

2022 Annual Impact Report

Illuminating How to Cut Food Loss and Waste in Half by the Year 2030







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In order to accelerate effective action to reduce food waste at scale, ReFED focuses on three core program areas:



Leveraging data and insights to highlight supply chain inefficiencies and uncover economic opportunities



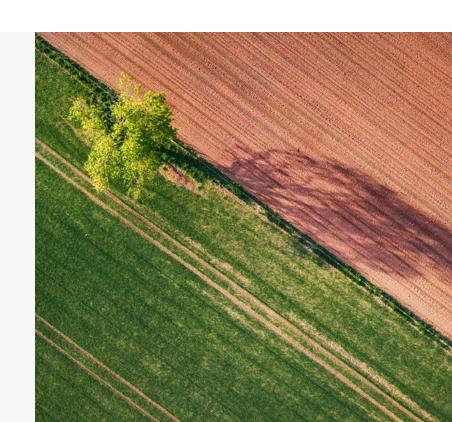
Catalyzing capital to spur innovation and scale high-impact and high-potential initiatives



Mobilizing and connecting critical food system players to take targeted action

Our Vision

A sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food system that optimizes environmental resources, minimizes climate impacts, and makes the best use of the food we grow.





A Letter from Our Board Chair & Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This annual report provides an overview of ReFED's work in 2022, but 2023 has already gotten off to an exciting start. This past January, the White House announced that food waste reduction was one of only six climate change commitments made at the North American Leaders Summit between President Joe Biden, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada. And with the other commitments focused on building out electric vehicle infrastructure, conserving land and ocean areas, and other better-known decarbonization strategies, it shows that food waste reduction has been elevated in the global conversation as to how to achieve rapid climate impacts, as governments, businesses, funders, and more recognize just how powerful a lever it can be.

This historic commitment was on top of the passage of the bipartisan Food Donation Improvement Act (FDIA) last December, which expanded protections for growers, wholesalers, retailers, restaurants, caterers, and others to encourage donations — including food that gets sold at a reduced price to cover the cost of product handling. It's a major step forward, and coupled with an influx of federal funding through The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal and other vehicles, it capped off a year of significant progress for food waste initiatives across all sectors of the supply chain — with more companies publicly signing on to waste reduction commitments; more research on topics like food waste's impact on methane production and biodiversity loss solidifying the case for action; more technologies that make it easier than ever for businesses and consumers to act sustainably; and more recognition of the problem and its solutions in the media.

As always, ReFED has been working to support these efforts, serving as the foundational source for insights, inspiration, and action across the supply chain. This annual report shines a spotlight on our accomplishments to give you a better sense of the work we're doing and the progress your support makes possible. In addition to an overview of key initiatives, we're also excited to share thoughts from ReFED team members about why this work is so critical.

So please set aside some time out of your busy schedule to read this report — and as always, thank you for all you are doing in this fight. Together, we're illuminating the path to a sustainable food system!

Warmly,



On Duly

Dana Gunders
Executive Director

Pamela Murphy

Board Chair





A Year in Review

Recognized throughout the industry as a leading voice for change, ReFED serves a critical role as a source for data and insights, a catalyst for innovation and investment, and a partner in programs and promotions. Here's a look at some of what we accomplished in 2022. With climate disasters increasing, methane becoming a higher priority, and food prices rising, there's never been a more important time to advance bold action and meet the food waste moment.

FLIP TO SECTION:

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Advanced Compelling Data, Insights, & Actionable Guidance

ReFED continues to set the pace in support of measurement and action to reduce food waste in the U.S. by being the definitive source of data and economic analysis on the issue — helping to move the food system from acting on instinct to implementing insight-driven initiatives.

Your Source for Data and Solutions ReFED Insights Engine

The ReFED Insights Engine — an interactive online hub for data and solutions on food loss and waste that this year grew to six integrated tools — is a generational leap forward from the original print-based 2016 *Roadmap* that launched ReFED. The Insights Engine tracks a new level of detailed data on the causes and impacts of food waste, analyzes costs and benefits for **40+ solutions**, tracks investment and funding into food waste solutions at the industry and individual deal levels, and offers a growing directory of **more than 1,600 solution providers** ready to partner on a food waste reduction initiative. Even as it continues to grow, it serves as the cornerstone of our efforts to provide accessible, accurate information for all those working in the space. The Insights Engine was launched in 2021 with anchor funding from The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation.



42,411 users

accessed the Insights Engine in 2022 — representing a **92% growth** from 2021.

874 use cases

since 2021 from a range of food system actors documenting how they used the Insights Engines to advance their work.

LAUNCH INSIGHTS ENGINE



Introducing the Capital Tracker

New Insights Engine Tool to Track Food Waste Investment

In 2022, ReFED launched the Capital Tracker, a first-of-its-kind, free resource offering a comprehensive deep-dive analysis of food waste funding at both a systems level and an individual deal basis to provide investors and innovators alike with the information they need to develop their food waste funding strategies. Currently tracking private funding, the tool will be expanded in 2023 with philanthropic and public funding data.

ReFED's Capital Tracker analysis shows that nearly \$9.14 billion in private capital has been invested in food waste solutions over the last 10 years — including \$1.55 billion invested in 2022 and a record \$2 billion in 2021.

During the same period, the quantity and size of deals accelerated, with 2020 and 2021 seeing 111% and 110% year-over-year investment growth, respectively, as more funders recognized food waste solutions as a way to achieve their impact goals.

Alejandro Enamorado

Capital, Innovation & Engagement Senior Manager, ReFED



"We're encouraged by the increasing flow of capital into food waste solutions in recent years, but a significant funding gap remains. As ReFED continues our work to catalyze the additional capital that's needed to scale solutions, we're excited to share the Capital Tracker, an important new resource to support funders who want to use their capital to solve food waste challenges."

BEHIND THE TOOL

The Capital Tracker is the multi-tool for the flourishing innovation ecosystem. Whether looking to identify funders, better understand trends in funding, or build a deal flow pipeline, the Capital Tracker delivers with just a few clicks. Hidden beneath the simplicity is a complex product and data challenge. Building the tool required identifying, scraping, cleaning, and processing datasets pulled from Pitchbook. Mapping companies and deals onto ReFED's solution types — prevention, rescue, recycling, and general — required manually classifying items one by one; when a company is classified, the system will automatically classify any future deals as such. Once the data's structure was in place, we layered on functionality that allows for easy filtering and visualization. With a big update slated for 2023 to bring philanthropic data into the tool, the work is far from done. As the project lead, Alejandro and his team have been collecting user feedback, prototyping additional features, cleaning new datasets, and developing processes to make updates less cumbersome.





