



# ANNUAL REPORT

SEVEN GENERATIONS AHEAD

2018

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# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters:

As Seven Generations Ahead (SA) enters into its 18<sup>th</sup> 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 - linking food service directors to a different locally-sourced, sustainable vegetable or fruit each month - and our Illinois Great Apple Crunch programs each have surpassed reaching half a million children. 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 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. Our work through PlanItreen 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.

Our biggest challenge, however, remains how to motivate and support local community institutions with taking action on renewable energy procurement and installations. With the Future Energy Jobs Act details beginning to take shape, 2019 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 20 communities in the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Solar Energy Innovation Network (SEIN); 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,

Amy Cuneen

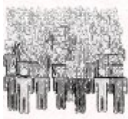
Founder and Executive Director

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## IMPACT AT A GLANCE



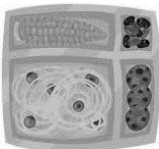
**586,331** Illinois residents crunched into locally grown apples for the annual Great Apple Crunch . **Up more than 100,000** from 2017.



**Over half a million students** learned about and tasted local, seasonable fruits and vegetables in their school lunchrooms in 2018.



**342+ tons of waste were diverted** from landfills in 2018 through the Chicago Public School Commercial Composting and Recycling Program.



**92,000+ meals** were donated through the Surplus Project at University of Illinois Medical Center and Rush University Medical Center.



**\$100,000 grant** was successfully brokered between the Sun Club Foundation and the Park District of Oak Park leading to a 22kw solar array and other sustainability measures at the Oak Park Conservatory.

## SUCCESS SNAPSHOTS



SA's support of zero waste schools is expanding into Lake County. In partnership with the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO), SA will be implementing the Zero Waste Schools North Shore Program in 3-5 Lake County schools, kindergarten through 12th grade. With this program, each school will launch commercial composting, recycling, and other waste reduction efforts in their lunchrooms and kitchens. SA/SWALCO will conduct waste audits, provide onsite logistical guidance, and teach all students and staff the How and Why of going for zero waste. Schools are expected to divert roughly 85% of their lunchroom landfill waste while normalizing composting, recycling, and resource conservation for a new generation of student environmental leaders.



Through PlanItGreen, SGA helped the Park District of Oak Park secure a \$100,000 grant from Green Mountain Energy for the addition of solar panels, water harvesting, bee hives and tea composting at the Oak Park Conservatory. The District was also able to secure tens of thousands of dollars in energy savings and reduced/free products from ComEd. For this, Gary, our executive director, received the Park District of Oak Park's Community Service Award.



Over 300 individuals from various public and private sectors came together for reenTown Will County at Joliet Junior College Renaissance Center. The day also marked the launch of the Will County Regional Sustainability Network (WCRSN), designed to connect people, communities and resources to make lasting improvements to the region's economy, ecology and social equity. Tracks and sessions covered the following relevant topics: energy & ecosystems; local, sustainable food; water; transportation; health; and waste diversion & recycling. SA staff Mark Burger, Diane Chapeta, and Jen Nelson gave presentations and moderated several sessions.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Mark Ledogar**

President

One Smooth Stone

*Treasurer*

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Environmental Engineer

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Partner

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**Amy Antonioli**

Attorney

Schiff Hardin LLC

**Gary Cuneen**

Founder and Executive Director

Seven Generations Ahead

**Rowan Richards**

Director of Business Coaching and Connections

Accion Chicago





# STAFF

**Susan Casey**

Zero Waste Program Associate

**Diane Chapeta**

IL Farm to School Network Coordinator

**ary Cuneen**

Founder & Executive Director

**Lisa Daleiden-Brugman**

Office Coordinator & Program Support

**Amy Lee**

Accountant

**Jen Nelson**

Program Manager

**Allison Preble**

Sustainability Associate

**Abigail Prendiville**

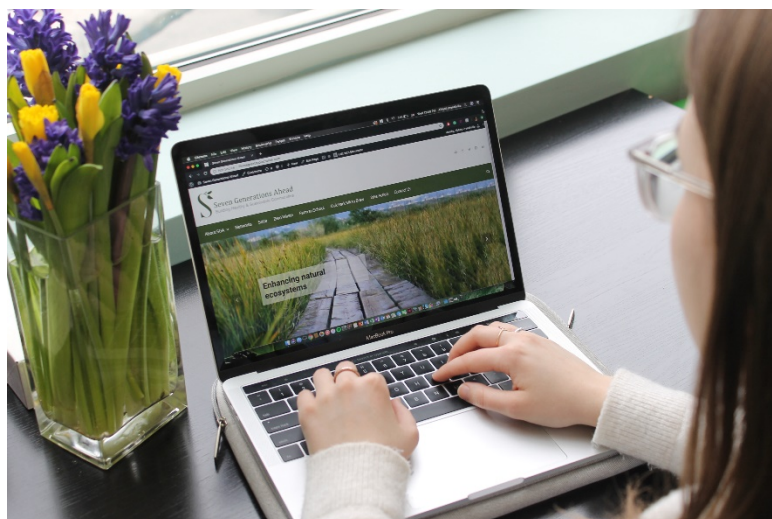
Sustainability Associate

**Cassandra West**

Communications Director

**Marlie Wilson**

Illinois Farm to School Network Coordinator



# GRANTS & CONTRACTS

Chicago Community Trust  
Cliff Bar Family Foundation  
Depaul  
Earthshare of Illinois  
JR Albert Foundation  
Kainz Family Foundation  
Lumpkin Foundation  
Moller Family Foundation  
Nielsen-Massey  
North Shore Gas  
Oak Park River Forest Community  
Foundation  
O'Donnell  
Partners for Places  
Peoples Gas  
State of Illinois Charitable Trust  
Tides  
Walter S. Mander Foundation  
Willow Springs Charitable Trust



