



**Great Apple Crunch participants at Fairview School District 72, Skokie, IL.**

## **2016 Apple Crunch participation way up over last year's**

It was the crunch heard all around Illinois—the sound of several hundred thousand school children biting into local apples.

The second annual **Illinois Great Apple Crunch** was an overwhelming success, and the Illinois Farm to School Network has the numbers and the [photos](#) to prove it. A total of 339,100 students from school districts all over the state participated this year, up from 90,000 last year. The total number of participating schools and sites throughout Illinois was 1,080.

"Illinois Great Apple Crunch is a fun event that lets schools see how easy it is to participate in farm to school, **Lydia Mills**, Farm to School Program Coordinator at SGA. "By purchasing local apples, schools support Illinois farmers and teach their students about healthy, fresh, local food."

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## Fox Valley Sustainability Network "developing actionable projects"

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 grant 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 from Kane County's resource management coordinator **Cecilia Govrik** and **Chris Toth**, a land urban planner for the county. They presented "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 last month.

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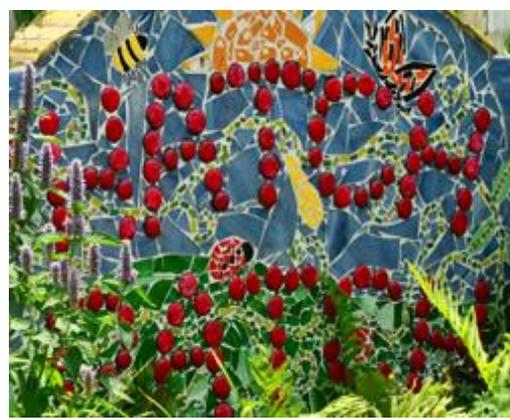


## SGA helps CPS divert tons of food waste from landfills

Seven Generation Ahead's partnership with **Chicago Public Schools** (CPS) to implement zero waste programs and teach students to be Zero Waste Ambassadors has entered its third year. Five schools participated in the initial year pilot program, five more came aboard in the second year and this year's plan is to double the number of schools from 10 to 20.

The program has four goals: divert 80 percent of all cafeteria and kitchen waste from landfills by piloting commercial composting and increasing recycling efforts; educate students and staff about the how and why of the program; determine best practices for CPS as they look to expand food scrap composting to other schools in the district, and conduct a cost benefit analysis for CPS.

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## 15th anniversary celebrates progress on sustainability

On Oct. 5, SGA celebrated its 15th Anniversary, with many of its long-time supporters and friends on hand to raise a glass.

Executive director **Gary Cuneen** took a few minutes to recall SGA's early beginnings and how it has grown, "from a very viable organization to one that's having lots of impact across the Chicago metro area." He credited "great staff, great partners and a great board of directors" and many of those in the room that night "who make things happen."

He cited the **Hatch Patch Elementary School** garden in Oak Park as an early success story that grew from SGA's help in securing a grant for its first raised beds. The edible garden also celebrated its 10th anniversary this fall.

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## SGA in the news

Catch up on our recent media coverage:

- [Fox Valley Sustainability Network moves quickly, efficiently](#)
- [Students participate in Great Apple Crunch Day](#)
- [Fighting For Scraps: What It Would Take For Chicago To Get Citywide Composting](#)
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