Climate Solutions That Advance Social Justice

SUSTAINABLE FOOD MANAGEMENT

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FOOD PROBLEM STATEMENT

- The NRDC estimates that 40% of all food grown in the USA is wasted;
- New Jersey is the 2\textsuperscript{nd} most affluent State in the US which is the most affluent industrialized nation on earth;
- Four New Jersey Counties are in the “Top 20” most affluent in the United States:
  - #10 Morris
  - #11 Hunterdon
  - #15 Somerset
  - #20 Bergen
- Despite our relative affluence, 11% of New Jersey’s population and 15% of kids 18 years of age and younger are food insecure;
- Wasted food is landfilled. Landfills are the 3\textsuperscript{rd} largest source of human-related methane emissions in the US - some 15.1% of these emissions;
- Our goals are to dramatically advance food recovery systems while driving food waste away from landfills and to small and large-scale composting facilities.
• Connecting the “Food Recovery” and “Food Waste” Worlds for the first time in New Jersey

• 80 Organization Stakeholder Process/Gap Analysis

• Five Core Focus Areas:
  - Food Recovery
  - Food Management in 2,500 Schools
  - Small Scale Community Composting
  - Large Scale Commercial Composting
  - Sustainable Animal Manure Management

• Implementation Plan Drafted for New Jersey
FOCUS AREAS TO ADVANCE SOCIAL JUSTICE

• Statewide coordination **Office of Food Security Advocate** – Mark Dinglasan
• "All Agency approach" to coordinate State Agency Programs
• Replicate aspects of Environmental Justice platform to advance "Food Equity"
  focus on social determinates of health and food insecurity
• **Regulatory Reform** (legislative) to remove barriers and advance:
  ✓ Community Gardens
  ✓ “Buy-A-Lot” Programs for Inner-City Community Centers and Gardens
  ✓ School Gardens
  ✓ Regional Composting in Schools
  ✓ Backyard Composting
  ✓ Tiered Compost Facility Permitting
  ✓ “Share Table Program” Indemnification in Schools
  ✓ Small Grants Assistance to Food Banks/Pantries/Kitchens
The Work of the Initial Assessment and Action Plans

ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES
Focus “upstream”

pro-equity policies, practices and values such as:
- inclusion
- racial justice

CONDITIONS— Pro-equity systems and policies result in improved community conditions, also known as “determinants of equity”
- affordable & safe housing
- quality education & early learning
- healthy food & food systems
- community economic development
- health care & human services
- healthy built & natural environments
- equitable justice system
- safe & supportive neighborhoods
- transportation
- information & technology

OUTCOMES— Individuals and families thrive regardless of race and place
- good health
- high quality of life
- healthy years lived
- happiness & satisfaction
- educational success
- civic engagement
- economic well-being
- economic well-being