



## Highfields Center for Composting

### Recent Achievements

Through Highfields affiliated programs, in the last year **three million pounds of food scraps were composted** and **green house gas emissions were reduced at a rate equivalent to not burning 130,000 gallons of gasoline.**

We have brought **new and expanded programming** to 10 towns and have another four communities in the various stages of planning.

Highfields' staff has **doubled** the number of businesses participating in Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District's food scrap collection program in the Capital Region, and Stowe to Mad River Valley corridor. In addition, we partnered with three solid waste districts to expand services into Waterbury, Stowe and Waitsfield, while planning for extension of services into the Morrisville region.

We completed Phase I of our **Close the Loop St. Albans** project, through which 1,300 students have been trained in both the role of composting in regenerative food systems and the how to of participating in the program. Through their efforts the Bellows Free Academy high school community has diverted over 8 tons of food scraps from the landfill to a local farm partner for composting. During this time Highfields' staff undertook the permitting and site design for the farm, as well as planning for the collection program.

Other highlights from the last year include launching the first **Community Supported Compost program** in which our compost customers have purchased five year subscriptions for compost, thus helping us meet operating and upgrade costs, while securing themselves with compost. We have also established the **Compost Access Fund** to provide compost to low income, community and school gardens. Through this program Highfields makes two percent of our compost available, or the total amount of compost afforded through specified donations, on a sliding scale for low income, school and community gardeners. In 2010 we distributed 12 yards of compost in this manner.

## 2009-2010 Impact Assessment

### General Outcome Measures

All impact measures are for the 12-month period between 9/1/2009 and 8/31/2010.

Metric	Description	Unit of Measure	Anticipated Outcome	Actual Outcome
Farmers Served	1) Number of farmers provided with direct services 2) Number of farmers receiving technical services 3) Number of farmers receiving general assistance 4) Farms receiving FREE technical services	1) # farmers 2) # farmers 3) # farmers 4) # farmers	1) 10 2) 10 3) 145 4) 10	1) 19 2) 16 3) 135+ 4) 16
Tons of food scraps composted	Tons of source separated food scraps composted through Highfields affiliated programs	Tons of food scraps		1,500 Tons
GHG mitigation	Equivalent gallons of gasoline not burnt through food scrap composting	Gallons of gas		130,000 Gallons
Workshop attendance	Number of individuals that attended workshops	# of individuals	40-50	48
Programs and/ or farms leveraging matching funds	The number of other programs with which JMF support was leveraged to yield increased outcome	# of programs		9
Students Reached	Number of students receiving source separation training	# of students		Over 3,000 Students
Rating of workshop quality	Average rating of workshop quality on anonymous participant evaluations	1) % "Excellent" rating 2) % "Good" or "Excellent" rating	1) 85% 2) 100%	1) 80% 2) 100%

### Behavior Change Measures

Metric	Description	Unit of Measure	Anticipated Outcome	Actual Outcome
Farmers adopting composting	Number of new farmers who are adopting composting as a new practice through the Reduced-Rate Services Program	# of farmers	5	8
Business and schools adopting on-site composting	Number of new businesses and schools using an on-site composting system to handle their food scraps	# of businesses and schools	2	2
New food scrap composting operations	New farms and compost facilities handling food scraps	# of new facilities or sites	2	2
Businesses and schools	New businesses and schools separating food scraps	# of businesses and schools	45	45
Individuals participating	New, individual food service business staff participating in food scrap composting programs	# of individuals		400 (estimated)
Transfer skills through workshops	Number of workshop participants who gain new skills through the workshop they intend to apply	% of participants	90%	90%
Organizational	Number of organizations Highfields is	# of organizations		12

Collaboration	actively collaborating with			
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### Activity Measures

Metric	Description	Unit of Measure	Anticipated Outcome	Actual Outcome
Number of Farms visited	Number of farms visited through all technical service programs and contracts	# of farms	10	19
Number of workshops	Total number of workshops provided*	# of workshops	3	6
Number of Events	Number of events serviced for composting	# of events	1	3
Tabling at events	Number of events at which Highfields staff set up outreach tables	# of events	5	6
Media Exposure	Number of news media stories, including print, radio, television and books	# of stories		24
Website hits	Number of website hits	# of hits		300/month