225 Network Partners

1 in 4

36,900 children
26,000 seniors
12,000 veterans

154K Vermonters annually

2015 = 10 million lbs = over 15 million meals
Food Rescue was primarily non-perishables and items that could be frozen.

Perishables were logistically prohibitive:

- Short shelf life
- Need more frequent pickups
ACT 148
Vermont’s Universal Recycling and Composting Law
ACT 148 IMPLEMENTATION

Retailer

- Unsafe to consume
- Approaching expiration dates
- Appearance
- Discontinued or excess

July 2014

Source Reduction
Food for People
Food for Animals
Composting & Anaerobic Digestion
Energy Recovery

Vermont Foodbank
www.vtfoodbank.org
RETAIL PARTNER AGENCY

LOCAL

• More frequent pickups
• Faster distribution

Vermont Foodbank
www.vtfoodbank.org
RPA Challenges
Retail Partners would need:

- Volunteers that could provide consistency to the retailers
RPA Challenges
Retail Partners would need:

- Volunteers that could provide consistency to the retailers
- Hours of operation that are frequent enough to distribute perishables quickly
RPA Challenges
Retail Partners would need:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteers that could provide consistency to the retailers</th>
<th>Hours of operation that are frequent enough to distribute perishables quickly</th>
<th>To ensure that the perishables reach the RPA safely, with the cold chain being kept.</th>
<th></th>
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</table>
RPA Challenges
Retail Partners would need:

- Volunteers that could provide consistency to the retailers
- Hours of operation that are frequent enough to distribute perishables quickly
- To ensure that the perishables reach the RPA safely, with the cold chain being kept.
- The ability to manage the volume.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RPA Implementation:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STARTED SMALL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open a few days each week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Could maintain a set schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROVIDED TRAINING</strong></td>
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<td>Provided training to both the RPA and the retailer about what kinds of food could be donated and what the quality should be</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROVIDED TOOLS</strong></td>
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<td>Provided commercial-grade insulated blankets and grants for refrigeration or freezers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROVIDED HANDOUTS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided handouts to both groups with program details and contact info at a glance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORKED COOPERATIVELY</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS
FY2014
16 RPA

- Picked up directly
- Sorted for quality
- Distributed quickly
- Served more clients

347K lbs

525,212
FY2015
40 RPA
FY14 vs FY15
188% increase in RPA food rescue
Vermont Foodbank
www.vtfoodbank.org
over 1M lbs
1.5M
“Our feeding program has changed dramatically because of the produce donations. Not only am I spending 85% less on food, but the meals we're serving are much healthier and better tasting. It still amazes me that folks prefer the fresh fruits & vegetables over the sweets!”

Lieutenant S. Murray
Burlington Salvation Army
Benefits of starting a Food Rescue program

**Morale:** Workplace morale improves as employees recognize the difference they are making in their community.

**Community Engagement:** Building relationships with local food shelves provides networking and marketing opportunities while also increasing the business’s presence in the community.

**Environmental impact:** Since RPA implementation, over 2.6M pounds of food has been diverted from the landfill = 1300 tons.
Collaborations

- Retailer
- Retail Partner Agency
- Agency of Natural Resources
- Solid Waste District
VERMONT FOODBANK

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