

# Greater Minnesota recycling and composting application

## Environmental Assistance (EA) Grant Program FY 2018-19

*Doc Type: Grant Application*

**Instructions:** Read the complete *Request for Proposal (RFP)* and other associated documents before submitting this application.

Check the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) EA Grant Program webpage at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/environmental-assistance-grants> for the most recent updates on questions and answers to this solicitation.

**Applications are due no later than 2:00 p.m. Central Time on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.**

**Submit application** (as Microsoft Word and Excel documents) to: [grants-loans.pca@state.mn.us](mailto:grants-loans.pca@state.mn.us) with the subject line, EA Recycling Submittal.

### I Applicant information

Applicant: City of Northfield  
 Address: 801 Washington Street  
 City: Northfield State: MN Zip code: 55057 County: Rice  
 Mailing address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project contact: David Bennett Title: Public Works Director / City Engineer  
 Email: David.Bennett@ci.northfield.mn.us Applicant's website: ci.northfield.mn.us  
 Phone: 507-645-3006 Fax: 507-645-3055 MN House Dist: 20B

Grant requested: \$ 54,000 + Matching funds/value of In-kind: \$ 14,188 = Total project cost: \$ 68,188

	Yes	No
1. Is applicant the sole source of matching funds for this project?		X
<b>If no</b> , is supporting documentation of secured matching funds attached?	X	
2. Is applicant governed by a Board?	X	
<b>If yes</b> , does this submittal include necessary board resolution(s)?	X	
3. Has applicant ever received MPCA EA grant funding before?		X
4. Does the proposed project include an educational component?	X	
5. Is applicant in compliance with Minnesota's tax and environmental regulatory requirements?	X	

**If no**, explain:

**Project title:** Northfield Food Recovery Expansion in Collaboration with the Supershelf Model

**Brief project description** (250 word description of problem and anticipated environmental outcomes):

The purpose of this project is to increase infrastructure for food waste through a collaborative effort with Northfield Community Action Center's (CAC) food shelf. The CAC is a newly "In Progress" SuperShelf partner. SuperShelf transforms food shelves, creating welcoming environments for communities to access appealing, healthy food. Partnering with food shelves across Minnesota, SuperShelf uses behavioral economic principles to promote healthy food choices, works with food shelves to meet specific SuperShelf stocking standards and values, and transforms the physical space to create an appealing environment. Northfield's CAC is housed in a city owned building and is seeking to add a walk-in cooler/freezer to facilitate an increase in food recovered from local grocery stores and farms to be distributed through the community food shelf. In 2017 the CAC rescued over 249,000 pounds of food from local retailers, including Aldi, Cub and Target and they plan to increase that amount through the SuperShelf model. Adding to their refrigeration capacity would allow for a greater percentage of the recovered food to be used to feed people. This is a potential diversion of thousands of pounds of food. We look to this project to build a partnership between the City of Northfield, The Community Action Center and Carletons' Center for Community and Civic Engagement, and Sustainability Office to expand the community wide food recovery efforts. Northfield aspires to be a model community for food recovery, organic waste reduction and share this knowledge with other cities and communities.

## 2 Project details (Provide clear and complete responses.)

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### 2a. What is the environmental need/purpose:

The environmental purpose of this project is the expansion of a community wide food recovery program, maximizing the diversion of food waste from the least beneficial waste streams while meeting a community food security need. The EPA has published a Food Recovery Hierarchy and once food is produced its most beneficial use is to feed people, followed by feeding animals, industrial uses (making fuel), making compost and lastly the landfill. Increasing fresh food storage through a walk-in cooler/freezer will expand the storage capacity and shelf life of the recovered foods leading to more of the food going to feed people as opposed to other lesser beneficial outcomes of the food recovery hierarchy. Food waste is a national problem that impacts us all. According to a 2017 report by the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC), Americans waste forty percent of the food we produce. That is equivalent to four hundred pounds of food per person per year, costing \$218 billion nationally and \$1,800 for a household of four annually. All the while, forty-two million Americans are food insecure. In 2017 the Northfield CAC served 981 households (2,897 individuals), and distributed over 540,000 pounds of food to Northfielders and members of the surrounding communities. The environmental impact of this food waste is significant; food and agriculture consume roughly sixteen percent of our nation's energy, almost half of its land and, and sixty-seven percent of its freshwater use. When forty percent of our nation's food goes uneaten, roughly one-fifth of our cropland, fertilizers, and agricultural water are wasted. Further, food is now the top contributor to U.S. landfills, which releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/wasted-2017-report.pdf>