Policy Finder Relaunch

Legislative and Regulatory Action to Reduce Food Waste

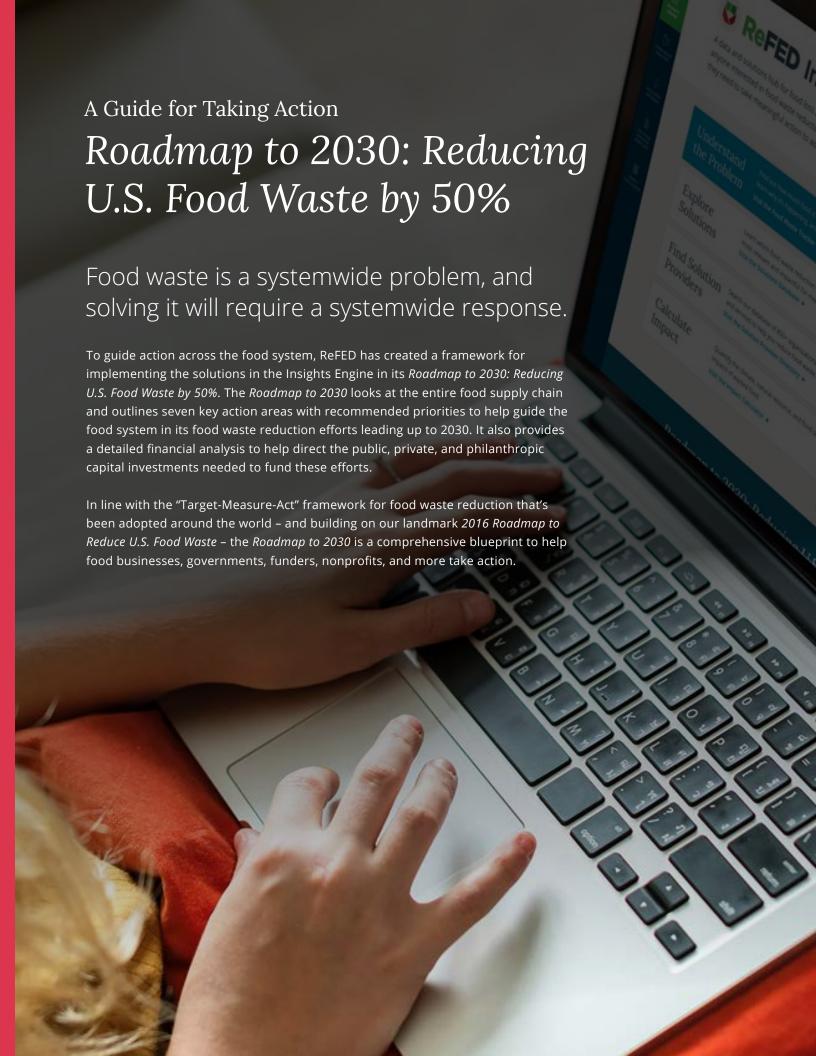
Policy is a critical lever for accelerating the adoption of food waste reduction solutions at a large scale — and the past few years have been pivotal for food waste policy at all levels of government, including the bipartisan passage of the Food Donation Improvement Act at the end of 2022. To help make sense of the policy landscape, last February ReFED relaunched the Food Waste Policy Finder, an online resource developed and maintained in partnership with the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic, enabling users to explore legislative and regulatory policy — including best practices and proposed legislation — at the federal, state, and local levels.



"Policy is unique in its power to provide a broad mandate that can move the food system to action. That's why we're excited to see so much movement on policies that have the potential to drive significant reductions in food waste. Over 75 state policies were introduced in 2022. Not all of these proposed bills were actually enacted, but the fact that food waste is part of the conversation is an important step forward. We're excited to see what developments lie ahead."

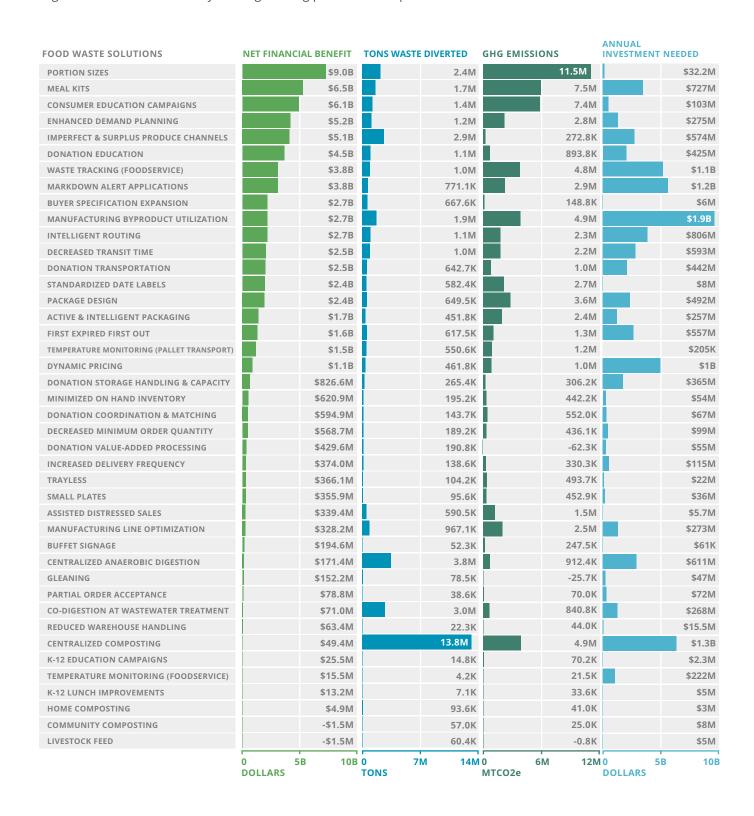
Samantha Goerger Policy Fellow, ReFED





Solutions at a Glance

The ReFED Insights Engine features a deep-dive analysis of more than 40 food waste reduction solutions spanning our seven key action areas. Some are simple, some are more complex, some are existing best practices, and some are brand new breakthroughs. Many have a strong potential for investment returns, and others are already being implemented successfully by businesses and organizations that are actively seeking funding partners to help scale their effort



The Power of Data to Drive Action

Here are key examples of how it was leveraged in 2022.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture cited ReFED materials and Insights Engine data in their 2022 **\$90M funding announcement** for food waste and have requested specific ReFED analyses to inform the fund's allocation.



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is used ReFED's Insights Engine to update and revise their 2017 Strategy for Preventing the Wasting of Food to be in line with the state's goal of reducing food waste by 50% by 2030.

The Kroger Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation used ReFED's Insights Engine to develop a grantmaking strategy for their Innovation Fund, which is filling the philanthropic funding gap for food security and food waste solutions.



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Information giant *Google* used the Insights Engine to develop an internal food waste reduction strategy and action plan for their global operations.

