



BKROT

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR WORK

BK ROT is New York City's first bike-powered, fossil fuel-free food waste hauling and composting service. Our project is staffed by local young adults who haul organic waste from small businesses and transform it into high quality compost. Our operations provide accessible, educational jobs and professional development for emerging environmental leaders while creating opportunities for our community to fight climate change, environmental racism, and gentrification.



"My first year with BK ROT has been an amazing learning experience. I've learned about what it takes to run a compost site, which I found to be a very difficult, but fulfilling job. I got to work on projects like our new ASP system, testing our compost and how it impacted the soil at local gardens, hosting tours at BK ROT, and visiting other compost sites to learn from each other. I've even had the opportunity to start a home compost pickup service with my colleague."

-Sonia, BK ROT Operations Support

OUR VALUES

BK ROT is a community-centered, closed loop, fossil-fuel free approach to commercial food waste. We represent a localized green economy rooted in the principles and values of environmental justice. BK ROT creates space for the leadership of young people of color who disproportionately face the consequences of environmental destruction and yet whose visions are excluded from policy tables. We prioritize slow growth with deep roots versus rapid expansion that is not grounded. We are building a new kind of waste system, one that uses food waste as the foundation for a healthy urban ecosystem, that uplifts the people and places responsible for managing waste, and that demonstrates the power of a regenerative green economy.



"This year through trial and error, I acquired the knowledge and confidence to restart the residential pick up service that BK ROT once started, and together with Sonia, we began Rabbit Roots." - Victor, Operations Manager

OUR IMPACT

1,826 MILES

ZERO EMISSIONS HAULING

Our team biked a total of 1826.2 miles in 2018, saving 609 gallons of diesel fuel, keeping seven tons of CO2 out of the atmosphere, and keeping this toxic particulate matter out of the air we breathe. We upgraded our helmets to ones with rechargeable lights with signals and were trained on bike safety and bike maintenance.



71 TONS

FOOD WASTE COMPOSTED

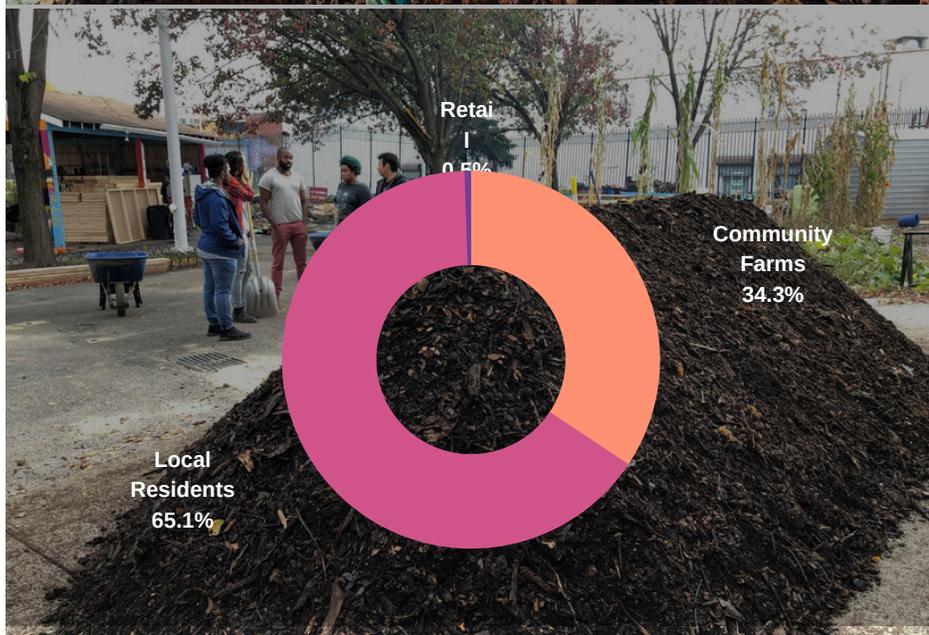
The waste we collect continues to be from small restaurants, coffeeshops, caterers, food cooperatives and residential drop off. In August we upgraded our bike trailer capacity from 300 lbs to 600 lbs. We also piloted receiving drop off from select businesses and experimented with receiving landscape organics.



35 TONS

COMPOST DISTRIBUTED

BK ROT donated 30 tons of our handmade compost to farms and community gardens, including 462 Halsey Community Farm, Good Life Garden, and the Youth Farm with food justice missions. We sold .5% to retail stores and the remaining 65% was made available to the community by donation at our site.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

ADVOCACY

BK ROT works with a group of New York City Micro-haulers to advocate for higher zero waste and equity standards in the new Commercial Waste Zones policy. The policy will go to the NYC City Council in 2019. We have been successful in advocating for zero emissions hauling, as well as higher inclusion rates of Minority and Women Owned Businesses in the zoning bids.

RABBIT ROOTS

We thought we were out of the household organics business in 2017, but once the city's curbside organics program stopped, our old customers requested pick ups again. Victor and Sonia were excited to do this work, so with our support they launched Rabbit Roots home pick up service. It started as a pilot in November and they have decided to continue it in 2019.

