

SUSTAINABLE FOOD



PROGRAM

TESTIMONIAL



CASE STUDY

## NYSP21 Partners with Foundation for New York's Strongest for Microgrant Program Pilot

The Foundation for New York's Strongest is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the work of the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY). The Foundation's core mission is to highlight the important contributions made by the DSNY workforce to keep New York City clean and safe every day; to support zero waste goals, and to celebrate and preserve DSNY'S rich culture and history.

### CHALLENGE

More than 1.3 million tons of food waste is generated in New York City per year, and while consumers at home generate half of that, the other half is produced by food businesses, such as restaurants, grocery stores, food manufacturers, and vendors. The Foundation for New York's Strongest would like to support food waste solutions from small businesses to help reduce the 650,000 tons of food waste that New York City businesses throw away each year.

### SOLUTION

The Foundation for New York's Strongest launched its Microgrant Program for city businesses looking to address food waste in their operations. The grants, worth up to \$2,000 or \$5,000 for partnered businesses aim to help New York City businesses prevent, recycle or recover their food waste. To support this effort, New York State Pollution Prevention (NYSP21) joined the Microgrant Advisory Committee, committing to provide mentorship to grant applicants as well as brief assistance to the grant awardees.

Accepted proposals came from businesses that are working towards food waste prevention, recovery and recycling solutions already, or wish to get started. NYSP21 provided feedback on these proposals as well as outlining areas of assistance opportunity for each. Upon finalizing the awarded companies, NYSP21 started a more formal relationship with the awardees and began providing support where needed.

### RESULTS

Through this project, NYSP21 was able to support the implementation of the Microgrant Program Pilot by assisting with application review for the final round of applicants, grant promotion through NYSP21 networks, and participating in the advisory committee duties by providing technical assistance. The awarded companies included a vegetarian café in Brooklyn aiming to process food scraps on site, a plant-forward food company delivering meals in NYC looking to prevent food waste, a food waste hauler setting up zero waste stations at a NYC market, and a small yogurt manufacturer repurposing whey into new products. NYSP21 provided technical support to the Foundation program as well as three out of the four grant awardees over the course of this project.

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### SOLUTION

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sanitation

## TESTIMONIAL

Areas of technical support included:

- Created dynamic metrics tracking sheet that was provided to each of the awardees, allowing consistent metrics to be collected from each awarded
- Provided guidance on sourcing imperfect produce as well as outlet options for recycled food scraps
- Gave recommends for building waste sorting stations, including design concepts and material choices
- Designed educational flyer regarding the problem of waste whey and potential benefit of utilizing this product to be distributed with purchased popsicles
- Facilitated connections to local bokashi experts, resulting in direct hands-on support provided to awardees

“As a member of the Microgrant’s Advisory Committee, NYSP2I provided valuable mentorship and technical brief assistance to the Program’s awardees. NYSP2I is helping the Foundation for New York’s Strongest change the way people view food waste.”

- Foundation for NY Strongest, Inc.

## NYSP2I PARTNERS

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New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

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