Major retailers including *Amazon, Kroger, Aldi*, and others have reported using ReFED data to explore solutions to improve their bottom lines by saving food from being wasted.

Food brands *Campbell's* and *Unilever/Hellmann's* have both used the Insights Engine to inform changes in their supply chains and messaging to consumers.



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Government entities are using the Insights Engine to inform state plans. For example, the Washington State Department of Ecology is using ReFED solutions impact estimates to generate economic arguments for the 30 recommendations in its statewide food waste reduction plan.

240+ rescue organizations

Food rescue organizations are using the Insights Engine to quantify the climate and other impacts of their work in donor reports; more than 240 rescue organizations are listed in the Insights Engine's Solution Provider Directory.

Internationally, six countries — the U.K., Australia, New Zealand, Guatemala, Turkey, and Republic of the Philippines — have reached out to ReFED to discuss replicating the Insights Engine with their own national data. Though this is not in our current plans, we take it as another indicator of the tool providing value and are considering what it would take to enable this.

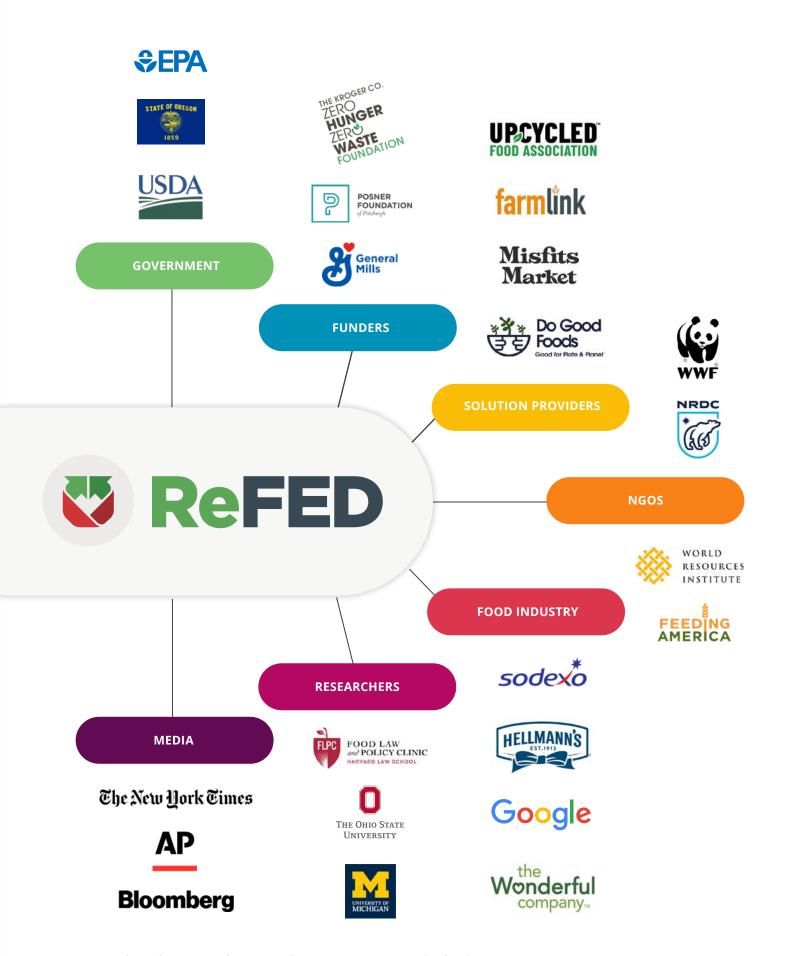
More than 35 solution providers — such as *ReGrained*, *Lovin' Spoonfuls*, *Imperfect Foods*, *Afresh*, and *Hello Fresh* — have shared instances of using Insights Engine resources to support and inform their ongoing efforts to reduce food waste as a key part of their business models.



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More than 260 use cases have been reported by students and academics, who have used the Insights Engine to further research projects, such as increasing retail food donations, connecting farmers to sources of food waste for use as animal feed, and implementing food waste policies internationally.





ReFED works with a range of actors and organizations across the food waste ecosystem. This is a non-exhaustive illustration of collaborators within our network.

Catalyzed Capital to Accelerate Solutions Adoption

Many food waste solutions have the potential to make a scalable impact in creating a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive food system, yet they continue to face financing barriers. To overcome the bottlenecks and help de-risk new innovations, ReFED works to catalyze the \$14 billion — including \$3 billion from catalytic sources — in public, private, and philanthropic capital needed each year to reach a 50% reduction in food waste over the next decade. In addition to generating \$73 billion in annual net financial benefit — a five-to-one return — it would also cut greenhouse gas emissions, save water and cropland, create thousands of jobs, and recover the equivalent of billions of meals for those in need. In 2022, ReFED continued to drive this impact by empowering innovators and shepherding the capital needed to help scale solutions with a suite of best-in-class resources and services.



The Food Waste Funder Circle (FWFC) is a network designed for private, public, and philanthropic funders interested in using their capital to solve food waste challenges. Offering a curated platform for education, collaboration, and investment, the FWFC is helping to bridge the funding gap that exists at the intersection of food waste innovation and capital. As a centerpiece to ReFED's efforts to mobilize more capital to spark further innovation and solutions adoption, the FWFC offers opportunities for funders to engage directly with solution providers actively seeking capital to scale their work.

144 members

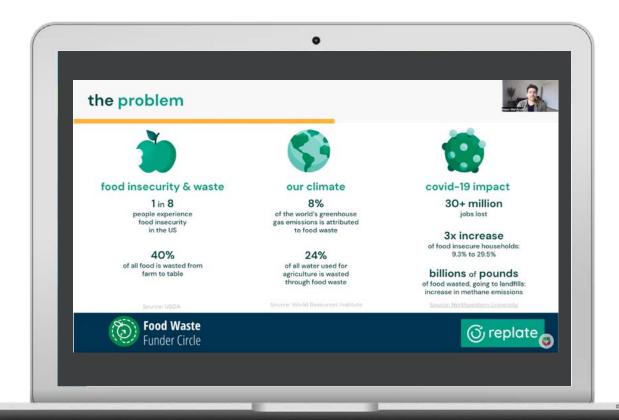
in the Food Waste Funder Circle (FWFC) committed to accelerating the flow of capital to scale food waste solutions.

267 opportunities

opportunities to fund solutions were shared in the 2022 deal flow reports, valued at **\$902M**.

Virtual Pitch Sessions

Each month, the FWFC publishes deal flow reports listing active funding opportunities by amount needed, sector, and solution type to educate funders and facilitate their engagement in the space. The details in these reports are brought to life through virtual "pitch sessions," which allow funders to hear directly from solution providers about their offerings. These special events have opened the door to multiple additional funding discussions.

