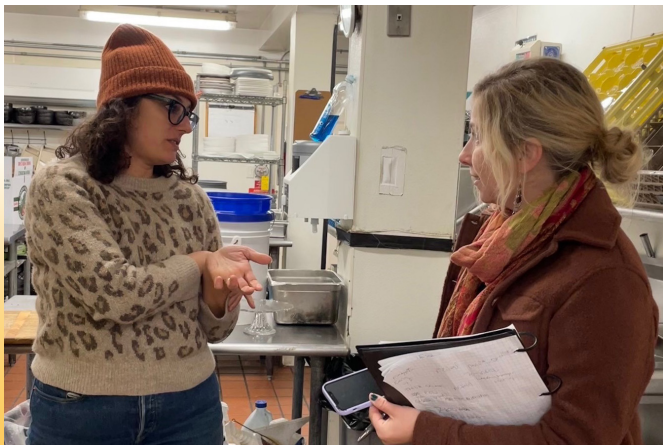




Riding the Wave: Rockywold Deephaven Camp Embraces Sustainable Food Waste Management



Nestled on the serene shores of Squam Lake in Holderness, New Hampshire, [Rockywold Deephaven Camps](#) (RDC) have been offering guests a haven of nature and relaxation for over 125 years. The picturesque landscape and array of recreational activities draw visitors seeking solace in the great outdoors. However, serving over 500 people three times a day, seven days a week also generates a significant amount of food waste, leading the camp to ponder its environmental impact. Seeking a sustainable solution, Head Chef Brandi Edinger reached out to Wasted Food Solutions, a program administered by the Center for Ecotechnology (CET), for assistance in diverting food scraps.



CET's Technical Assistance

Thanks to funding from USDA Rural Utilities Services, CET was able to step in and provide essential assistance to RDC. CET provides no-cost technical assistance to businesses in eligible areas, assisting them in evaluating existing food waste streams, identifying opportunities for prevention, recovery, and diversion, empowering employees through education and training, and conducting cost analyses for implementing or expanding food waste diversion initiatives.

Overview of Technical Assistance & Site Visit

In early May, Waste Reduction Consultant Abbey Massaro visited the camp to assess their existing waste programs. Abbey was welcomed by the RDC team, and together, they delved into the complexities of managing food waste in such a unique and remote location. She noticed the potential for implementing better food waste prevention practices, optimizing food scrap collection, and enhancing recycling efforts throughout the camp.

Following her visit, Abbey took the time to research potential haulers who could help the camp efficiently divert food scraps from the landfill. She provided RDC with valuable recommendations, including best practices for food waste prevention, streamlined collection procedures, and improved recycling methods tailored to the camp's specific needs.

To ensure that the sustainability mission resonated with the camp's younger guests, Abbey shared engaging sustainability lesson guides and activities from The Green Team, empowering children to become environmental stewards from an early age.

Challenges & Special Considerations

The pristine beauty of Rockywold Deephaven Camps came with a unique set of challenges. The camp's remote location made waste management more costly than initially anticipated. To overcome this hurdle, Abbey and the RDC team collaborated to obtain quotes from multiple haulers, allowing them to compare pricing and find the most sustainable and cost-effective solution.



Another challenge lay in the camp's natural surroundings, which attracted curious critters looking for easy food sources. In response, the team thoughtfully addressed this concern by installing simple yet effective electric fencing around the waste collection area, ensuring that food scraps remained undisturbed.

Ensuring staff are well informed and trained on a food scrap collection program is critical to collecting a clean stream. Ensuring staff have access to training materials in different languages such as clear and concise waste bin signage can assist in staff training.

CET's Recommendations

Based on her assessment, Abbey presented RDC with valuable insights into working with a hauler, empowering them to make informed decisions about their food waste diversion efforts. She highlighted the importance of collaboration and ongoing communication with the chosen hauler to ensure smooth operations and maximize waste diversion results.