### 2b. What assets and resources are available to implement this project, including project readiness:

Northfield city staff members have toured the CAC facility, housed in the City owned NCRC building, and have determined that space exists for the addition of the walk-in cooler/freezer unit. City staff will manage the purchasing of the equipment and oversee the installation in collaboration with staff at the CAC. The CAC has pledged \$6,000 cash match for the project plus 52 hours of volunteer time. The SuperSelf transformation for the Northfield CAC is scheduled for this summer (2018). Carleton College's CCCE office is providing in kind support through a summer internship and both the CCCE and the Sustainability Office are providing an academic fellow.

### 2c. What are the anticipated environmental outcomes:

The anticipated environmental outcome of this project is a reduction in food waste going to the lower levels of the food recovery hierarchy. We will use the educational component of the project to help families that are served by the Northfield CAC understand the importance of healthy foods and why keeping these foods out of other waste streams is so important. At current rates, the CAC sources 46% of its food using existing food recovery programs and approximately 50% of that is edible. The CAC does not currently source any food from local farmers and with the addition of the cooler/freezer, they would look to add recovery from a farm. Another outcome is for local grocers reduce their waste output and families receive healthy, wholesome food. In a 2009 survey of Minnesota grocers, the greatest barrier to food recovery was "space limitations." This barrier often limits Minnesota's food retailers from recovering surplus food. Additional cooler space at the CAC would help mitigate this space limitation barrier and allow local grocers to feed more people instead of feeding landfills. The reduction of organic waste to landfills results in a reduction of methane gas being produced.

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/p-p2s1-01.pdf>

### 2d. What are the potential barriers or challenges and how will they be addressed:

Potential challenges are addressing volunteers or staffing needs to complete the pickups for food recovery throughout the community. One way that this has been addressed in the past is to hire someone to drive a route around town. This has been a productive use of time, considering almost half of the foods donated to the CAC was recovered from local businesses. Also, a collaboration has developed between the CAC and Carleton College's food recovery network, a student organization that diverts food from the dining halls on campus to nonprofits in the community. Carleton students are exploring the addition of some of the community recovery routes to their current volunteer system. Another challenge would be to find the right balance so that the CAC isn't hauling foods from grocers just to end up composting it. This challenge would be addressed by the SuperShelf model and the placement of fresh foods at the beginning of the shopper's experience. This would take consistent monitoring and education by staff and volunteers at the CAC to make sure that the fresh food is being taken by its shoppers.

### 2e. How will progress and success of this project be measured:

In addition to partnering with SuperShelf to redesign their food shelf program, the CAC was also chosen as an evaluation site for SuperShelf and received a grant through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to transition and evaluate the SuperShelf model. 52 food shelves across MN applied to be an evaluation site and Northfield was one of eight chosen to implement and be evaluated in 2018. SuperShelf evaluation collects data on diet, markers of cardiovascular health, food selection and satisfaction with culturally specific foods and services. In addition to the SuperShelf evaluation already happening at the CAC, we propose to collect data on the amount of food (in pounds) collected and distributed through the recovery project. We have the baseline numbers for 2017 and so we have the opportunity to measure pre and post numbers for this food recovery expansion project. The Carleton CCCE Fellows and Sustainability Fellows will assist in collecting the data over the

summer of 2018 and throughout the academic year of 2018 - 2019. A successful project would allow for an increase in recovered food and an increase in the amount of the food that is recovered going to feed people.

