



FLY

FOOD SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP FOR YOUTH

600
hours

of education and job training completed by FLY youth

100%

of program participants responded 5/5 would recommend the program to a friend

While the pandemic greatly impacted our ability to provide educational opportunities in 2020, creative restructuring of our FLY program allowed us to work with 7 high school aged youth. With food as the vehicle, the FLY Internship focuses on economic justice, health equity, and how we all grow. Youth spend ten weeks in the summer learning to cultivate, compost, and cook food. They make choices about what to grow and what to learn about. They meet members of their community with expertise and wisdom to share, growing connections to their neighbors as they grow skills such as gardening, cooking, canning, construction, and organizing.

Soil Cycle aims to reduce waste and regenerate soil fertility through community composting. In the landfill, rotting organic waste emits tons of methane – a greenhouse gas 25x more potent than CO2. Meanwhile, soil degradation threatens our food and water supplies. Composting addresses both at once, recycling nutrients back where they're needed for support life on earth for seasons to come.

28 tons

of food waste diverted from landfill

330

households participated



FOOD RECOVERY

323,404

pounds of food recovered

11,078

boxes of groceries distributed

4,468

volunteer hours

While most hunger assistance programs stock shelf-stable pantry items, we focus on fresh, healthy food to sustain a wholesome diet and prevent nutrition-related illnesses. By recovering excess food for immediate distribution from grocery stores, caterers, cafeterias, and farmers markets, we are reducing food waste and addressing immediate community needs while building relationships and fostering a culture of empowered health. We partner with community leaders in areas hardest hit by our broken food system to co-create people-centered solutions. Previously, this took the form of weekly no cost grocery programs scattered around town where they were needed the most.

The pandemic brought unique challenges including mass closures of partner sites, an increased need, and new and rapidly changing safety precautions and restrictions. Food to power responded to these challenges through the creative re-structuring of our programs and conversion of our office into an emergency food distribution center. In an effort to limit social contact, groceries have been sorted and packaged into boxes then handed out through drive-through and contactless delivery programs.

FOOD TO POWER

Capital Campaign Project Impact



HILLSIDE HUB

Food to Power is currently developing 3.5 acres of vacant land into the city's first neighborhood food center, the Hillside Hub. The Hub will provide space for neighbors to come together to grow, cook, learn about, access, advocate for and gain employment through fresh food. Our outdoor space will include an Indigenous Healing Garden, community learning farm, production farm, and compost drop-off and processing site. Inside of the 3,500 sq. ft. building will include an education/events space, a demonstration kitchen, administrative offices and a food distribution site.

Construction of the Hillside Hub and subsequent programming will improve the health outcomes of 5,000 Southeast Colorado Springs residents annual. Health outcome indicators will be tracked using the following metrics:

Food Access

80%

of food access program participants report reduced barriers to accessing healthy food,

Increase fruit and vegetable consumption by 2 or more servings per day in

450

households in southeast Colorado Springs through no cost grocery programs, increased low-cost food access programs and utilization of SNAP Double up Bucks.

75%

of food access and education participants report increased comfort eating / cooking fresh foods.

Food Education

225

cooking and nutrition class participants will report an increased number of fresh, at-home meals by at least 2 per week.

Diversify diets of youth program participants so that

80%

report eating a food they had never previously tried.

FLY program will increase confidence in employability skills of

35

high school aged youth through FLY program.

Food Production

Increase hyper-local produce consumption/availability by

6,000

pounds annually by planting 25 perennial, food producing trees/shrubs.

Increase revenue for

15

local food producers through directly purchasing products and/or providing market opportunities.

Development of compost processing site will process food waste from 150 households into

30,030

pounds of nutrient rich growing medium thus reducing the amount of CO2 produced by our landfills by 57,070pounds.