

# COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM



## CASE STUDY

### Food Waste Challenge Provides Opportunity to Assist Community Food Insecurity

Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) was established in 1977 to offer planning, education & outreach, and advocacy for Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. HVRC convenes a Regional Materials Management Working Group made up of all seven county solid waste managers, recycling coordinators and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Region 3 materials management staff. HVRC has a strong commitment to educating local communities on long term sustainability.

#### Challenge

Food waste is a significant issue in the U.S. in New York State and in the Hudson Valley. With the Department of Agriculture and the US Environmental Protection Agency calling for the first-ever national food waste reduction goal of a 50% reduction by 2030, HVRC sought to further their efforts to reduce food waste.

#### Solution

HVRC sought to decrease food waste in Ulster and Dutchess Counties by creating a new initiative to increase awareness of food waste, food insecurity and opportunities for food recovery and food donation. The project sought to increase the number of food donors providing recovered food to social service and charitable organizations. Ultimately this will reduce the amount of food waste going to disposal sites and will help provide food to those in need.

#### Results

Through a variety of different avenues, HVRC was able to engage farmers, farm stands, restaurants, and small food businesses as food donors, and charitable organizations as food recipients. Forty new food donors became a part of this program to donate food to sixteen new food recipients. HVRC also developed a Food Waste Recovery, Food Recovery Liability, and Food Insecurity fact sheet, of which 250 sheets were distributed.

On October 8, 2016 HVRC hosted the hugely successful “Feeding the Hudson Valley” event on the historic Walkway Over the Hudson State Park. Hundreds of people enjoyed a delicious free feast, sourced from fresh top-quality produce that would have otherwise been wasted. Members of the public were educated on food waste and the social and environmental impacts it takes. Event activities included cooking demonstrations, prepared remarks from partners, booths staffed by local organizations and live music. In addition to the free meal served on the Walkway, hundreds of meals were also provided to area charitable food organizations.



Photo Credit: Geoffery Wilson

#### CHALLENGE

- Reduce the amount of food waste and create awareness to those in Ulster and Dutchess Counties

#### SOLUTION

- HVRC will decrease food waste in Ulster and Dutchess Counties by creating a new initiative to increase awareness of food waste, food insecurity and opportunity for food recovery and food donation

#### RESULTS

- Hundreds of people enjoyed a delicious free feast, sourced from fresh top-quality produce that would have otherwise been wasted
- Approximately 40,000 lbs of food was rescued
- Members of the public were educated on food waste and the social & environmental impacts it takes
- Forty (40) new food donors became apart of this program to donate food to sixteen (16) new food recipients



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As a result, the regional gleaning network and conversation has expanded as a result of the collaboration that occurred in organizing “Feeding the Hudson Valley”. Through traditional methods such as flyers, posters, and press releases, and in addition to social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, HVRC increased awareness of food waste and opportunities for donation. Approximately 40,000 lbs of food was rescued as a result of this effort. Many aspects of this project exceeded expectations to further educate the public about food sustainability.

**Resources**

Feeding the Hudson Valley Video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njWOOg3MAf4>

Feedback

- [feedbackglobal.org/](http://feedbackglobal.org/)

Dutchess Outreach

- <http://dutchessoutreach.org/>

Rescuing Leftover Cuisine

- <https://www.rescuingleftovercuisine.org/>

Ulster Corp Glean Team

- <http://www.ulstercorps.org/about/the-glean-team/>

Cornell Cooperative Extension Gleaning

- <http://cceorangecounty.org/ag-environment/gleaning-program-food-security>

Long Table Harvest

- <http://longtableharvest.org/>

Feeding the 5000 Toolkit

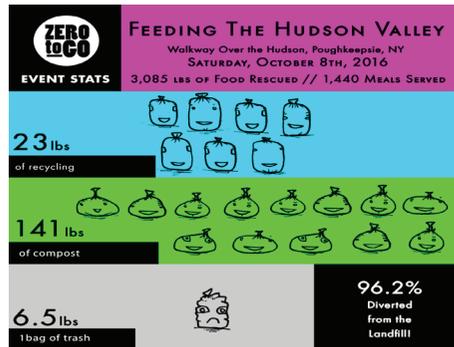
- <http://feedbackglobal.org/about-us/get-involved/feeding-5000-toolkit/>

Feeding the Hudson Valley

- <http://feedhv.org/>

Hudson Valley Regional Council

- Website - [hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/](http://hudsonvalleyregionalcouncil.org/)
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/HudsonValleyRegionalCouncil/>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/hudsonvalleyrc>



**Feeding the Hudson Valley Partners**

Feedback, Dutchess Outreach, Dutchess Outreach Lunchbox, Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste, Rescuing Leftover Cuisine, Second Chance Foods, Inc., Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County Gleaning Program, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, UlsterCorps, Rondout Valley Growers Association, Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, EatLocalNY, Family of Woodstock

**TESTIMONIAL**

“There is a tremendous amount of food that is grown, processed, cooked and wasted, and each of us can get involved to be a part of the solution. Not only can we help feed hungry people right here in the Valley, but we can also significantly reduce the environmental impacts from food waste. We are very grateful to the New York State Pollution Institute for choosing to fund this important effort to bring attention to the issue of food waste and food insecurity in the Hudson Valley.”

– Rich Schiafo, Senior Planner  
Hudson Valley Regional Council

**NYSP2I PARTNERS**



New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

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