MEDIA

BK ROT got the spotlight from a handful of local outlets that were excited to feature our bike powered service. We got the front cover of Crains New York, were featured in Yes! Magazine's soil edition, and Univision interviewed Victor on our composting process. Look out for BK ROT being featured in the New Yorker in spring 2019 as the "Talk of the Town".



COMPOST EDUCATION TOURS

We hosted over a dozen groups in 2018 for tours as part of work to provide compost awareness and education. We had people from around the world come to visit BK ROT in 2018. Sonia and Victor have become experts at leading visitors through our compost system and the production process, and participants get to help with hands on activities like breaking down food waste, turning compost piles, and sifting our curing material.

From top to bottom and left to right: OffBeet Compost, a food scrap collection and composting program in the Greater Lowell Region of Massachusetts came to visit us; Farm School NYC joined us for the second year during their Growing Soils class to dig deeper into the social implications of composting; Ana Elisa from Finca Conciencia in Vieques, Puerto Rico passed through and brought us some honey and mint balm from her farm; the Black Seed Brigade of New York City hosted a workshop on land justice and compost; and Make the Road's summer youth participants helped us sift a windrow during a site visit.





NEW PARTNERSHIPS

URBAN SOILS INSTITUTE

BK ROT partnered with the Urban Soils Institute in 2018 to host our first Compost & Soil Workshop where people learned about soil health, tested their soil, and got tips about how to improve soil quality through the use of compost. Participants got to look at microorganisms under the microscope and learn more about BK ROT's composting system.



MYRTLE VILLAGE GREEN

In 2018, BK ROT began a partnership with Myrtle Village Green garden in Clinton Hill. We began bringing some food waste to be composted by the garden. This exciting and successful partnership has helped BK ROT expand the amount of material we can divert, while offering Myrtle Village Green the opportunity to produce and use compost for their large garden community.



HAVEN CYCLES

In 2018 Haven Cycles became BK ROT's go-to bike shop. They donated parts, labor hours, and even swooped in when our e-trike loaner needed a flat fixed during a haul. With their support we were able to get our existing fleet in shape by upgrading parts and supporting Victor and Sonia in maintaining their bikes.



OUR 2018 CLIENTS

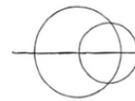


Thank you to all the organizations and businesses that are doing their part to create a livable city and fight back against climate change!

AP



hardware
& urban garden center
True Value



demi-monde



LIGHTHOUSE



little skips



samesa

SEY COFFEE



SPROUT HOME



tula



THANK YOU BK ROT BOARD

BK ROT BOARD

In 2018 we continued building out BK ROT's board and formalize our strategy development processes. Our expert team of writers, waste historians, environmental specialists, scientists, and farmers has helped us strategize on the new Commercial Waste Zones policy, financial growth, providing professional development opportunities to our workers, and thinking through next steps for 2019.

Annel Hernandez
Ceci Piñeda

Dan Gross
Felicity Slater

Guy Schaffer
Priya Mulgaonkar

Renée Peperone
Sandy Nurse

ADVISORY BOARD

Since 2016, our advisory board has helped to support BK ROT and shape a vision for our future. In 2018, our advisory board contributed hands-on composting labor, furnished art for outreach efforts, offered social media expertise, helped us with fundraising, and planned our summer fundraising party. Thank you for all your wisdom and support!

Hilary Allison
Jessica Sirbu Balnaves
Eliza Harrison

Elliot Maltby
Trevon Massiah
Eduardo Morales

Jenny Osman
Romany Pope
Francisca Sanhueza



WELCOMING BK ROT'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In 2018, we expanded our Board of Directors for a total of 8 people who are committed to helping BK ROT grow our impact and operations. Our new members include:

ANNEL HERNANDEZ

Annel is the Associate Director of the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance. Born and raised in Bushwick, Annel brings her expertise on environmental justice issues and policy in New York City. Annel joined the advisory board in November 2017, and has helped to organize our 2018 Community Fundraiser.

GUY SCHAFFER

Guy is a sustainability lecturer at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. His research examines social movement infrastructures for sustainability and social justice. He began working with BK ROT in 2014, joined the advisory board in 2016, and has since represented BK ROT at food waste and composting conferences and in print. He currently serves as Board Secretary.

DAN GROSS

Dan is a scientific instrument maker at The Rockefeller University. Dan was a founding member of Know Waste Lands Community Wildlife Garden in 2014, and has been volunteering with BK ROT since then. He has worked primarily with the systems and facilities needs of BK ROT. He currently serves as Board Treasurer.

PRIYA MULGAONKAR

Priya is the Resiliency Planner at the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance. Priya brings her skills in organizing, policy analysis and fundraising to BK ROT's board. She helped organize our 2017 fundraising party and drove support to the winter #BlackGold fundraising drive. She serves on the finance committee, and keeps BK ROT plugged into the latest policy developments with New York City's switch to a commercial waste zones system.

