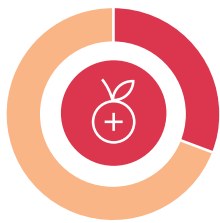




Across the food system, nearly one third of all food is lost and wasted as it makes its way from farms to our plates. The following data points provide an overview of the extent and impacts of food waste in the United States, with more available in From Surplus to Solutions: 2025 ReFED Food Waste Report—a landscape assessment pulling together ReFED data analysis and modeling with external research, supported by qualitative narratives developed through our work with partners across the food waste ecosystem. Find the full report at refed.org/us-food-waste-report-2025.

How Much Surplus Food Is There?



73.9M

Total tons of surplus food generated in 2023

31% of U.S. food supply



\$382B

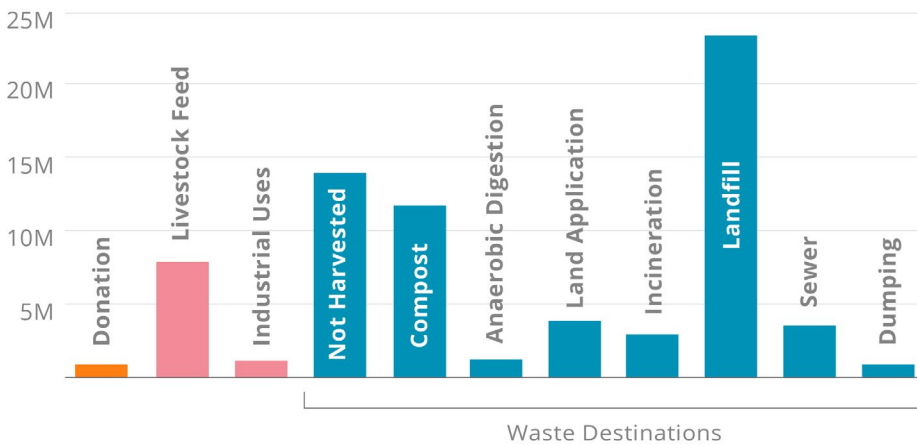
Value of surplus food generated in 2023



442

Pounds of surplus food per capita

Where Does Surplus Food End Up?



2%

Is donated



9%

Goes to livestock feed



85%

Goes to waste destinations

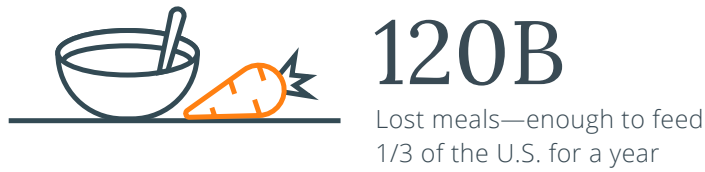
KEY DEFINITIONS

Surplus Food: All food that goes unsold or unused by a business or that goes uneaten at home or restaurants—including food and inedible parts that are donated, fed to livestock animals, repurposed to produce other products, or go to any of the destinations represented in food waste.

Food Waste: Uneaten food and inedible parts (e.g., peels, pits, bones) going to the following eight waste destinations*: composting, anaerobic digestion, landfill, combustion, sewer, dumping, spread onto land, or not harvested.

*Note: While some waste destinations recycle food scraps and are more preferred than others, they are all considered “waste” under the U.S. goal to halve food waste by 2030, or “loss and waste,” under United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12.3.

Annual Impacts Equivalent to:



Implementing Solutions Could Achieve:*



*ReFED modeling



Investments in Food Waste Solutions in 2024

\$300M+ Federal funding

\$640M Private funding



State Food Waste Policies

18

Bills passed in 2024

12

States with organic waste bans or restrictions



ReFED Resources to Help You Take Action



Retailers, Foodservice and Manufacturers

Join the [U.S. Food Waste Pact](#) to Target, Measure, and Act or explore our [Business Services](#) offerings.



Solution Providers

Explore our [Solution Provider resources](#) and join the [Solution Provider Directory](#).



Capital Providers

Explore our funder collaborative, the [Food Waste Funder Circle](#), and funder resources including the [ReFED Capital Tracker](#). Join peer funders by contributing to ReFED's impact investing vehicle, the [Catalytic Grant Fund](#).



Policymakers

Explore existing federal and state policies with ReFED's [Policy Finder](#). Review the state policy toolkit from the [Zero Food Waste Coalition](#).



Media

Reach out with a [media request](#) or access our [media toolkit](#).