**2f. How will you share the results of your project:**

The CAC will partner with the City of Northfield and Carleton's Center for Community and Civic Engagement and Sustainability Office to share the results of this project. This information will be posted in the Greater Northfield Sustainability Collaborative website ([northfieldsustainability.org](http://northfieldsustainability.org)) as a successful case study of an expanded food recovery system using the SuperShelf as an educational tool for healthy families and communities. We will also partner with SuperShelf to share best practices as they pertain to food rescue and recovery, aimed at increasing healthy, fresh foods for other SuperShelf sites. The results could also be presented at conferences that focus on food, waste, equity, sustainability, etc. that students and staff already attend as part of ongoing networking and professional development. All materials from the project would be available for other communities to duplicate this process. Northfield is a GreenStep Level 3 city and will report this project through that system.

**2g. What is the project's educational component:**

There are two parts of the educational component: Waste and healthy foods. The waste portion would reach grocers who donate the product and families who receive the product. This would educate about the importance of keeping items as high on the food hierarchy as possible. It would also educate about the importance of composting items that are not edible. Information would be provided at the food shelf on Northfield's composting options, Northfield has both curbside composting (for a fee provided by a local business) and two free drop off sites at city facilities. The healthy foods portion is heavily linked to the SuperShelf model which uses behavioral economic principles to promote healthy food choices, works with food shelves to meet specific SuperShelf stocking standards and values, and transforms the physical space to create an appealing environment. One of the tasks for the summer Carleton fellow will be to research and provide recipes utilizing the recovered food and provide recipes to the food shelf shoppers.

**i. Who is the target audience:**

The target audience is local grocers and families that are supported by the CAC.

**ii. Describe educational topics:**

Educational topics range from food and compost, to food and our bodies and the relationship to health bodies and a healthy community as a whole.

- Waste reduction education, based on the EPA model
- Local composting options
- Healthy food options including recipes and food preservation

**iii. Describe marketing and communication strategies (e.g., newsprint, social media, face-to-face, radio, PSA, etc.):**

Information would be provided at the CAC that would feature healthy eating tips, recipes and waste-reduction strategies. The local newspaper and radio can run stories about similar things as well. Our local station KYMN has a latino radio show on Sunday evenings and we could get the word out through them to our spanish speaking community members. Another way to promote this project is to have recipe cards at the food shelf that shares how to cook, preserve, and store produce items for people that don't know these skills. The Carleton offices collaborating with this project would use their social media pages to promote the stated outcomes.

**2h. How will this project utilize new or innovative strategies/technologies/methods/techniques:**

Supershelf is a new innovative approach to help make the healthiest choice the easiest choice and we are building off that model to expand our food recovery network. The increased offerings of fresh foods will come from foods recovered at local grocery stores, colleges and farms. We think that looking at food recovery from community wide stand point is unique, and that bringing together the entities already recovering food we can improve organic waste reduction on a community scale. Carleton College is home to the first Food Recovery Network chapter in Minnesota, they recover food from two dining halls six days a week with a team of over 70 students volunteers delivering food to eight community partners.

2i. **Is this project located in an MPCA identified environmental justice area of concern?**  Yes  No  
**If yes, describe:** The site is located within the People of poverty category where 40% of people reported income less than 185% of the federal poverty level.

**Will this project serve communities with higher concentrations of low-income residents and/or people of color, including tribal communities?**  Yes  No  
**If yes, describe:** The City of Northfield recently participated in the Government Alliance for Racial Equity (GARE) and is currently in the development phase of their racial equity plan. The City Council of Northfield recently approved six strategic initiatives and one of those initiatives is a diversity, equity and inclusion initiative, "A Community that Welcomes Everyone". Northfield's poverty rate is 10% and this project would directly impact those at or near the poverty level, as well as those who find themselves temporarily in need or transition.

### 3 Experience and qualifications

3a. **Describe applicant's experience and qualifications related to implementing and completing proposed project:**  
 The staff at the CAC are already managing a food recovery program, this project will be an expansion of that program. Their main barriers to expansion are the lack of refrigeration space and the logistics of transporting the food, both of which are being addressed through this grant and the resulting collaborations. City staff are well versed in state purchasing requirements and modifications to city buildings.

