



A local non-profit that encourages and enables our community to reduce waste and increase recycling.

Board of Directors

President

Tait Chandler
Rural Landfill Specialist
Alaska Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Vice President

Natalie Mayer, MD
Family Medicine

Secretary/Treasure

Dennis L. Michel II
President
Omni Logistics, Inc.

Director

Linda Unsicker
Educator, Retired

Director

Mike Hull
Assistant Professor of
Physics,
UAF

- Director

Aaron Gibson
IT Manager,
TCC

08/21/2024

TO: Brian Guse, Director, Office of Urban Agriculture & Innovative Production

RE: Letter of Support for Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD), Reduce and Repurpose Food Waste Fairbanks

Green Star of Interior Alaska (GSIA) is a willing partner with FSWCD in their Reduce and Repurpose Food Waste Fairbanks Project. GSIA believes that the FSWCD Reduce and Repurpose Food Waste Fairbanks Project is the catalyst needed for long-term success with food waste diversion here in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB). We also believe this project is likely to serve as proof-of-concept for a much broader rollout across Alaska once operational metrics are established.

BACKGROUND: GSIA (<https://iagreenstar.org>) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit based in Fairbanks, AK. GSIA's mission since 1989 has been to encourage and enable waste reduction and increase recycling in the FNSB and Interior Alaska.

Currently over 30% of waste being sent to the FNSB landfill is organic waste, much of which is food waste suitable for agriculture-grade composting.

FSWCD and GSIA have a close working relationship and solid track record of working together to encourage and enable waste reduction and diversion of organic food waste.

Green Star seeks to strengthen our partnership with FSWCD and increase our support of FSWCD's waste reduction efforts focused on reducing food waste in the FNSB landfill. Partnering on the Reduce and Repurpose Food Waste Fairbanks project is a perfect fit.

GSIA now makes the following statements of support for the FSWCD Reduce and Repurpose Food Waste Fairbanks Project:

GSIA will support FSWCD's Reduce and Repurpose Food Waste Fairbanks Project and all related participating entities with resources at GSIA's disposal to include:

- Donation of suitable land and materials for public collection of food waste - 24 months @ \$125/ month (staff & volunteers)
- Addition of food waste bins to our community "Borrow a Recycling Bin" program - Donation and distribution of 50 screw-top buckets @ \$24.50ea (staff)
- Creation and distribution of how-to guides / videos (staff & volunteers)
- Newsletter announcements (staff)
- Advertising campaigns (staff)
- Social media promotional campaigns (staff)
- Inclusion of food waste collection locations in the annually published FNSB Recycle Guide (available online and distributed in the local newspaper). (staff)



A local non-profit that encourages and enables our community to reduce waste and increase recycling.

(continued)

- Cooperative events such as this year's Waste Reduction Week and Sustainable Living Expo during which FSWCD's organizational and outreach activities were foundational to the success of the programs. (staff & volunteers)
- Incorporation of food waste program details into our freely available Earth Day Every Day educational curriculum. (staff & volunteers)
- Inclusion of the food waste processing facility on our list of available area facility tours (currently FNSB CRF, Electronics Disassembly Warehouse and FNSB Landfill) and related tour facilitation. (staff)

2-year total time estimates:

GSIA Employee hours: 340

Volunteer hours: 210

In summary, **This is an extremely important project in our community.** The absence of meaningful large-scale food waste diversion in our community is something we are enthusiastically hoping to help FSWCD address. GSIA is in agreement with FSWCD, and believes that the Reduce and Repurpose Food Waste Fairbanks Project will be the catalyst needed for long-term success with food waste diversion here in the FNSB.

GSIA stands (excitedly) ready to support FSWCD and any of their other local partners who are involved in this project in any way which intersects our mission to encourage and enable waste reduction and recycling in FNSB communities and Interior Alaska.

If you have any questions at all, would like more detail about the scope and reach of our outreach or promotional capabilities, or have any other questions in furtherance of the FSWCD Reduce and Repurpose Food Waste Fairbanks Project please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Torma", is written over a circular stamp that contains the text "Joe Torma".

Joe Torma
General Manager - Green Star of Interior Alaska

gm@iagreenstar.org

<https://iagreenstar.org>

Volunteer with us!

o: 907-452-4152

m: 214-802-8289