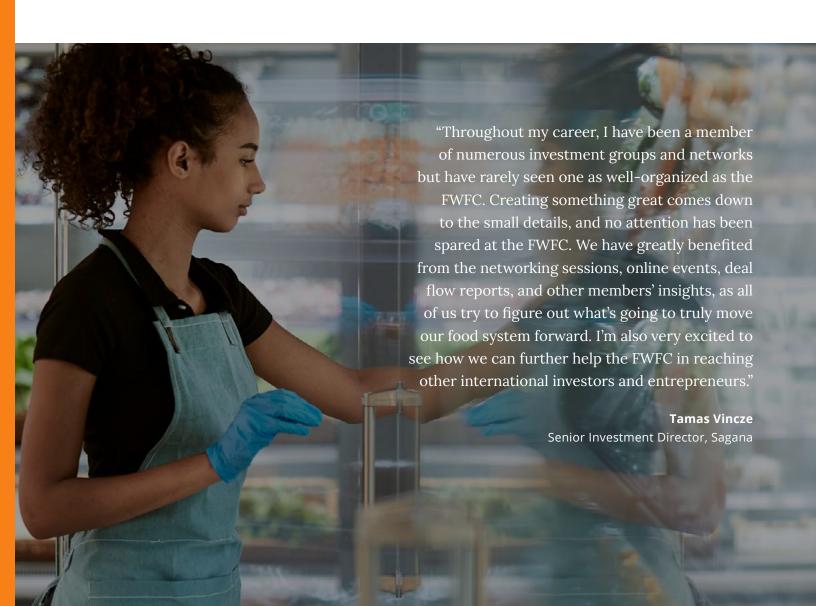


What Our FWFC Members Have to Say:

"Trailhead Capital is excited to be both a member and ambassador of the FWFC, gaining access to an extensive network of partners and collaborators who are equally dedicated to targeting food waste challenges by working together to share and produce ideas and solutions. The FWFC has proven to be one of the preeminent groups to access investment opportunities in the space, while also connecting us to potential capital partners looking to leverage Trailhead's network and expertise in fighting food waste through technology and innovation-backed startups in food and agriculture. The deal flow reports, newsletters, and sponsored events help us aggregate this information in a substantive way, creating the network effect needed to deliver and capitalize on this catalytic opportunity."

Pete Oberle and Tripp Wall

Managing Partners, Trailhead Capital





Sarah Munger

Capital, Innovation & Engagement Analyst, ReFED



"Capital providers are critical to catalyzing innovation and driving adoption of food waste reduction solutions. There's so much opportunity in the food waste space right now, and to keep building on that, it's more important than ever to make sure funders have the information they need to make smart funding decisions and have access to a network of initiatives and partners ready to collaborate. The Food Waste Funder Circle is an effective way to connect capital providers to all the potential that the food waste space has to offer, whether through deal flow, pitch events, or networking opportunities."

BEHIND THE COMMUNITY

The FWFC represents a true cross section of the capital provider spectrum. While members are united in their ambition to accelerate and scale adoption of food waste solutions, each member brings unique preferences and resources. Providing an experience that meets — and often exceeds — the expectations of members requires proactive and high-touch stewardship. From personally recruiting and welcoming members, to developing and delivering a full calendar of programming, researching and compiling deal flow reports, coordinating introductions, collecting and incorporating member feedback, and more. Sarah and the FWFC team have created an invaluable resource for funders in ReFED's growing network.

Year-in-Revie

Supported the Growth of Solution Providers

ReFED helps food waste solution providers grow their impact by providing resources, consultations and helping to catalyze funding.

Using the Insights Engine's Solution Provider Directory — a list of organizations offering food waste solutions — ReFED works to:



Catalyze innovation around food waste solutions by using data from solution providers to highlight trends, growth areas, and solutions gaps.



Educate the funder community about the opportunities available to develop and scale food waste solutions by providing the transparency, resources, and strategic direction needed to drive increased investment.

Who is listed in the Solution Provider Directory?

1,600+

nonprofit and for-profit organizations in the Solution Provider Directory at the end of 2022, all ready to help implement food waste reduction initiatives.



A 74% growth since last year in organizations



Solutions by Category:

44% Prevention33% Rescue23% Recycling



Solutions by Org Type:

70% for-profit organizations28% nonprofit organizations2% other organizations



The ReFED Catalytic Grant Fund

ReFED launched the Catalytic Grant Fund, a regranting fund, with anchor funding from Google and the Betsy and Jesse Fink Family Foundation to ensure that funders' resources are being deployed quickly to fill gaps and scale solutions to food loss and waste. One hundred percent of the funds granted will come from external sources who believe in the Grant Fund's mission. Through experience with our COVID-19 Food Waste Solutions Fund, ReFED has successfully responded to critical funding needs in the food system before by managing and deploying funding where it could have the most impact.

The Grant Fund is designed to accelerate the development and implementation of food waste solutions across the value chain by providing recoverable and non-recoverable grants to initiatives with high potential to reduce food waste and cut GHG emissions, as well as efforts to support justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) in our food system. The Grant Fund focuses on opportunities where its grant capital and support can be catalytic by:



- Unlocking additional capital from other funders; and
- Generating impact by funding initiatives that have been overlooked by other funders but that demonstrate great potential to reduce waste.

