



ANNUAL REPORT

SEVEN GENERATIONS AHEAD

2017

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters:

As Seven Generations Ahead (SGA) enters into its 17th 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 has transitioned 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 and expand our network statewide. 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 as we take our expertise sharing to new levels through our Zero Waste Schools program and consulting. 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; work to support residential curbside food scrap collection and composting programs; and a broad effort to drive solar energy development and procurement.

With the Future Energy Jobs Energy logistical details beginning to take shape, 2018 has us and many other renewable energy advocates excited to 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 acceptance as 1 of 15 communities in the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Solar Energy Innovation Network (SEIN); 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.

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,

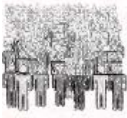
Gary Cuneen

Founder and Executive Director

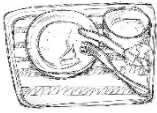
IMPACT AT A GLANCE



469,848 Illinois students crunched into locally grown apples for the annual Great Apple Crunch.



518,057 students at 1108 sites learned about seasonable fruits and vegetables and enjoyed them on their school menus each month.



100% of Illinois District 97 schools have implemented zero waste lunchrooms and are diverting upwards of 85% of resources from landfills through composting and recycling.



450+ restaurants and food establishments in Logan Square, West Loop and the Medical District of Chicago were educated on composting practices and provided a toolkit and resources.



75+ key legislators and decision makers throughout Illinois received copies of the Economic Impact and Market Study Report which provides evidence of the viability of food scrap composting as a vehicle for economic opportunity and development.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD



Zero Waste Ambassadors - On Feb. 24, 2017, Seven Generations Ahead (SGA) coordinated a multi-school tour of the Chicago Public Schools Commercial Composting Program for the City of Chicago's Chris Wheat, Chief Sustainability Officer, and Chris Sauve, Recycling Program Director. The tour included stops at Sandoval Elementary School and Hernandez Middle School and culminated with a discussion with Solorio Academy High School's Zero Waste Ambassadors. Visitors got to see zero waste lunchrooms in action and hear Ambassadors explain why they are inspired to work on this and what they do to make it work. Their passion was clearly visible as they described how the program not only changed the way they look at school waste and the environment, but also how they make it their mission to change minds and habits in their community through programs including the City's Blue Cart Recycling Program.



Community Solar - With the passing and gradual unveiling of the logistics of the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA), SGA has been at the forefront of driving community solar that reaches non-profits, taxing bodies and low-to-moderate income institutions. SGA has been aggregating energy use data, analyzing rooftop solar capacity, vetting solar developers, educating communities, and supporting institutions in their decision-making to install rooftop solar or purchase energy through newly developing Illinois projects. As one of 171 community projects across the country, SGA was selected to participate in the Solar In Your Community Challenge, and in that role has helped the Park District of Oak Park to secure funding for its solar installations; linked congregations and non-profit institutions to recently completed and newly developing projects; explored the legal and logistical considerations related to municipal community choice aggregation connected to solar, and is paving the way for Power Purchase Agreements linked to new projects.

Fox Valley Sustainability Network

Kane County - SGA's partnership with Kane County, the City of Aurora and a5 Branding & Digital to lead the Fox Valley Sustainability Network led to 6 well-attended and highly-reviewed forums on topics ranging from Community Solar, Green Infrastructure, Economic Development, Transportation, Waste and Food. SGA's session on curbside residential food scrap collection programs built upon our work through the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition to support more communities in developing programs and to increase Illinois' standing nationally as the 4th leading state for the number of municipal programs. SGA's Community Solar forum attracted 125 attendees from across Kane County, giving universities, schools, park districts, non-profits, municipal governments and businesses an education on the new opportunities for solar energy procurement and development. SGA's ongoing partnership with Kane County in the local, sustainable food arena has led to USDA Farm to School and Chicago Community Trust-funded projects to promote SGA's Harvest of the Month and Apple Crunch local food procurement programs and development of the Kane County Food Hub.

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Accountant

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Sustainability Program Associate

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Farm to School Program Coordinator

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GRANTS & CONTRACTS

Aspiramos Juntos Fund
Benevity Impact Fund
Chicago Community Trust
Cliff Bar Family Foundation
Cooper Design Studios
Earth Share of Illinois
Farmlogix LLC
Full Circle Foundation
Good Heart Work Smart Foundation
Grand Victoria Riverboat Fund
Kane County Government
Lake County Government
Lumpkin Family Foundation
Moller Family Foundation
Northwestern Memorial Healthcare
O'Donnell Foundation
Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation
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USDA Farm to School Grant Program
Tides
Walter S. Mander Foundation
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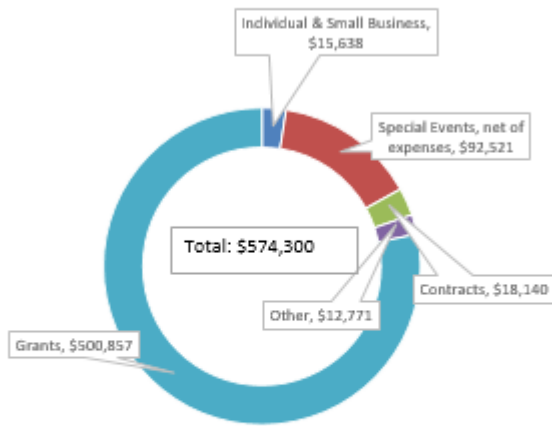
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AAA Rentals
Applied Ecological Services
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Downtown Oak Park
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Northwestern Mutual
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Rock Ten/RTS Packaging
Sugar Beet Coop
Waste Management
Wheel and Sprocket
Whole Foods
WXRT



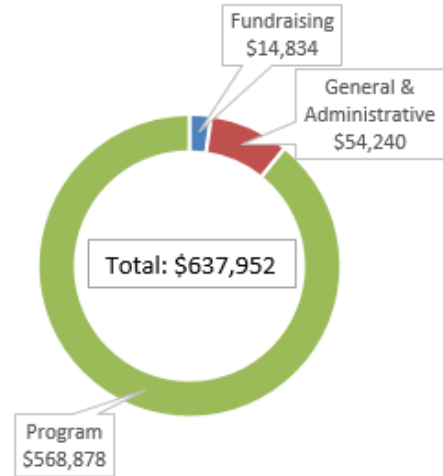
INCOME & EXPENSES

Income



- Individual & Small Business
- Special Events, net of expenses
- Contracts
- Other
- Grants

Expenses



- Fundraising
- General & Administrative
- Program

FIND US



Seven
Generations
Ahead

www.sevengenerationsahead.org

act@sevengenerationsahead.org



SevenGenerationsAhead



@SevenGensAhead



sevengensahead

1049 Lake Street, Suite 200

Oak Park, IL 60301

708.660.9909