3b. **Will anyone outside your organization be responsible for work performed?**  Yes  No  
**If yes, provide experience and qualifications related to proposed project:**  
 The CCCE and Sustainability Office will work with the CAC for reporting and evaluation of the SuperShelf model and the increased food recovery with the addition of the cooler.

### 4 Project workplan and budget (Complete project workplan and budget templates separately)

4a. **Is project workplan attached?**  Yes  No **If no, explain:**  
 (Template can be found on the MPCA website at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/environmental-assistance-grants>, and should be submitted in Microsoft Word.)

4b. **Is anticipated measurable environmental outcomes table completed in the project workplan?**  Yes  No  
 (Sample template can be found and completed in project workplan.)

**If no, explain:**

4c. **Is budget and expenditures table attached?**  Yes  No **If no, explain:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Template spreadsheet can be found on the MPCA website at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/environmental-assistance-grants>, and should be submitted in Microsoft Excel.)

### 5 Supporting and signature documentation

		Attached	Mailed	Faxed	Not applicable
5a.	<b>Letter(s) of support:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments:				
5b.	<b>Letter(s)/resolution(s) of matching funds:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments: Within the letters of support				
5c.	<b>Authorizing board resolution(s):</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments: Resolution to be approved on March 20, 2018				

If any of the above are answered "Not applicable," provide statement of why it does not apply:

***Please use the following format and specific language for your Authorizing Resolution:***

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Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
FY 2018 – 2019 Grant Program  
Authorization Resolution

WHEREAS, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of your organization) has applied for a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), under its FY17 Environmental Assistance Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, if MPCA funding is received, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of your organization) is committed to implementing the proposed project as described in the grant application; and

WHEREAS, MPCA requires that \_\_\_\_\_ (name of your organization) enter into a grant agreement with the MPCA that identifies the terms and conditions of the funding award;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of governing body) hereby agrees to enter into and sign a grant agreement with the MPCA to carry out the project specified therein and to comply with all of the terms, conditions, and matching provisions of the grant agreement and authorizes and directs \_\_\_\_\_ (name of a position) to sign the grant agreement on its behalf.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Print name of signing officer)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Title)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Signature of an officer with your governing body)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Date your governing body agreed to this resolution)*

### Project title:

Northfield Food Recovery Expansion in Collaboration with the SuperShelf Model

- \*Organization type:
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local/Regional government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For-profit         | <input type="checkbox"/> Private college/university           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual         | <input type="checkbox"/> Public college/university            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit         | <input type="checkbox"/> State government                     |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal government                    |

## 1. Statement of project details

The purpose of this project is to increase infrastructure for food recovery through a collaborative effort between the City of Northfield, The Northfield Community Action Center and Carletons' Center for Community and Civic Engagement, and Sustainability Office to expand the community wide food recovery efforts. Northfield aspires to be a model community for food recovery, organic waste reduction and share this knowledge with other cities and communities.

## 2. Goal statement, project evaluation plan, tasks, and subtasks

**Goal statement:** The goal of this project is the expansion of a community wide food recovery program, maximizing the diversion of food waste from the least beneficial waste streams while meeting a community food security need. The CAC will expand and increase the amount of food recovered through adding infrastructure (cooler/freezer) Once the unit is successfully installed, the food recovery expansion will come from a 10% increase in food recovered from local grocers and the addition of at least one farm site. This is a potential diversion of 25,000 pounds of food per year plus the additional farm food

