

Center for EcoTechnology's Wasted Food Solutions



**We help people and businesses save
energy and reduce waste**



Center for EcoTechnology Partners



U.S FOOD WASTE

Did you know?

- 30-40% is wasted
- Valued at \$165 billion annually
- Rotting food in landfills releases greenhouse gases

Source: NRDC

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

Wasted Food Solutions

Impact since 2013:

21,000,000 donated
meals recovered

150,000 tons of food
waste diverted

70,000 tons of CO₂
emissions avoided



Thank you
EPA Region 5
partners!

Warren County
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



HAMILTON COUNTY

R3SOURCE

REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.

bc Ohio **Butler County**
— RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE —



MONTGOMERY
C O U N T Y

Wasted Food Solutions for SW Ohio

1

Conducting
Marketplace
Analysis

2

Hosting
Workshops

3

Offering
Technical
Assistance

4

Sharing
Success
Stories



SWOT Analysis

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

Threats

INTERNAL FACTORS STRENGTHS (+)

- Sustainability and wasted food solutions are already priorities
- Diversion efforts around the state present opportunities to leverage networks and create synergies
- Regional stakeholders are interested in collaborating to further shared goals
- Ongoing outreach efforts exist for source reduction
- In select areas, funding mechanisms have been developed to support recovery and diversion programs
- Food rescue systems and networks are well established
- Development of food scraps drop spots and commercial diversion efforts offer examples of successful outreach around composting
- Widespread interest in anaerobic digestion presents an opportunity for food scrap processing

INTERNAL FACTORS WEAKNESSES (-)

- Financial resources are needed to support wasted food solutions, including composting systems
- Need for technical skills to support generators through technical assistance (TA) and other means
- Past challenges with compost technology have tarnished public opinion of the technology as a viable solution
- Limited regional processing capacity exists for handling food scraps
- Need for tools and resources to facilitate connections between generators and entities seeking materials for animal feed

EXTERNAL FACTORS OPPORTUNITIES (+)

- Area generators can act as leaders to support wasted food prevention and diversion
- Opportunity to better leverage prevention as a cost savings measure
- New technology supports consumer-facing source reduction
- Significant potential to divert more material from a variety of generators
- Opportunity for additional infrastructure development, including food recovery and recycling
- Potential for more networking and collaboration to further food recovery efforts
- Commercial and institutional generators interested in composting and diversion opportunities

EXTERNAL FACTORS THREATS (-)

- Low tipping fees threaten cost-competitiveness of diversion efforts
- The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the economy and the livelihood of commercial generators
- Lack of infrastructure and resources paired with a culture of disposal as the most cost-effective strategy for food recovery limits participation
- Lack of communication and collaboration among some food recovery stakeholders
- Liability and regulatory concerns around food donation and recovery for feeding humans and animals limit generator participation in these measures
- Negative perceptions of compost persist due to past failed compost facilities
- Since food scraps are beneficially used to produce compost, there is a misperception that diversion should be less expensive than disposal.
- Market for finished compost is largely undeveloped



Wasted Food Strategies for Institutional Kitchens

MARCH 11, 2021 | 10:00AM – 11:30AM

Learn strategies and best practices for addressing wasted food.
Choose 2 breakout sessions, meet service providers, and learn
solutions across the EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy.

wastedfood@cetonline.org



Food Rescue Agency Meetings

Past Meetings

June 24, 2021

September 22, 2021

February 22, 2022

Place for food rescue agencies to connect, share best practices, and voice challenges



August 2021 Compost Workshop





No-Cost Wasted Food Assistance



Sector Spotlights

The
Foodbank
in Dayton

Jungle
Jim's

The
Cincinnati
Zoo

Findlay
Market

MadTree
Brewing



The Cincinnati Zoo

- Food scrap composting

- Clear customer-facing bin labeling

- Employee training

Impact

3

Workshops hosted

1

Marketplace Analysis

3

Food rescue agency
meetings hosted

>500

People engaged

>75

Tons of food
waste diverted

A photograph of a grocery store's produce section, featuring various vegetables like cucumbers, squash, broccoli, and potatoes. Overlaid on this image are several yellow semi-transparent shapes containing text.

EPA Region 5: Ohio Phase II

Continued no-cost waste assistance

Identifying barriers to reduce waste

Template for food recovery

Working Groups Food Rescue & Composting

Meeting You Where You Are:

Evaluate
existing
waste
streams

Identify
opportunities
to prevent,
recover, and
divert waste

Create
customized
waste bin
signage

Conduct cost
analysis

Receive No-Cost Assistance Today!

A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue polo shirt and a red apron, is standing in a market. He is holding a clipboard and a yellow pencil, looking down at it. The background is filled with various fruits and vegetables in wooden crates, creating a vibrant and busy atmosphere.

New Resources

Health Department
Resource for Cleveland
The Business Case for
Source Reduction

QUESTIONS?

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