## 2018 Community Sustainability Report Card

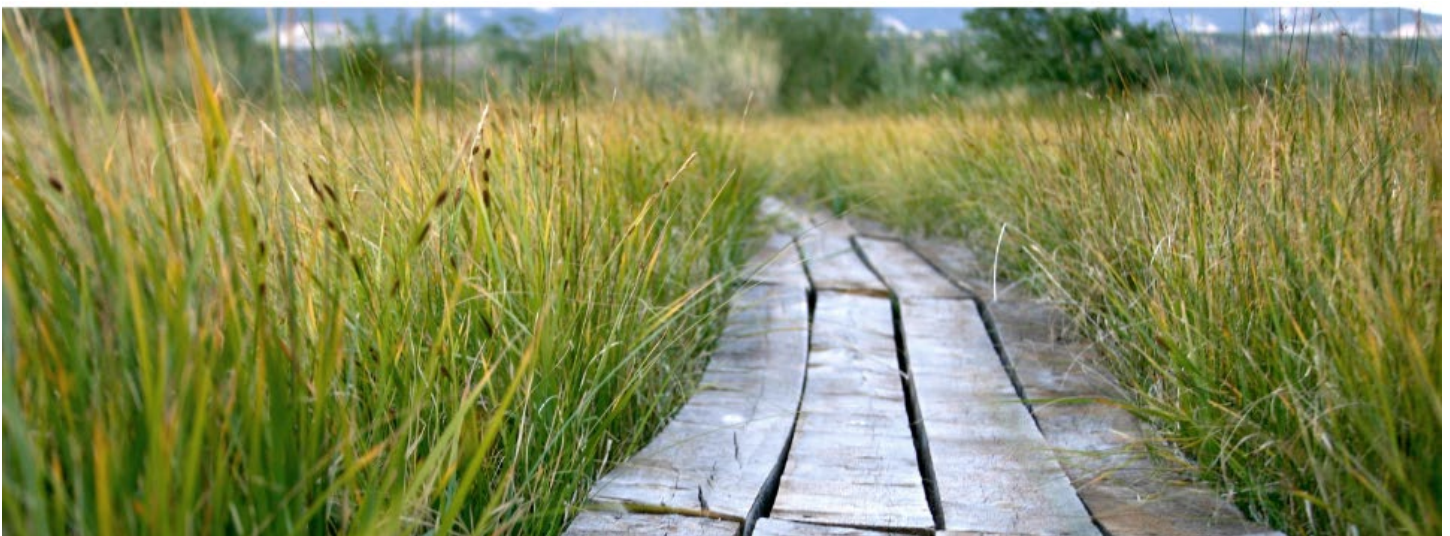




## SPONSORS

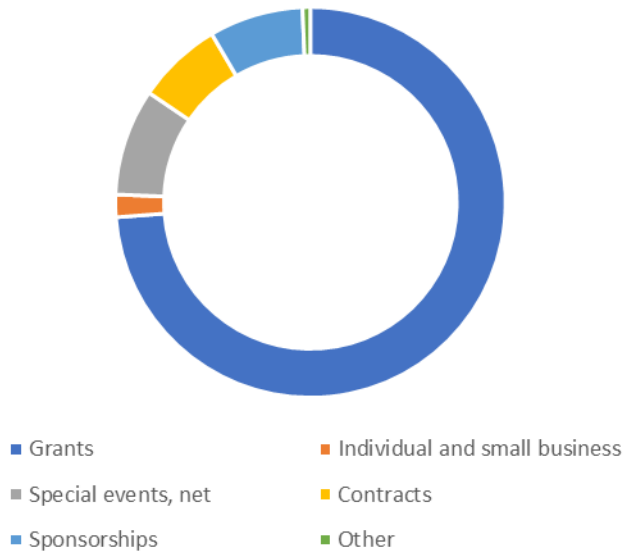
American Philanthropic  
Applied Ecological Services  
Beer Shop  
Beermiscuous  
Christopher Burke  
CITGO  
City of Elgin  
City of Joliet  
Coopers Hawk  
Country Malt Group  
Downtown Oak Park  
Farnsworth Group  
Forest Preserve of Will County  
Fulton Street Brewery  
Goose Island  
Green Mountain Energy  
Green Structure Ltd  
Hands of Hope  
Haymarket  
Heroes West

Hinshaw Law  
HR Green  
Ikea  
Illinois Solar Energy Association  
Kane County  
Lagunitas  
Lake County  
MacCarb  
Maple Leaf Farms  
Midwest Ecological Landscape  
Alliance  
Midwest Energy Alliance  
RTS Packaging  
Silver Cross Medical Center  
Sugar Beet Food Coop  
Tradition Energy  
United Way of Will County  
University of St. Francis  
V3 Companies

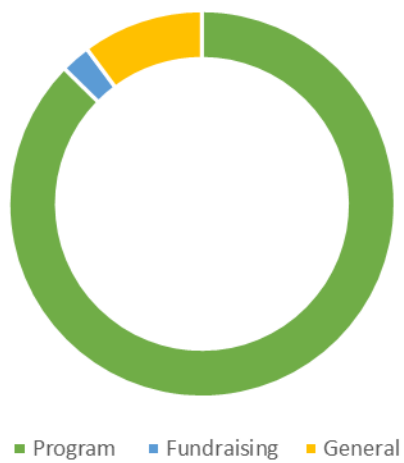


# INCOME & EXPENSES

Income



Expenses





## FIND US



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Generations  
Ahead

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