**Project evaluation plan:** Northfield city staff members have toured the CAC facility, housed in the City owned NCRC building, and have determined that space exists for the addition of the walk-in cooler/freezer unit. City staff will manage the purchasing of the equipment and oversee the installation in collaboration with staff at the CAC. In addition to partnering with SuperShelf to redesign their food shelf program, the CAC was also chosen as an evaluation site for SuperShelf and received a grant through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to transition and evaluate the SuperShelf model. 52 food shelves across MN applied to be an evaluation site and Northfield was one of 8 chosen to implement and be evaluated in 2018. SuperShelf evaluation collects data on diet, markers of cardiovascular health, food selection and satisfaction with culturally specific foods and services. In addition to the SuperShelf evaluation already happening at the CAC, we propose to collect data on the amount of food (in pounds) collected and distributed through the recovery project. We have the baseline numbers for 2017 and so we have the opportunity to measure pre and post numbers for this food recovery expansion project. The Carleton CCCE Fellows and Sustainability Fellows will assist in collecting the data over the summer of 2018 and throughout the academic year of 2018 - 2019. A successful project would allow for an increase in recovered food and an increase in the amount of the food that is recovered going to feed people.

### Task 1 of 3: Food Recovery Expansion

**Subtask 1a:** Infrastructure – Installation of walk in cooler/freezer

**Timeframe:** Installation summer 2018

**Title of person(s) responsible:** Justin Wagner (City)

**Estimated Funds:** Grant: \$ 54,000 Match: \$ 4,000 Total: \$ 58,000

**Subtask 1b:** Coordination with College Food Recovery Networks

**Timeframe:** September 1, 2018 through June 10, 2019

**Title of person(s) responsible:** Anika Rychner (CAC)

**Estimated Funds:** Grant: \$ 0 Match: \$ 1,788 Total: \$ 1,788

**Subtask 1c:** Outreach and Education

**Timeframe:** June 1, 2018 through June 1, 2019

**Title of person(s) responsible:** Anika Rychner (CAC)

**Estimated Funds:** Grant: \$ 0 Match: \$ 7,200 Total: \$ 7,200

**Task 1 Total:** Grant: \$ 54,000 Match: \$ 12,988 Total: \$ 12,988

**Task 2 of 3: Evaluation**

**Subtask 2a:** Evaluation, measurement of food recovery and food waste

**Timeframe:** summer 2018, and 2018-2019 academic year

**Title of person(s) responsible:** Anika Rychner (CAC)

**Estimated Funds:** Grant: \$ 0 Match: \$ 600 Total: \$ 600

**Task 2 Total:** Grant: \$ 0 Match: \$ 600 Total: \$ 600

**Task 3 of 3: Reporting**

**Subtask 3a:** Interim Report

**Timeframe:** June 1, 2019

**Title of person(s) responsible:** Justin Wagner (City) and Anika Rychner (CAC)

**Estimated Funds:** Grant: \$ 0 Match: \$ 300 Total: \$ 300

**Subtask 3b:** Final Report, including Executive Project Summary

**Timeframe:** May 30, 2020

**Title of person(s) responsible:** Anika Rychner (CAC)

**Estimated Funds:** Grant: \$ 0 Match: \$ 300 Total: \$ 300

**Task 3 Total:** Grant: \$ 0 Match: \$ 600 Total: \$ 600

### 3. Anticipated measurable environmental outcomes

*Table 1: Anticipated measurable environmental outcomes*

Description	Estimated Annual quantity before project (lbs/yr)	Estimated annual food recovery quantity to be increased (lbs/yr)	Estimated annual quantity at end of project (lbs/yr)	Estimated greenhouse gas reduction	Other Estimation
Food Recovery Expansion	249,000	25,000	275,000	21,565 (kg) if the entire 25,000 lbs is diverted	
Food Recovery Addition, Farm	0	1,000	1,000	862 (kg)	
Other _____					

**Reference:** <https://watchmywaste.com.au/food-waste-greenhouse-gas-calculator/>



Community Action Center  
OF NORTHFIELD

March 1, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The Community Action Center of Northfield (CAC) is pleased to support the Greater Minnesota Recycling and Composting grant proposal for 2018 – 2019, submitted by Carleton College and the City of Northfield. CAC rescues thousands of pounds of fresh food each year from local retailers to distribute to people experiencing food insecurity in our community. As we continue to increase sourcing of healthy, fresh foods for our clients, the need for adequate refrigeration increases. Perishable foods such as produce, meat, dairy and other foods are important for our food shelf to source, not only for the health benefits to the community and the dignified experience for our clients, but it also reduces waste in our community. Increasing refrigeration would allow even more of the foods we already rescue to be preserved longer and distributed to people who need it most, rather than going to waste. It would also increase our capacity to source more perishable produce through local farmers.