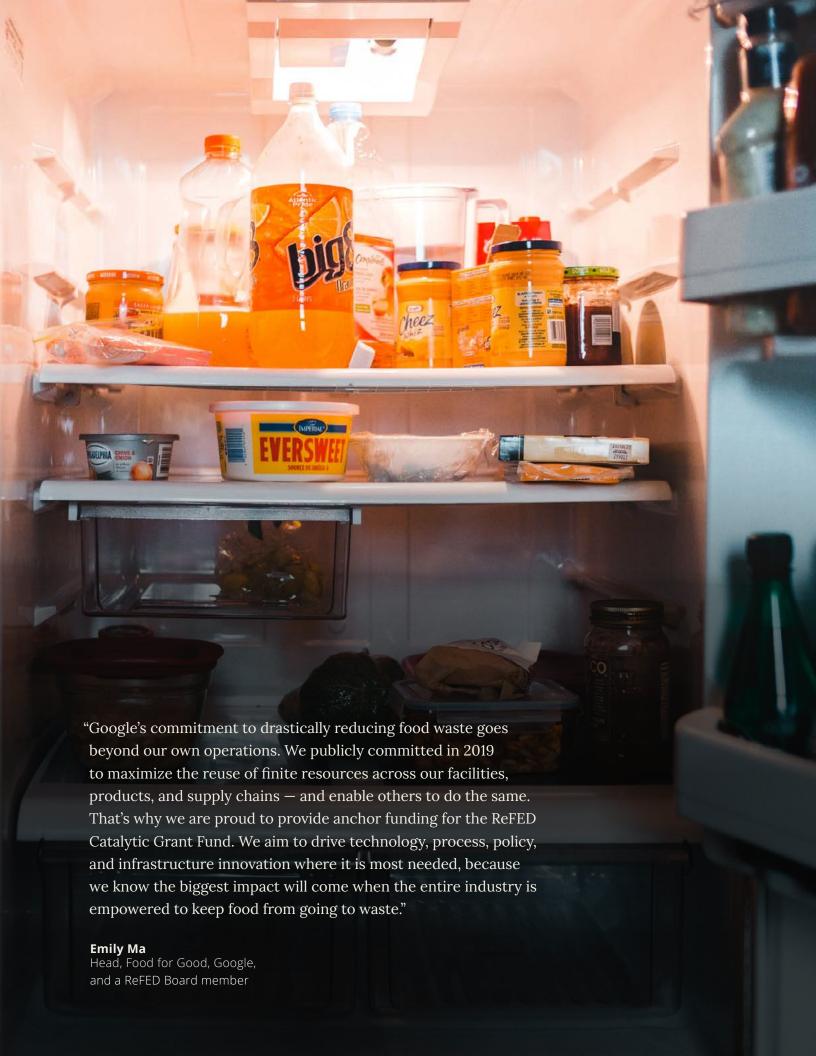


Initial Catalytic Grant Fund Portfolio Companies

An initial round of grants was awarded to the **Upcycled Food Association, Food Recovery Network, and Hidden Gems**to spotlight the flexibility of the Catalytic Grant Fund and demonstrate the range of organizations and capital types it will support.

In November 2022, the Catalytic Grant Fund launched its first open call with the thematic focus of *Reshaping Consumer Environments* to help consumers waste less food in their homes and other environments; grants are expected to be awarded in early 2023.

As we assemble a portfolio, we will build out a suite of non-financial offers to support grantees beyond access to capital. To further the efforts of funders or potential funders, ReFED will be sharing insights and learnings throughout the process.



Year-in-Reviev

Activated Collaborations Through New Networks and Expanded Programming

A systemwide problem requires systemwide action to be solved. Food loss and waste occur up and down the entire supply chain, and decisions made at one stage frequently affect what happens at another. That's why ReFED works to connect stakeholders from across the food system in mutually beneficial collaborations, through industry and sector partnerships, stakeholder networks, cross-sector events — including our annual Food Waste Solutions Summit — and much more.

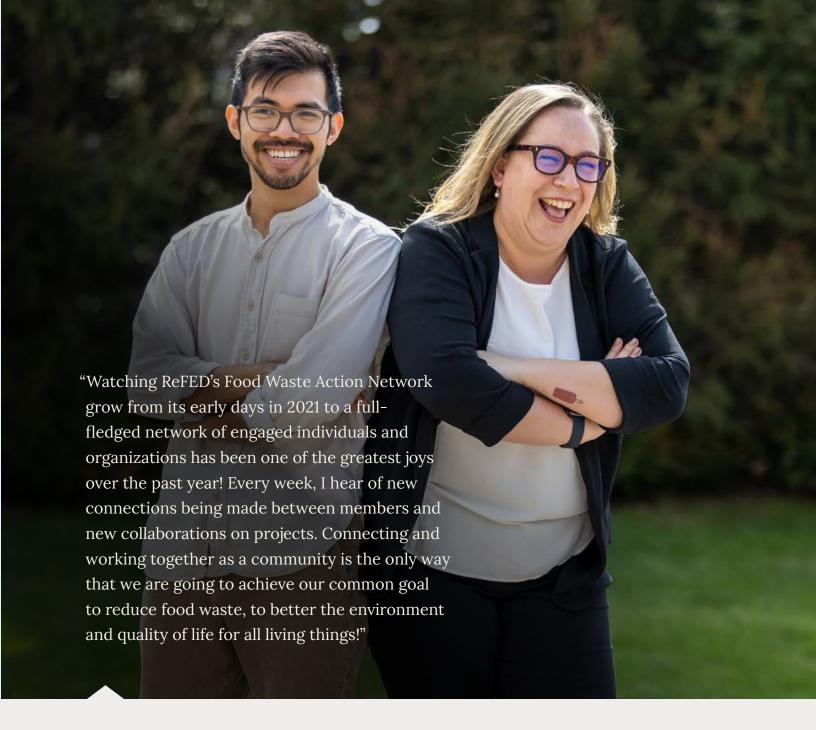


ReFED's Food Waste Action Network (FWAN) fosters an engaged and inclusive community of food waste professionals. We knew that people within the food waste movement were hungry for collaborations that could increase collective impact, but the growth of the FWAN and the engagement of its members, have exceeded even our own high expectations. Free and easy to join, action is the critical goal. The FWAN hosts monthly events including "demo days," where members can experience the cutting edge of food waste innovation, and networking sessions specifically designed to facilitate meaningful collaboration opportunities.

900 +

Food Waste Action Network (FWAN) members committed to working together to fight food waste — a 43% growth in membership from 2021.

A network like the FWAN is only as powerful as the people in it, and we continue to be impressed with the diverse array of people and organizations that have joined. From Google to Raley's, some of the biggest players in food waste are represented. But large company affiliation is far from a requirement, and many FWAN members are from smaller companies or individuals motivated to make a difference within their own spheres of influence.



Lily Herd

Capital, Innovation & Engagement Manager, ReFED

BEHIND THE COMMUNITY

The FWAN's unique strength is pre-packaged with its own set of challenges. It necessitates extra time, care, and planning for effective community-building among diverse professionals. Presiding over this rich community and attending to each member's needs is Lily. She ensures that every new member is welcomed and made aware of the benefits that they can take advantage of. In collaboration with others at ReFED, she develops all programming and content for networking sessions, educational webinars, blog posts, and, of course, her famous email newsletters. Lily also plays the role of switchboard operator, connecting members to one another, ReFED teammates, or experts in ReFED's extended network.

What Our FWAN Members Have to Say:

"2022 has been a year of change at our food bank. New challenges are forcing us to adapt. Through the FWAN, we've connected with people across the world who share our mission of ending food waste and feeding people. The FWAN community has given us helpful ideas we wouldn't otherwise have had access to, which in turn is helping us serve our community."

