

BEYOND THE GREEN BIN

How Partnerships Reduce Food Waste
and Strengthen Communities

Maxine Knight, Director of Culinary Programs

Kate Greavette, Executive Director





York Region Food Network

- Charitable organization with a vision of ‘Food for Health – Food for All’
 - Advance food security and food justice in York Region
 - Increase access to healthy food and build food skills
 - Advocate for a just and sustainable food system





BEYOND THE GREEN BIN

How Partnerships Reduce Food Waste
and Strengthen Communities





The background features a collage of various vegetables and herbs, including carrots, leafy greens, and root vegetables, rendered in a soft, artistic style. A light green rectangular border frames the central text area.

Root Causes of Partnership Challenges

- Communication
- Different Work Cultures
- Different understanding of goals and/or outcomes
- Assumptions

BEYOND THE GREEN BIN

How Partnerships Reduce Food Waste
and Strengthen Communities



- Community Needs Assessment
- Identifying if a Partnership is Right for You
- Building a Partnership and Aligning Goals
- Understanding Resource Needs
- Understanding Partner's Work Culture and Working Styles



Check out the toolkit

Table 2: Food Literacy Program Examples

Types of Programs	Key Outcomes
<p>Community Meal Programs: A community meal program brings people together over shared meals in a social setting. It provides a hearty meal, while building social connections and reducing social isolation.</p>	<p>Food Access Social Connections Newcomer Support Improved Mental Health</p>
<p>Culinary Programs: A group initiative that brings people together to prepare, cook and share meals. Culinary programs can take different forms, such as community kitchens, and they teach food skills, expose participants to new foods and promote social connections.</p>	<p>Food Waste Reduction Food Skills Development Community Building Improved Mental Health Newcomer Support Culturally Inclusive Services Intergenerational Learning</p>
<p>Allotment Gardens: Shared community space on public or private land where individuals or households are assigned small plots of land to grow their own food. Each plot-holder maintains their own plot and chooses what they do with their harvest.</p>	<p>Food Waste Reduction Food Skills Improved Mental Health Intergenerational Learning Culturally Inclusive Services Community Building</p>

Toolkit contains:

- Information and resources
- Worksheets
- Templates for Initiatives/Events
- Kids Activities
- Social Media Posts and Graphics
- Infographics



Check out the toolkit



Example of Successful Partnership

Good Food in Action





Good Food in Action

What Happened:

- Worked with 10 farms to glean surplus/imperfect fresh produce
 - Diverted over 720 lbs of food through 6 preserving sessions
 - Facilitated 24 food skill workshops
 - Served 297 people
 - Partnered with 5 community-based organizations
 - Created a Savour & Save Cookbook
- 90% of participants surveyed either agree or strongly agree that they have reduced personal food waste as a result of this initiative. Participants expressed that they have learned how to make food last longer and how to waste less food.
- 100% of participants surveyed either agree or strongly agree that this initiative helped them understand the connection between the food they eat and the environment

Strategies for Successful Partnerships

- Lead by example (values-based)
- Communicate the same message in different ways
- Understand there may be different approaches to do the same thing
- Ask questions, communicate, do not make assumptions

BEYOND THE GREEN BIN

How Partnerships Reduce Food Waste
and Strengthen Communities

For more information, contact:

Maxine Knight at maxinek@yrfn.ca

Kate Greavette at kateg@yrfn.ca



**York Region
Food Network**