CAC commits to contributing \$6,000 in matching funds toward this project, in addition to at least 52 hours of volunteer time for the project.

Thank you for this exciting opportunity!

  
Anika Rychner  
Program Director





# SuperShelf PILOT

TRANSFORMING  
FOOD SHELVES  
TO BRING GOOD  
FOOD FOR ALL

EVALUATING A BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS APPROACH TO IMPROVE THE SELECTION OF HEALTHY FOOD AMONG FOOD SHELF CLIENTS

## METHODS

WE COLLECTED  
3 TYPES OF  
DATA...



**FOOD SHELF  
MEASURES**

Inventory  
Environmental changes



**CLIENT SURVEY**

Demographics  
Food shelf usage  
Intent to purchase healthy items

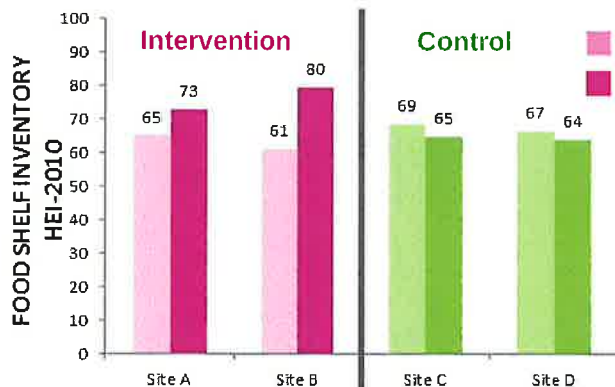


**CLIENT CART  
INVENTORY**

Product selected by client

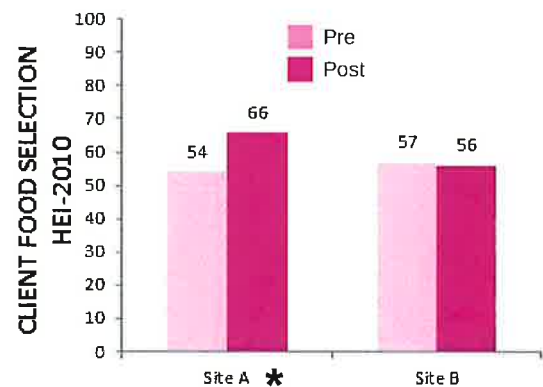
## RESULTS

### FOOD SHELF INVENTORY HEI SCORE CHANGES



HEI scores increase in the intervention food shelves but not in the control food shelves.

### INTERVENTION CLIENT HEI SCORE CHANGES



\*This 12-point increase was statistically significant ( $p < 0.0001$ ) and takes into account the age, race, education, and food insecurity status of the clients.

55%

55% of clients got at least half of their total food from the pantry in the last 6 months.

88%

88% of clients reported positive changes in overall satisfaction at the food shelf post-intervention.

## CONCLUSIONS

- When implemented well, the intervention shows promise in improving clients' diet due to the large change in the healthfulness of food and large amount of food taken.
- Clients and food shelf managers responded positively.
- However, this was a small study, and there were no control measures for clients. We hope to address these limitations in our future research.

Special thanks to the Duke-UNC USDA Center for Behavioral Economics and Healthy Food Choice Research (BECR) for supporting this work

POWERED BY:



HealthPartners



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



[WWW.SUPERSHELFMN.ORG](http://WWW.SUPERSHELFMN.ORG)



# SuperShelf

▶ PILOT

TRANSFORMING  
FOOD SHELVES  
TO BRING GOOD  
FOOD FOR ALL

## EVALUATING A BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS APPROACH TO IMPROVE THE SELECTION OF HEALTHY FOOD AMONG FOOD SHELF CLIENTS

### INTRODUCTION



In 2015, an estimated **12.7% of U.S. households** experienced food insecurity.