2018 FINANCES

REVENUE

In 2018 we have been able to use service fees and income generated through educational tours and the sale of compost to offset more of the labor costs associated with producing compost. The generosity of BK ROT individual supporters helped to fund costs related to our advocacy efforts. In 2019, we will continue our goal of creating a sustainable business model that can significantly reduce the need for grants.

EXPENSES

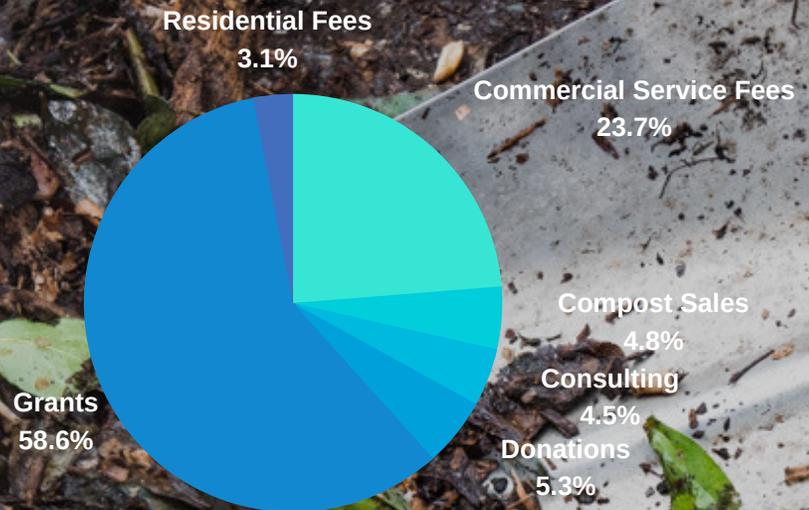
Our 2018 expenses reflected our operational expansion plan which required the purchase of additional equipment such as a food waste pulverizer and investing in an e-trike. Furthering our commitments to job creation and good work, we have added work hours across our team, which increased our labor costs and associated employment expenses.

DONORS

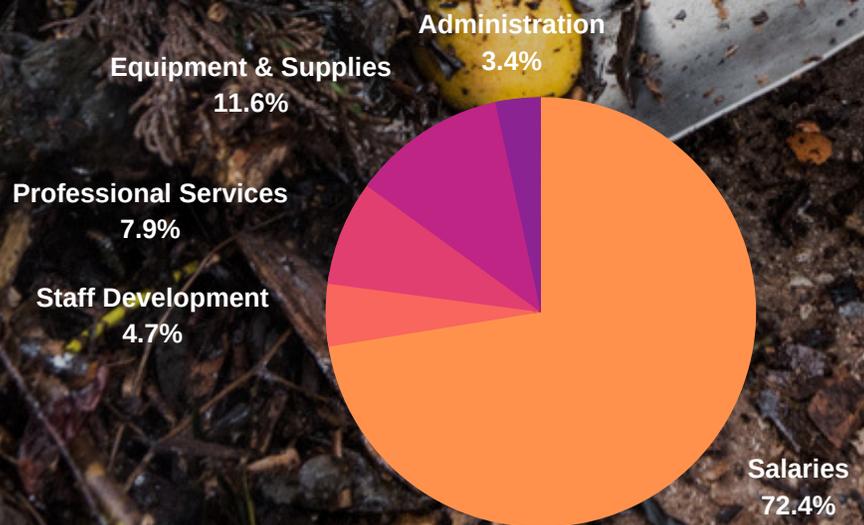
Carrus Family Foundation
Citizens Committee of New York
City Council Member Antonio Reynoso
City Council Member Rafael Espinal Jr
Cooperative Economic Alliance of NYC
Con Edison
Levitt Foundation
Patagonia
Sir Kensington's

IN-KIND DONORS:
Lawyers Alliance of NY
Materials for the Arts
Patagonia Catch-a-fire

REVENUE: \$70,995



EXPENDITURES: \$51,855





GET INVOLVED!

VOLUNTEER

As a community supported non-profit, we depend on you to support our work and you depend on us to make high quality compost. BK ROT volunteers help to build and maintain our compost site, sift and move finished compost material, and support BK ROT through different skill based volunteering such as social media outreach, graphic design and fundraising. You can volunteer by reaching out to info@bkrot.org.

MAKE A DONATION

Community fundraisers and Individual donations allow us to be flexible and adapt to unforeseen budget needs throughout the year. Monthly giving helps to support our overall operations while larger institutional grants are usually targeted to support project specific work. We are always open to new funding relationships, in-kind giving, and creative ideas in order to meet our needs. Visit <http://bkrot.org> to donate.

TAKE ACTION

BK ROT is working hard to define our work for policy makers as they try to pass and implement a Commercial Waste Zones policy. This policy will reform the private waste industry in New York City. Take action and show your support for this reform process by visiting the Transform Don't Trash Coalition's website:

transformdonttrash.org. Sign their petition for the CWZ bill and exclusive zones to support private sanitation workers and an environmentally just NYC. You can also email info@bkrot.org to find out more how you can support this historic reform effort.



Follow us online:  @bk_rot  @BKROTCompost

Email: info@bkrot.org | Phone: 347-762-5768 | Website: <http://bkrot.org>

