



Spring 2018



Improved soil quality focus of composting forum

Seven Generations Ahead along with SCARCE, the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition, and Dupage and Kane Counties organized "Getting to the Heart of Better Soil Through Composting," a zero waste forum that took place Feb. 14 at the Cantigny Golf Club in Wheaton.

The forum focused on the benefits of compost for improving soil quality for landscape and under the turf; how compost impacts the bottom line; best practices and overcoming application challenges and how to identify the right compost for particular needs.

Speakers included Vytas Pabedinskas from Save our Soils and Jim Cowhey from Organix Recycling in addition to park district leaders from Oak Park and Wheaton.

[Read more](#)



Lunch & Learn highlights solar in OPRF community

As PlantGreen continues to help ensure a more sustainable community, it is working to educate community members on various aspects of solar energy. The March 7 lunch gave the 17 community members who attended an overview of PIG's solar projects and initiatives.

Seven Generations Ahead executive director Gary Cuneen led the presentation, describing the goal of the Solar in Your Community Challenge as "bringing solar to low to moderate income households, nonprofits and local governments."

SGA's Community Solar consultant Mark Burger, who has been working with PlantGreen for about two years now, presented information on Solar Power Purchase Agreements and building community solar through municipal aggregation.

[Read more](#)



Meet Alli and Abbey: New program associates

Two new sustainability program associates recently joined SGA, **Alli**



Forum on resiliency attracts local residents

The Resilient Communities Forum on Jan. 31 at the 19th Century Club

Preble and Abbey Prendiville.

Abbey looks forward to furthering the work of Farm to School and the Zero Waste Schools. She graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in May 2017 with a bachelor's degree in Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability and Sociology.

Alli is a former SGA intern who worked with Jen Nelson, zero waste program manager, on the We Compost program. She graduated from DePaul University last year with a major in environmental studies and minors in studio art and American Sign Language.

[Read more](#)

drew 175 residents from Oak Park and River Forest. They heard from municipal and environmental leaders on ways nations and communities are addressing the challenges of climate change.

The forum included a presentation by SGA executive director Gary Cuneen on local sustainability priorities. A resource fair connected attendees to local climate action options. Groups represented were Deep Roots Project, One Earth Film Festival, Openlands TreeKeepers, Sugar Beet Food Co-op, West Cook Wild Ones and the River Forest Sustainability Commission.

[Read more](#)

Solar, renewable energy forum features developer match-making session

SGA and the Fox Valley Sustainability Network hosted a Solar and Renewable Energy Forum at Waubensee Community College in Aurora on Jan. 18. Among the topics that various speakers covered were financing options for community solar projects in Illinois, the different kinds of solar projects on the horizon, the Future Energy Jobs Act and municipal aggregation opportunities.



The second half of the forum featured a solar developer and institution match-making session, during which attendees had a chance to mingle with solar developers, companies and organizations to learn more about what they do and how they might work together on upcoming and future solar and renewable energy projects.

Mark Wilkerson, an account manager with [Solaria](#), said he was looking specifically for 12-acre parcels of land on which to develop 2MW community solar arrays. "We have the people that can do the offtake. We take care of all the details. We just turn unused land into an income source for cities, for schools, for anybody that's got unused farmland or farmland with not very good soil. We can turn that into an income source."

[Read more](#)

NEW SGA NEWSLETTER:

Zero Waste Schools

The Zero Waste Schools newsletter will help you get your school on a path toward generating zero waste through waste prevention, recycling, composting and food recovery. You'll also find resources that connect zero waste to healthy eating, school gardens, and environmental education and action.



Look for an **invitation email** the first week of April.

COMING UP

Diane Chapeta, Farm to School programs manager, will participate in a panel at the [Good Food Expo](#) on Friday, March 23, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Topic: "Learn how to sell to government entities and how to get certified as a woman/minority/veteran-owned business"

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