Dylan Driscoll

Retail Food Coordinator, Central Texas Food Bank



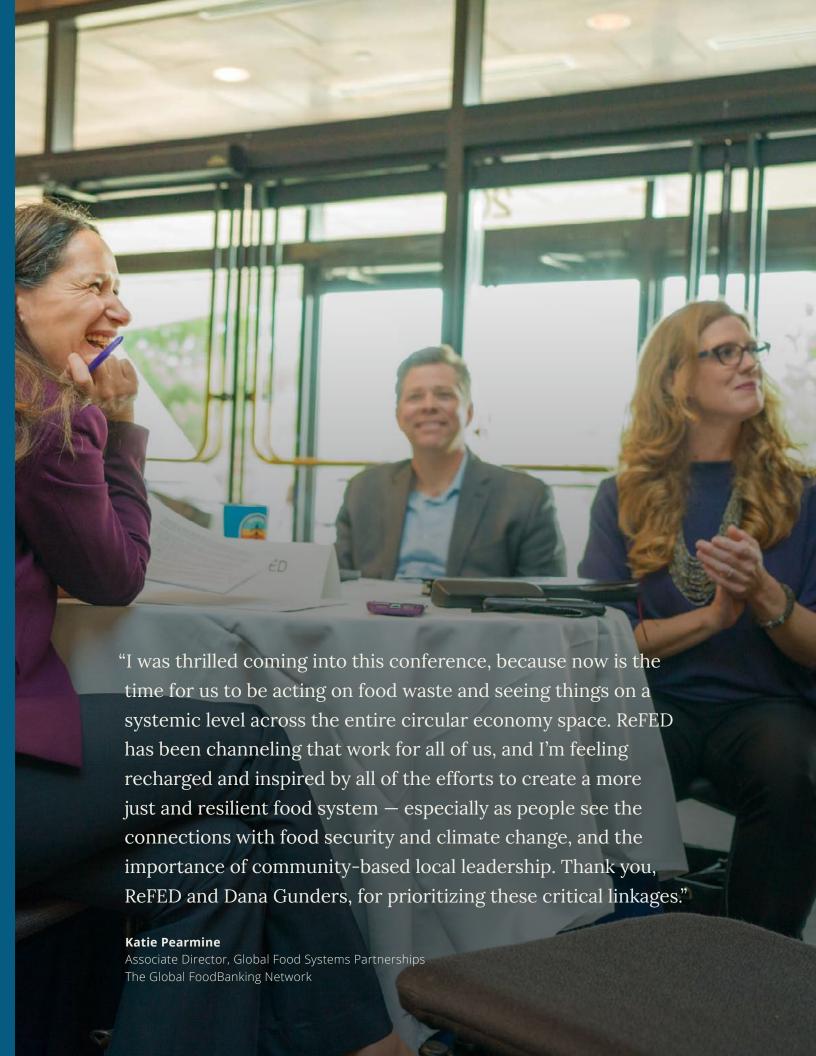






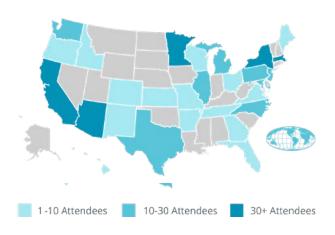






2022 Food Waste Solutions Summit

Presented by ReFED, the first Food Waste Solutions Summit in more than two years took place May 10-12, 2022 in Minneapolis, with more than 640 people joining either in-person or virtually. This was the largest gathering of the ReFED community to date, and while the last two years were far from slow, the event was a good reminder of the importance of meeting people face-to-face — community-building, inspiration, acceleration, and celebration.



643 attendees

converged in Minneapolis in-person and virtually from across 36 U.S. states and 14 countries around the world.



391 In-Person



252 Virtual

25 sessions

covering topics such as fighting climate change through food waste reduction; investment trends in the sector; emerging technologies; the public health and environmental justice implications of food waste; the role of packaging in food waste reduction; new frontiers in recycling, and more.







Emerging Summit Themes

The connection at the conference was felt in full, but in the midst of this camaraderie, serious work was getting done, and a few themes emerged — the importance of recognizing widespread efforts already underway from an expanding number of organizations across the food system; the true power of engaged stakeholders; and the uncompromisable need for a truly just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive circular food movement.

ReFED has always operated with the philosophy that reducing food waste is a "big tent" issue — there's a role for everyone, and progress requires a wide and diverse set of community members working together across the food system. ReFED's role as a connector and catalyzer is only as strong as the current passing through the conduits, so it was exciting to see so many stakeholders plugged into the energy at the Summit.

Food Waste Momentum Continues to Grow

The growth of food waste solutions over the last ten years has been significant, and whether through private, philanthropic, or public investment, continued growth will depend on widespread awareness of the opportunities the sector offers. Food waste investment can lead to a range of impacts, and as ReFED Executive Director Dana Gunders reminded attendees during the Summit's opening session, reducing food waste is not just good for business, it's also a top climate solution.

The Power Of Community

In a special session co-hosted by Food Tank, Chef Andrew Zimmern reminded the audience of the power of the food waste community — locally, nationally, and globally — and encouraged them to call on others who were in attendance when they are in need of encouragement, ideas, or simply someone else who gets it.

Food Waste Action must be Diverse, Inclusive, Equitable and Focused on Justice

For the food waste movement to be successful, systemic inequalities and injustices need to be addressed head-on. The Summit focused on these issues in several ways. Environmental justice, treatment of workers, food access, and wealth disparities were all discussed at the Summit, and an effort was made to amplify voices that have not traditionally had a megaphone. The Summit offered four sessions with a specific justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) focus, including two interactive "fish bowl" exercises, where participants could share their experiences with inequality in the food system while their thoughts were live-illustrated on a projected screen. Capping it off was a powerful art installation that asked the question, "Does everyone really have the same 24 hours each day to engage with the food system" — or does a lack of transportation, limited purchasing options, and other barriers force some groups to spend more time each day than others to access nutritious and culturally appropriate food. Through photos and first-person testimonials, Summit attendees learned the answer is "no."

Special thanks to A-dae Romero-Briones of First Nations Development Institute, who led an inspiring talk on the mainstage with Yuka Nagashima of Food Shift, Rodrigo Cala of Latino Economic Development Center, and Sophia Lenarz-Coy of The Food Group Of Minnesota. Their message was clear — JEDI issues must be addressed head-on, and while it's okay to make mistakes when trying to do this work, it's no longer okay to do nothing, no matter your role in the food industry.



The Time is Now

The Summit theme of "No Time | No Food to Waste" was a constant drumbeat throughout the event, as speakers reminded attendees that the time for action is right now. They also emphasized the larger power and impact of food in cultures and communities. With current global events, it's more important than ever to value our food and to make sure that as much as possible is going to its highest and best use of feeding people. Every voice needs to be included if the challenge is going to be met. As Dana Gunders said to rally attendees during her closing remarks, "Now is the time to be bold and courageous in your work for the next year — and beyond."



