Northfield as a Living Lab: Community-Wide Food Recovery Expansion

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Sustainability Office
If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together...
Carleton College
Residential Liberal Arts College with 2,000 Students
Carleton’s Food Recovery Network (FRN) Chapter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Carleton Food Recovery Network (FRN) Chapter Formed</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Carleton FRN collects <strong>8,700 pounds</strong> of food from two dining halls</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Carleton FRN volunteers log over <strong>1,200 hours</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Carleton partners with the Northfield Community Action Center and the City of Northfield to submit a <strong>$58,000</strong> MPCA grant for Carleton FRN volunteers to use retail food rescue to their volunteer duties and has quickly transported over <strong>19,000</strong> pounds of food</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Refrigeration infrastructure installed at the Community Action Center food shelf</td>
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**Carleton Student Volunteer Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1698</td>
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FRN Community Partners

Church of St. Dominic
In Northfield, Minnesota

Open Hands Farm

Northfield Public Schools

Greenvale Park Community School

Faribault Education Center

Northfield Union of Youth

Community Action Center of Northfield

Project Friendship
empowering youth through mentoring
“Evaluating a behavioral economics approach to improve the selection of healthy food among food shelf clients”
SuperShelf transforms food shelves, creating welcoming environments for communities to access appealing, healthy food.

https://www.supershelfmn.org/
GOOD FOOD: We believe reliable access to healthy, appealing and culturally appropriate food will promote overall health in our communities.

RESPECT FOR ALL: We believe client-centered, welcoming, and positive approaches create dignified experiences that further equity in our communities.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS: We believe mutual trust and fully engaged partners build strong, connected communities working toward sustainable systems change.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES: We believe excellence comes from thoughtful, rigorous evaluations, and replicable solutions.

SYSTEMIC THINKING: We believe influencing policy and processes at all levels drives transformational change in our food system.
4. Eligible and ineligible projects

There are a number of best practices a community can implement that result in greater collection of recyclable materials. Implementation of proven best practices can improve recycling program efficiency and effectiveness.

Funding will be awarded for projects that focus on increasing recycling and/or organics collection processing. Some examples of best practices include:

- Increase collection of recyclables (e.g., implementation of a countywide curbside program, increasing frequency of collection, or collection of new materials).
- Transition to single-sort recycling collection.
- Establish or expand curbside, drop-site, or processing capacity of source-separated organic materials (SSOM).
- Establish or expand food rescue or food-to-livestock programs.
- Development or expansion of programs for hard to recycle and bulky materials, including, but not limited to, mattresses, car seats, concrete, shingles, electronic waste, etc.
- Any other project that will expand or improve recycling or composting programs in greater Minnesota.
Food Recovery Hierarchy

Source Reduction & Reuse
Reduce the volume of surplus food generated

Feed Hungry People
Donate extra foods to food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters

Feed Animals
Divert food scraps to animal feed

Industrial uses
Provide waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion and food scraps for digestion to recover energy

Composting
Create a nutrient-rich soil amendment

Landfill / Incineration
Last resort to disposal
City of Northfield

Ben Martig
City Administrator
City of Northfield

City of Northfield owns the Northfield Community Resource Center, the building that houses the Community Action Center and Food Shelf
“One of the defining characteristics of contemporary models of civic engagement is mutually-beneficial collaboration, in which all persons contribute knowledge, skills, and experience in determining the issues to be addressed, the questions to be asked, the problems to be resolved, the strategies to be used, the outcomes that are considered desirable, and the indicators of success.”
Milk and Egg Purchases
August 2018 vs. August 2019
Unexpected Benefits

Organic Egg Recovery
Frozen Meat
Frozens Recovered Soups

Lessons learned

Data gathering changed as project developed
Keeping your eye out for opportunities
Tell people what you are doing!
Stay flexible as your project evolves
Questions?

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