An estimated **46.5 million individuals** rely on charitable food assistance like food shelves.



**Food shelf clients** are concerned about:

- Poor dietary quality
- High chronic disease rates
- Range and quality of food offered

**Food shelves** face both supply and demand issues.

### STUDY AIM

- **Aim:** Evaluate the impact of a behavioral economic intervention in two food shelves on the nutritional quality of food selected by clients.
- **Primary Research Question:** Will the intervention lead to change in HEI scores for food selected by clients? (See right for HEI explanation)
- **Hypothesis:** On average, HEI-2010 scores of foods selected by clients will be higher after the intervention.

### THE HEALTHY EATING INDEX (HEI)



The HEI is a scoring measure that assesses diet quality of specific foods based on the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. It has a scoring maximum of 100 points; 100 being the highest diet quality and 0 being the lowest.

### THE INTERVENTION

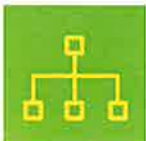
#### 6 STEPS TO SUPERSHELF SYSTEMS CHANGE



**SUPERSHELF TRANSFORMS FOOD SHELVES, CREATING WELCOMING ENVIRONMENTS FOR COMMUNITIES TO ACCESS APPEALING, HEALTHY FOOD.**



### EVALUATION STUDY DESIGN



**Pre/post comparison in two intervention food shelves**

- We compared data from 71 clients before and 70 clients after the intervention.
- We measured change in inventory in the two intervention food shelves as well as two control food shelves.

# Carleton

AMEL GORANI, *Director of the Center for Community and Civic Engagement*, COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

agorani@carleton.edu

507.222.7019

March 6, 2018

Dear MPCA Grant Review Committee,

Carleton's Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE) enthusiastically supports the "Northfield Food Recovery Expansion in Collaboration with the SuperShelf Model" MPCA Greater Recycling and Composting grant proposal. Carleton's CCCE office offers a wide array of opportunities for students to deepen their learning, broaden their knowledge, and create reciprocal partnerships by engaging with local, national, and global communities. Our center runs 50 programs, 19 summer fellowships, and collaborates for 55 academic courses.

One of the programs run through our office is Carleton's Food Recovery Network. This program is managed by six students who coordinate over 70 volunteers, recovering food from two dining halls six days a week and distributing the food to eight different community partners. Northfield Community Action Center (CAC) is one of those community partners. We welcome the greater collaboration opportunities outlined in this proposal. CCCE will support this proposal through a 2018-2019 academic year fellow position, devoting 2 hours per week to this project.

CCCE offers a variety of summer fellowships, and for the summer of 2018 we are supporting a fellowship at the Northfield CAC. This is a ten week long, 40 hours per week position working on the SuperShelf transformation and food recovery expansion. This position will be working during the transformation and expansion this summer, while the academic position mentioned above will focus on the evaluation and reporting of the project during the 2018-2019 academic year.

Thank you for this opportunity to deepen our connection to the community and support waste reduction!

Sincerely,



Amel Gorani, Director

Carleton's Center for Community and Civic Engagement



# Carleton

ALEX MILLER, *Sustainability Program Coordinator*, ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

amiller3@carleton.edu | 507.222.6004 | apps.carleton.edu/sustainability/

To the Grant Reviewing Team,

I am writing a letter of support for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Environmental Assistance Greater Minnesota Recycling and Composting Grant for FY18-19. I assisted in the overall grant-writing process and am dedicating student staff time to assist with outreach and education for the expanded food recovery project at the Community Action Center (CAC) in Northfield, MN.

The Environmental Protection Agency has a food recovery hierarchy that prioritizes the end-use of foods to increase the amount of foods actually used for their intended purpose- to be eaten. The best option is to reduce food in the first place, which grocers attempt to do when ordering. All too often, though, foods are still discarded by grocers, so the next best option is to feed people. This is where the CAC has intervened and recovered food that would have normally be thrown away by grocers. Currently, half of the donations that the CAC gives to hungry people is recovered from grocers in Northfield. This is a considerably more preferable option than composting or landfilling the food waste. Programs like the CAC's are essential to waste reduction in communities.