Year-in-Reviev

Built Strategic Advisory Initiatives to Foster Business Engagement

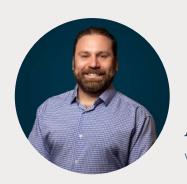
The Pacific Coast Food Waste Commitment

The Pacific Coast Food Waste Commitment (PCFWC), which brings together food businesses and jurisdictions on the West Coast into a pre-competitive public-private partnership, crossed the 50% retail market share threshold for the region this year. This allowed us to release aggregated data showing food waste rates by grocery department, waste destination, and impact. This research is an important contribution to the body of knowledge that can help retailers along the Pacific Coast — and around the country — benchmark their waste initiatives, and it shows the full promise of the PCFWC as competitors work together to advance common sustainability goals. In 2022, the PCFWC grew to 15 business signatories in the retail, manufacturing, foodservice, and grower sectors, with ReFED serving as a resource partner (along with WWF, WRAP, and Cascadia Policy Solutions). Examples of the PCFWC signatories include Albertsons, Bob's Red Mill, Aramark, Fresh Del Monte, and Organically Grown.

LEARN MORE ▶

Bringing even more value to signatories, ReFED also launched a "custom roadmap" pilot project, which uses each participating retailer's data to provide deeper analytics on what is happening with their food waste, including industry benchmarking, the impact of their wasted food, and a prioritized list of solutions and implementation metrics (costs, benefits, and more.) based on their business. The goal is to arm leaders and front-line workers with the data they need to make decisions and drive high-impact action within their business. Participants range in size from large global retailers to regional companies on the Pacific Coast, and the pilot will allow us to test the feasibility and value of this offering before bringing it to scale.





Asch Harwood

VP of Data & Insights, ReFED

"Measuring a complex target requires multiple approaches along with comparisons of multiple datasets to illustrate clear progress. The analysis we're doing for the PCFWC gives us by far the most complete, accurate, and comprehensive dataset on food waste in the retail sector. Measurement and reporting is a shared challenge for businesses working toward food waste reduction commitments, and ReFED looks forward to supporting their efforts by learning, adapting, and sharing as we continue to improve our methodology."

BEHIND THE TOOL

ReFED has earned a trusted reputation for building assets that illuminate the optimal path to action. Our custom roadmaps, which are currently in beta-testing with retailers, promises to expand on this legacy, as we bring our road map concept down to the level of an individual company.

Delivering individualized road maps is no small feat. Led by Asch, ReFED's Data & Insights team has built mechanisms for securely collecting, processing, and analyzing company data; building models that generate prioritized steps a company can take to reduce food waste in their own operations; adding functionality to allow for customization based on company-specific constraints; contextualizing the data with industry benchmarks; and projecting the economic and societal impacts of different solution, enabling companies to explore tradeoffs. In parallel, the team has developed and executed a robust partnership strategy, powering the models with data from retailers that account for more than 50% market share in the region.



Food Waste Fellowship

As part of the Environmental Defense Fund's highly respected Climate Corps® program, ReFED helped launch the inaugural Food Waste Fellowship for graduate students interested in helping host companies understand and reduce food waste within their operations. In 2022, the inaugural program placed 11 fellows at 10 different organizations — Albertsons, Amy's Kitchen, Aramark, CAVA, Lane County, Sodexo, United Natural Foods, Conagra Brands, J.M. Smucker, and the New York City Housing Authority — and featured an in-depth curriculum designed by ReFED to prepare the fellows to make an immediate impact at their host organizations. The program's success led to its renewal for a second year, and we are excited to deliver it again in 2023.



Food Waste Fellowship Impact Story

Aramark

SUMMARY

Brooke Seegan identified strategies to measure and reduce post-consumer food waste at Aramark.

GOALS

Aramark is looking to reduce their food waste by 50% by the year 2030. Post-consumer food waste is challenging to measure and can make up a significant portion of food waste generated in the food service industry. Aramark enlisted Brooke Seegan as their first EDF Climate Corps fellow to get a complete picture of post-consumer food waste in the company's operations.



SOLUTIONS

Seegan approached the problem in two parts:

- Measuring the impacts of post-consumer food waste to show its scope. After reviewing available methodologies of measuring volume and impact of post-consumer waste, Seegan estimated the financial value of plate waste on the enterprise level. Seegan also calculated the environmental impact of plate waste at over 250 college residential dining facilities.
- Recommendations for future measurements and reduction strategies. Seegan
 presented operational improvements to align with leading protocols and improve future
 baseline measurements. After speaking with several operators in different lines of
 business, she trained operators on main causes of food waste and best practices for waste

POTENTIAL IMPACT

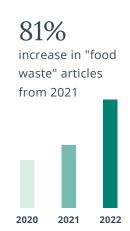
Using Seegan's proposed mix of reduction strategies and educational campaigns, Aramark should be able to reduce post-consumer food waste in their operations. This has further co-benefits including emissions reductions, food procurement savings, and better positions them to achieve their 50% food waste reduction goal. Seegan's project also helped Aramark revitalize internal conversations regarding food waste reductions across the company. This work was key in supporting the development of the next generation food waste strategy including updates to training materials and internal resources as well as food donation programming and sampling techniques.

Served as a Thought Leader and Trusted Data Source for Media

After years of building momentum, 2022 was a tremendous year for food waste in the press. The word is getting out, and some of the biggest news outlets in the country provided great coverage of both issues and solutions.

157,169 food waste articles

In 2020, "food waste" as a topic was mentioned in approximately **75,686 articles**. Throughout 2021, food waste was mentioned in **86,899 articles**. At the end of 2022, food waste was mentioned in a total of **157,169 articles**, marking an **81% increase** in articles from the previous year. ▶



Recognizing ReFED's role as the key source for best-in-class data on all facets of food waste and the primary thought leader in the space, reporters turned to us for interviews, analysis, and citations, as well as full articles about our work.





ReFED in the Press

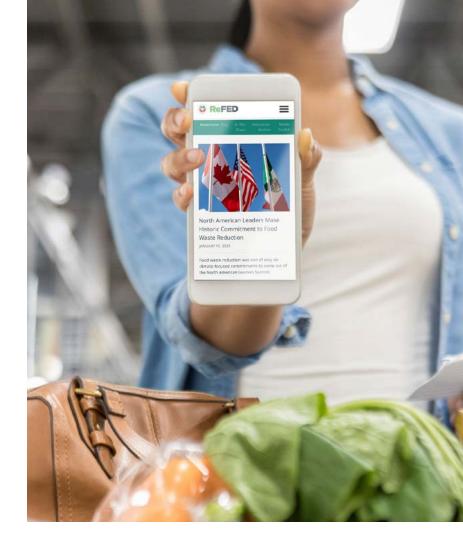
579 mentions & 4.9B+ impressions

in media such as *The New York Times*, Associated Press, Reuters, The Atlantic, The Washington Post, AgFunder News, ImpactAlpha, Fortune, Forbes, and NPR.



190% growth

in media mentions from 2021.







