

Healthy Soils, Healthy Seas Rhode Island Project



Grant Donor: 11th Hour Racing

Grantee: Clean Ocean Access

Year: 2018-2019

Grant Value: \$300,000

Grant Partners: The Compost Plant, Rhodside Revival, and Aquidneck Community Table

Grant Overview:

The overarching goal of this project is to protect ocean health by establishing a multi-year integrated materials management solution with an initial focus on business and residential composting on Aquidneck Island in Rhode Island. This project brings together existing composting efforts into a sustainable model to demonstrate the effectiveness, efficiency, and strategic benefits of diverting food waste from our waste system. The goal of this project is to establish a scalable and transferable materials management solution of reducing waste generation and reducing disposal to landfills for households and businesses alike. Project objectives include:

1. Piloting a business composting program that demonstrates the value for various size businesses to divert food waste, maximize recycling, and minimize landfill usage.
2. Advancing residential compost by providing the services through grant partners and bringing awareness of the viability and importance of composting at the household level.
3. Educating homeowners about the advantage of backyard composting by getting participating households involved in the pilot program to expand this behavior to additional households.
4. Engage the public through public outreach events and presentations to keep people up to date on the project evolution.
5. Perform project management to establish a model that shows the value of work that can be replicated elsewhere.

Expected Impact:

The project aims to educate, inspire, and empower the community of the Sailing Capital of the World to foster environmentally responsible behaviors that increases composting, sustainable recycling, and brings light to the material that ends up in our landfills and our waters in the form of marine debris. This project will reduce the amount of material going to Rhode Island's only landfill, which will soon reach capacity, by assisting businesses and households divert food waste to being discarded to instead be composted. This in turn will help with water quality through stormwater runoff management in the form of soil improvement with composting material for green infrastructure projects. An additional impact of composting is the reduction of greenhouse gases entering our atmosphere due to anaerobic decomposition which results in carbon dioxide enriched soil, a vital part of healthy soils.