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Food Waste Prevention & Diversion

Our Story & System
How did we do it?
How do we know it worked?
What did we learn?
What are the impacts?
Who are We?

Friendly, neighborhood grocery

Locally owned & operated since 1999

Privately held

12 stores, 2,200 staff

Built on sustainable practices

Leadership and staff equally passionate about and committed to sustainability
Sustainable Business Model

Regional food & farm partner
1/3 of product from local Home Grown region
Local community partner
10% of after tax profits back to community
Progressive health benefits
Minimum wage starts at $10
Our System
Food Waste Recovery
Getting Started

Began composting produce in 2003
Started Green Teams in each store in 2007
Followed with phased approach program
Created comprehensive composting & recycling program & other practices
Components of Program

Prevention
Reduction
Donation
Diversion
Education
Food Waste
Prevention & Reduction

Local, direct distribution
Strong local vendor and farmer relationships
Cross-department support
Value-added programs
Food Waste Donation

Food Bank partnerships at each store
Food and product donation to staff
Informal community partnerships

In 2010, donated estimated 1,040 tons of edible food
Food Waste Diversion

Compost infrastructure throughout
All stores, back of the house & customer side
Collection of deli grease, FOG, & meat rendering

Compost diversion increased
41% in first year
How did we do it?

Behind the Scenes
Green Teams

Set up Green Teams in each store
Represent departments, monthly meetings
Provides leadership, education, collaboration
Builds community relationships
Fosters ongoing sustainable programs
Phased Approach

Focus on department with most impact
Focus on-site waste first
Get the infrastructure in place—give people the tools first
Add other departments
Develop materials and training
How do we know it worked?

Tracking the progress
Increased Diversion

Compost tonnage diversion increased 109%.

Last year we composted 2,346 tons (4,692,000 million pounds).
Created Cost Savings

2006-2010 Revenue & Expense Change

- Company sales combined waste hauling expense
- Combined solid waste hauling expense
- Garbage hauling expense
- Compost hauling expense
Engaged Staff

Put us on a sustainable change continuum
Created conversation buzz
 Ranked by staff as highest area of personal satisfaction
Recognized for Sustainability
What did we learn?

Best Practices
Create a waste to worth shift

Which...

Impacts upstream food waste prevention & reduction
Impacts downstream diversion
Impacts other sustainable practices
We Learned

Be practical
Adapt to make it work
Don’t try to be perfect
Go for the biggest impact
Ask questions
Avoid the police state
Think out of the box
Be persistent
Important Elements

Point person
Cohesion & consistency
Leadership
Passion
Tools and support
Communication
What are the impacts?

Global  Local  Individual

Prevents pollution
Produces nutrient-rich soil
Enriches land
Serves customers and community
Provides hands-on opportunity for staff
Staff retention & morale
Creates cost savings