

# COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM



## CASE STUDY

## Community Compost Collection Leads to Healthier and More Sustainable Future

The “East New York Farms!” Project (ENYF) is a venture of United Community Centers, a nonprofit organization in Brooklyn, New York. Its mission is to organize youth and adult residents to address food injustice in the community by promoting local sustainable agriculture and community-led economic development. ENYF operates one of the nation’s largest youth-run Farmer’s Markets in a low-income neighborhood, creates and supports gardens throughout the community, offers trainings that emphasize environmentally sustainable gardening methods, and engages youth in an intensive internship program each year.

### Challenge

ENYF wanted to find a way to engage the community around meeting the city-wide goal of reducing the amount of food scraps and yard waste that goes to the landfill. By promoting composting at their farmers’ markets, farms, and youth program, ENYF was able to show how waste reduction could benefit our local environment.

### Solution

With the support of New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I), ENYF hired a Compost Coordinator to staff a table at their weekly farmers market to engage the public about composting, collect and record compostable materials dropped off, and manage the composting operation on the farm. Additionally, ENYF conducted two workshops regarding composting for the public and led hundreds of visitors and volunteers on tours of their compost systems. Community members, market customers, gardeners, and farm visitors learned the environmental benefits of composting, and how to implement composting practices into their own businesses and lifestyles.

ENYF also hosted a Compost Challenge for their 33 youth interns. The composting project prevents pollution in the community by keeping food and yard waste out of the waste stream and landfills. It also provides a source of renewable fertility for local farms and gardens, rather than relying on chemical fertilizers.

### Results

An ENYF Community Garden Educator explained the construction of a three bin system and how to compost at your home or backyard to 33 community members in two educational workshops. ENYF also updated their own current compost system at their farm, and purchased the necessary supplies and educational materials to collect compost at their Farmers’ Markets. This allowed the new Compost Collection Coordinator to host 21 collections at the Saturday Farmers’ Market and 18 Wednesday market collections. An estimated 4,880 lbs. of waste was collected from 44 community members between July and November and an estimated 700 educational flyers were distributed.

ENYF trained 33 youth interns through educational curriculum, such as New York City’s Department of Sanitations Outdoor Composting Guide and also

### CHALLENGE

- ENYF wanted to find a way to engage the community around meeting the city-wide goal of reducing the amount of food scraps and yard waste that goes to the landfill.

### SOLUTION

- Hire a Compost Coordinator to staff a composting table at the weekly Farmers’ Market
- Conducted two workshops about composting to educate the public and led hundreds of visitors on tours of ENYF’s composting farm to learn how to implement composting practices
- ENYF hosted a Compost Challenge for 33 youth interns

### RESULTS

- 33 community members attended 2 educational composting workshops
- 700 educational flyers were distributed at the compost table at the Farmers’ Market
- An estimated 5,985 lbs. of compost material was collected at the weekly Farmers’ Markets and by the youth intern Compost Challenge
- 572 tour participants and 240 volunteers toured ENYF’s farms

## CONTACT INFO

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encouraged the interns to participate in the Compost Challenge. Combined, the youth interns brought in 1,105 lbs. of compost material for the season. When surveyed at the end of the program, the interns' responses indicated that the program was successful in increasing their knowledge of composting and waste reduction.

In addition to educating the community at Famer's Markets, ENYF led 572 tour participants and 240 volunteers on tours of ENYF's farms. The visitors were taught about the principals and practice of composting, and how to reduce food waste.



ENYF staff and volunteers rebuild their farm compost system. (Photo Credit: ENYF)

#### Social Media

United Community Centers

- [Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)

East New York Farms!

- [Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Youtube](#)

#### Resources

[NYC Department of Sanitation's Outdoor Composting Guide](#)



## TESTIMONIAL

"East New York Farms! was pleased to receive support from NYSP2I's Community Grants Program. Our community compost collection project was very successful; as a result of our efforts over 5,000 lbs of food was diverted from the landfill and 33 youth interns were trained. We greatly appreciate the support from NYSP2I."

– David Vigil,  
ENYF Project Director

## NYSP2I PARTNERS

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