

Ramsey/Washington County Success Story: French Meadow Bakery & Café – Saint Paul

French Meadow Bakery has always been a champion of sustainability through its focus on locally sourced, organic ingredients. To broaden their commitment to environmentally responsible food, French Meadow's executive chef, Samantha Jensen, contacted the Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation in 2015 wanting to recycle more and keep food waste out of the trash. While French Meadow had recycling in place, much of their trash was comprised of food waste, paper towels, and other materials that could be composted.

Following an on-site assessment, Waste Wise recommended that French Meadow move forward with an organics recycling program to compost their food waste and other organic material. Waste Wise guided the café through the BizRecycling grant to purchase organics bins, compostable bags, and labels to make bins easy to identify. Waste Wise also found opportunities to improve the existing recycling program by adding more blue bins and labels. The café was connected with a hauler to set up recycling services for both organics and cooking oil.

With the addition of a new waste stream, the staff at French Meadow received training from Waste Wise on what materials should go in each bin. Their dedication to the program has paid off. The



café is now composting about 7,200 lbs. per year, adding another facet of sustainability to their business. "The grant was essential in helping us set up a composting program that is great for the environment and our business," says Samantha. "Composting and recycling are key pieces that fit in with our values."



Highlights

What: Setting up an organics recycling program and improving existing recycling.

Why: To reduce waste and extend commitment to environmentally responsibly food.

How: Applied for BizRecycling grant to purchase bins, signage, and supplies for organics. Set up organics recycling service.

Results: 600 lbs. of organics recycled per month, or approximately 7,200 lbs. per year.