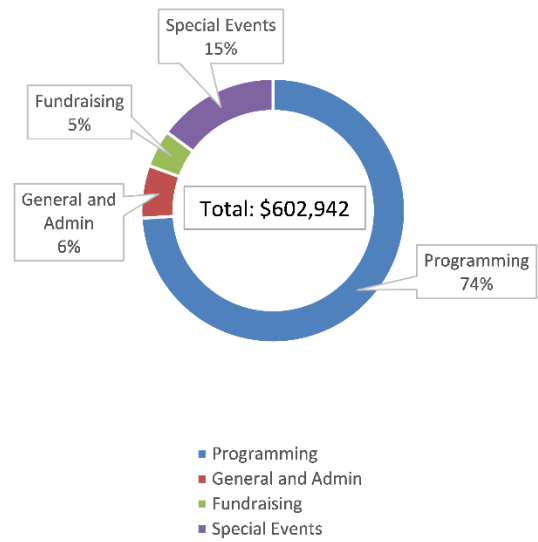


INCOME & EXPENSES

Income



Expenses



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