

Northwest Chapter 2019 EMG of the Year - Heather Smith



Heather Smith is the Project Leader for the Down to Earth Community Garden at the St. Albans City School. Partnering with the school district and the City of St. Albans, Heather has developed a full circle experience for the students, school employees, and volunteers. In the words of the St. Albans School Food Service Director,

“I can tell when a St. Albans City School student comes through the line - they choose more salads and veggies for their meals.”

Heather is a master at making do with what she has, and gathering support for the many projects involved in managing a large garden. No water? No problem. Heather contacted the town and they helped purchase large water containers and support the garden by filling them as needed. Need more water? Simple, write a grant to RiseVT and install a new shallow well. Not enough volunteers? Ah hah! Invite the freshman class to learn about flower gardens and tree planting and donate their time sprucing up the gardens. Pounds and pounds of fresh produce for school lunches and snacks? Check.



Heather is also the Farm to School Coordinator for the Maple Run Unified School District where she oversees the planting, growing, harvesting and preserving garden produce with students and staff. She also facilitates student-led stewardship projects and grant writing initiatives. Congratulations Heather!