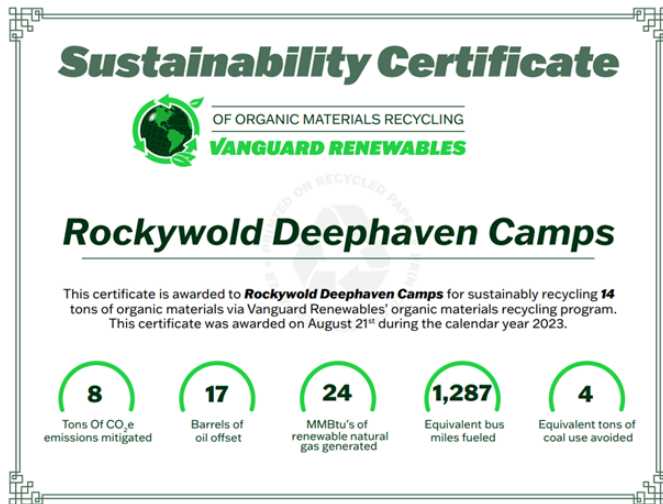
The team weighed the benefits of anaerobic digestion coupled with depackaging infrastructure, allowing for some tolerance for contamination as the program got up and running. Additionally, RDC could divert packaged food waste that spoils to this program. Ultimately the team decided this option aligned best with RDC's sustainability goals.

CET provided CET's customizable signage to be used as a training tool for new and existing staff which will be helpful in training RDC staff for years to come.

FOOD SCRAPS RESTOS DE ALIMENTOS	
<p>ALL FOOD SCRAPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruit & vegetable peels Dairy, eggs, grains, bread Meat, fish, poultry Bones, shells 	<p>TODOS LOS RESTOS DE ALIMENTOS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pieles de frutas y vegetales Lácteos, huevos, granos, pan Carne, pescado, aves Huesos, cáscaras
<p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tissues, napkins, paper towels Compostableware Coffee cups, wrappers Plastic, metal, glass 	<p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pañuelos de papel, servilletas, papel toalla Utensilios compostables Taza de café, envoltorios Plástico, metal, cristal

Expected Diversion, Benefits, & Impact

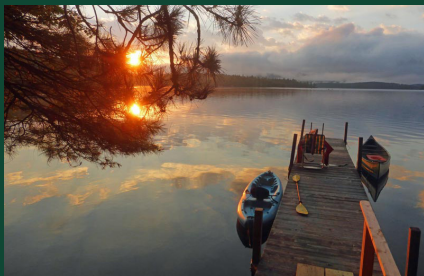
The importance of management support and involvement in waste diversion programs cannot be underscored enough. Additionally, management has to instill the diversion programs as part of the organizations culture to ensure it is successful long term. General Manager for RDC, Natalie Ward, has a passion for waste reduction and an appreciation for the camp's positive environmental impact. Having Natalie's support for this program was instrumental in getting it implemented.



By implementing CET's recommendations, Rockywold Deephaven Camps set in motion a transformative journey towards sustainability. The camp adopted a food waste collection service provided by [Vanguard Renewables](#), a choice motivated by Vanguard's commitment to capturing 100% of methane gas in their process.

The camp invested in ten wheeled carts for food waste collection, with pickups scheduled twice a week during peak summer months, resulting in an impressive 9,640 pounds or 4.2 tons of diverted organic materials each week.

The impact of RDC's sustainable choices rippled far beyond their campgrounds. With the support of Vanguard Renewables, RDC has recycled 7 tons of organic materials, mitigated 4 tons of CO₂ emissions, offset 8 barrels of oil, generated 13 MMBtu's of renewable energy, and preserved 105 cubic yards of landfill space, avoiding the use of 2 equivalent tons of coal. These metrics exemplify the camp's unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship and its tangible contributions to a greener planet.



In Chef Brandi's words, "I am very much looking forward to getting this off the ground and helping RDC become a key player in reducing food waste - very exciting!" With their commitment to sustainability, Rockywold Deephaven Camps are paving the way for a greener and more eco-conscious future.

For businesses seeking similar sustainable solutions, CET offers no-cost technical assistance to evaluate food waste streams, implement diversion strategies, educate employees, and conduct cost analyses. To start the conversation, call (888) 813-8552, email wastedfood@cetonline.org, or visit wastedfoodsolutions.org.

