

Food:Land:Opportunity Funding Drives SGA and IFSC Partners' Expansion of Food Scrap Composting Initiative



SGA intern Mimi Payne delivers composting educational materials to a restaurant.

Community Trust, the Kinship Foundation and the Searle Funds.

Seven Generations Ahead (SGA) and partners have been working at the forefront to develop a robust food scrap composting industry in Illinois. After a half-day, Chicago region GreenTown forum on food scrap composting programs and policies in Highland Park, Ill., in 2012, SGA and partners founded the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition (IFSC). In 2015, SGA prepared and submitted the report, "Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois," to the state's General Assembly on behalf of IFSC.

Now, with the IFSC board and other IFSC partners, SGA is leading a [project](#) called "Building Illinois' Local Food Shed Through Advancing Food Scrap Composting," with funding from Land:Food:Opportunity - a partnership of The Chicago

The project's long-term goal is to support the growth of a local, sustainable food production through development of a viable food scrap composting industry. Short-term goals include educating decision makers on the benefits of composting (its role in sustainable food production), creating strategies to build the industry, developing large-scale institutional pilot models, and laying the groundwork for food scrap collection routes.

[Read the full story about the composting initiative](#)

SAVE THE DATE: On Nov. 3, SGA and the IFSC will produce the first Illinois Soil, Food, Water and Composting Summit. For more information, contact act@sevendgenerationsahead.org.



THE ILLINOIS SOIL, FOOD, WATER and COMPOSTING SUMMIT

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November 3, 2017 | 8 am – 4 pm
Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 West Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60604

PURPOSE:

To bring together leaders and practitioners working on soil conservation, water quality protection, sustainable agriculture/local food, food recovery, and composting to learn more about the connectivity between issues and explore opportunities for collaborative work that lead to eco-effective, socially-responsible, and economically viable results across topic areas.

OUTCOMES:

Develop tangible policy, project, and program ideas that answer the following questions:

- What are the linkages and leverage points between protecting Illinois waterways, large-scale compost application and growing food for local consumption?
- How can systems within institutions/businesses support food recovery for people in need and composting?
- Can Illinois grow a local food economy without ruining its water ways and natural resources?

Organized by Seven Generations Ahead in partnership with:

The Illinois Environmental Council, Bright Beat, SCARCE, Will County,
and The Board of the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition



Food:Land:Opportunity
Localizing the Chicago Foodshed

Moving forward on solar

The PlantGreen Initiative continues to lay the groundwork to participate in the Illinois Future Energy Jobs Act as the Illinois Power Agency prepares program



administration rules.

PlantGreen has identified a number of potential rooftop sites in Oak Park and River Forest where single meter and community solar installations may be located. Sites outside of the OPRF area also have been identified. Outreach and negotiations have started with solar developers interested in various market segments, including how to hire people for technical and non-technical employment, especially from disadvantaged markets.



Hop to it: 10th Oak Park Micro Brew & Food Review



It's a milestone anniversary for Oak Park Micro Brew & Food Review.

The zero waste craft beer fest turns 10 this year. All the fun gets officially underway when the bagpiper plays at 3 p.m. Sat., Aug. 19 near the intersection of Marion Street and North Boulevard in downtown Oak Park. Now one of Chicagoland's favorite midsummer street festivals, [Micro Brew](#) showcases dozens of the best craft beers from Illinois, Midwest and national brewers. In addition to the many brew samples, the fest features live music and small plates served up by Oak Park area restaurants.

General admission advance tickets are \$55. Online ticket sales end on Friday, Aug. 18. **Buy tickets [here](#).** Gate sales will only offer Main Event access tickets for \$65.

Don't forget your ID! Please dress for the weather. We also recommend you bring a water bottle. Once again, we're partnering with Lyft, which is offering up to \$50 in free rides for first-time users. Use the code SGA.

Proceeds support SGA's work to promote healthy and sustainable communities.

IFSN expands Harvest of the Month program



Seven Generations Ahead introduced the Illinois [Harvest of the Month](#) (HOTM) program at the Illinois School Nutrition Association Summer Conference in Tinley Park, making it available to school districts across the state.

The HOTM program helps schools buy and serve more local food, while teaching students about healthy eating, nutrition, and agriculture. Each month, participating schools can feature a different local item on their cafeteria menus. This brings more money to local farmers and puts more nutritious food on student's plates. Harvest of the Month foods come with

activities and resources that make it easy for schools to participate in farm to school.

[Illinois Farm to School Network](#), led by SGA, has really started to promote the Harvest of the Month program and is working with eight partner organizations and 17 school districts, says Farm to School Network Coordinator Diane Chapeta.

[Read the full story about HOTM expansion](#)

Make yours a green block party



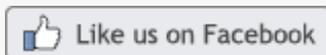
Along with the kiddie bounce house, grills and lawn chairs, bring some green living tips to your summer block party.

Demonstrations on butterfly gardening, edible gardening, organic lawn care, and composting are among the activities offered by Green Community Connections and PlantGreen to help bring a sustainability focus to your neighborhood event. Info on how to schedule a green event is available on the Green Community Connections' [Green Guides page](#).

When you donate, you help our sustainability work reach more communities.

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