My commitment to this project is for a one student worker in the Sustainability Office to work two hours per week for the 2018-2019 academic year, for a total of 60 hours over the span of 30 weeks. They will work with the Center for Civic and Community Engagement Environmental Systems Fellow to create outreach and educational materials for the Super Shelf and food waste reduction strategies, like proper food preservation and storage for extending shelf life.

The Community Action Center is a valuable resource to our most vulnerable members of our community. This grant and the in-kind donations of Carleton College and the Community Action Center will allow the community to be better served in both increased food recovery and access to healthy foods for the families that need it most.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Miller  
Sustainability Program Coordinator, Carleton College  
amiller3@carleton.edu  
507-222-6004



## Sustainable Management of Food

Sustainable Management of Food Home

Basics

Food Recovery Hierarchy

Prevention through Source Reduction

**Feed Hungry People**

Feed Animals

Industrial Uses

Composting

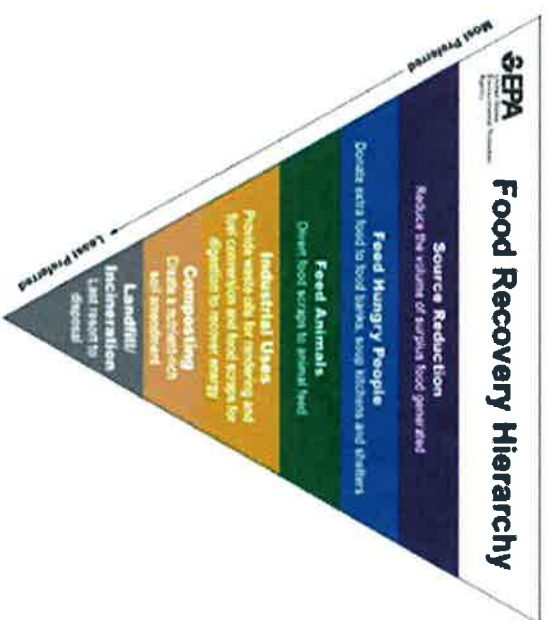
Food Recovery Challenge

# Reduce Wasted Food By Feeding Hungry People

## On this page

- [Getting Started](#)
- [Food Donation Success Stories](#)
- [Sources of Statistics](#)

Feed Hungry People is the second tier of [EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy](#). In 2014, over 38 million tons of wasted food were thrown away in the United States. While Americans dispose of millions of tons of food, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that approximately 12 percent of American households-about 41 million people-had difficulty providing enough food for all their members due to a lack of resources at some time during 2016.<sup>1</sup> In many cases, the food tossed into our nation's landfills is wholesome, edible food.



We can be leaders in our communities by collecting unspoiled, healthy food and donating it to our neighbors in need. By donating food, we're feeding people, not landfills, supporting local communities, and saving money.

CONTACT US

SHARE



CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA  
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2018-XXX  
MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY  
FY 2018 – 2019 GRANT PROGRAM  
AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS,** the City of Northfield has applied for a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), under its FY17 Environmental Assistance Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS,** if MPCA funding is received, the City of Northfield is committed to implementing the proposed project as described in the grant application; and

**WHEREAS,** MPCA requires that the City of Northfield enter into a grant agreement with the MPCA that identifies the terms and conditions of the funding award;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT:**

The City Council of the City of Northfield hereby agrees to enter into and sign a grant agreement with the MPCA to carry out the project specified therein and to comply with all of the terms, conditions, and matching provisions of the grand agreement and authorizes and directs the Public Works Director / City Engineer to sign the grant agreement on its behalf.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

VOTE: \_\_\_ POWNELL \_\_\_ COLBY \_\_\_ DELONG \_\_\_ NAKASIAN  
\_\_\_ NESS \_\_\_ PETERSON WHITE \_\_\_ ZWEIFEL