ReFED was selected as a finalist for the Curt Bergfors Food Planet Prize, a prestigious international award that supports innovative initiatives shifting our food system toward sustainable practices. It is an incredible honor to have been shortlisted alongside seven other game-changing organizations, and it's further confirmation that food waste represents a massive, but solvable challenge. As part of the decision-making process, ReFED was profiled on the Roads & Kingdoms website.

ReFED in the Press Select 2022 Media Mentions



How 'best by' labels lead to more food waste

Here & Now's Robin Young speaks with Dana Gunders, Executive Director at ReFED and author of the "Waste Free Kitchen Handbook," about the growing scrutiny over food labels and how they might be leading to more food waste.

READ ARTICLE ▶



From farm to fork... via app: How tech is tackling food waste

Food waste apps not only save people money — they can also play a role in reducing climate changing emissions. Farming, food processing, and delivery all consume fossil fuels, while rising food production is a major driver of deforestation.

READ ARTICLE ▶

Atlantic

Expiration Dates Are Meaningless

Do I dare to eat an old peach yogurt? Yes, yes I do.

READ ARTICLE ▶



Fight to curb food waste increasingly turns to science

Hate mealy apples and soggy french fries? Science can help. Restaurants, grocers, farmers, and food companies are increasingly turning to chemistry and physics to tackle the problem of food waste.

READ ARTICLE ▶

The New York Times

Inside the Global Effort to Keep Perfectly Good Food Out of the Dump

Around the world, lawmakers and entrepreneurs are taking steps to tackle two of humanity's most pressing problems: hunger and climate change.

READ ARTICLE ▶

"The media play such an important role in raising awareness about the extent and impacts of food waste — and more importantly, that solutions exist! To help reporters with their coverage, we offer the most up-to-date facts and information, along with subject matter experts to explore specific story angles or just to engage for a general overview of the food waste landscape. And we've been excited to connect with new partners who first learned of ReFED through the media."



Jeffrey CostantinoCommunications Director, ReFED



Guest Blogs

Throughout the year, ReFED offered up its popular blog as a platform for guest posts featuring multiple viewpoints from a range of organizations in the food waste sector. By using our promotional clout, we aim to amplify voices large and small that are different than our own and and connect the food waste community through constructive dialogue.

"Sorry - But We Need Environmental Realism to Bring Sustainability to Scale"

Written by: Justin Kamine - CEO, Do Good Foods

"My strong belief is that we need to use a consumerism model to fuel the biggest and quickest environmental solutions. Consumers care, corporations are starting to care, and as sustainability leaders, we need to provide products that engage consumers to be a part of the solution without changing their habits. We can do this by providing a growing population with products that they know and love that now have a net positive impact on the world. If we do it right, this will incentivize farmers, suppliers, corporations, and consumers to all participate in the solution. And if done economically, it will happen amazingly quick. At the end of the day, the way to have the greatest impact in the world is to create the best economics."

READ FULL POST

Events

2022 featured a full slate of ReFED-hosted events — including our flagship annual Food Waste Solutions Summit, virtual panel discussions and one-on-one chats, networking sessions, pitch events, and special innovation demo days — all designed to inform and inspire food waste stakeholders. Our events provided an opportunity to hear from food business leaders, subject matter experts, researchers, policymakers, and more about important topics of the day, like inflation and food waste, the impact of supply chain disruptions, blended finance models, and the power of innovation to drive progress.

2,352 attendees

at 22 ReFED webinar events.

4,957 individuals

were reached from 44 speaking engagements throughout the year — six of which were international.

These included "Future of Food" at SXSW, Google Food Lab, SPC Impact, Circularity22, Pacto por la Comida, Climate Week, and APEC Summit.

















The People Behind the Organization







ReFED is a remote organization powered by a team of passionate, curious, and diverse individuals. Our staff brings together expertise in data, capital, entrepreneurship, climate, strategy, storytelling, and more to pursue our vision of a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food system. This year, we were excited to welcome five new teammates.

Our Staff



Dana Gunders
Executive Director



Asch Harwood VP of Data & Insights



Selena Mao Data & Insights Research Analyst



Minnie Ringland Climate Analyst



Alexandria Coari
VP of Capital, Innovation, &
Engagement



Caroline Vance Capital, Innovation, & Engagement Director



Jackie Suggitt Capital, Innovation, & Engagement Director



Angel Veza Capital, Innovation, & Engagement, Senior Manager





Alejandro Enamorado Capital, Innovation, & Engagement, Senior Manager



Lily Herd Capital, Innovation, & Engagement Manager



Lisa Accardi Events Manager



Sarah Munger Capital, Innovation, & Engagement Analyst



Katy Hart
Operations Director



Jeffrey Costantino Communications Director



Vanessa Mukhebi Communications Manager



Cole Leslie
Communications Fellow



Salma Khan Senior Operations & Administrative Manager



Shawn Shepherd
Development Director



Sam Buck Senior Manager of Development



Samantha Groegor Policy Fellow

Our Board

This year marked an exciting maturation point for our Board, with a new Board Chair and an expanded membership sharing their multidisciplinary expertise to help position ReFED to deliver and scale our impact. After two years at the helm, Nicola Dixon — who serves as Director of Global Impact at General Mills — ended her term as ReFED's Board Chair and retired from the Board. Nicola joined the ReFED Board in 2018 as the organization was still taking shape, and in a sign of her commitment to this issue and our work, stayed on for two additional years, becoming Board Chair in July 2020. Nicola's insights and expertise were invaluable to ReFED as we navigated the initial years of being a national nonprofit organization, the fallout from COVID-19's effects on the food system, and the launch of the Insights Engine.

Nicola was succeeded as Board Chair by Pamela Murphy, a philanthropist and nonprofit board leader who joined ReFED's Board of Directors in 2021. Pamela has a background in finance and corporate and management consulting, including work at Citibank and Russell Reynolds Associates. Pamela was selected for her role at the helm of ReFED due to her deep experience with managing nonprofit boards. She currently is Chair of Governance and a member of the Finance Committee and Executive Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Pamela also served on the Board of Island Press — the leading nonprofit publisher focused on sustainability and environmental topics — from 2009, and as Chairperson from 2016 through 2021. For nearly fifteen years, she has brought to bear her experience in strategy development, resource management, and financial oversight to nonprofit organizations, with the sole goal of helping them achieve their environmental missions. ReFED is excited to benefit from her extensive board experience.

In 2022, we were also excited to welcome three new Board members. We are grateful to all Board members for their commitment to our work.



Pamela Murphy Chair, ReFED Board of Directors Philanthropist and Nonprofit Board Leader



Emily Ma Secretary, ReFED Board of Directors Head, Food for Good, Google



Steven Swartz
Treasurer, ReFED Board of Directors
Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy
Officer, Chief Technology Officer,
The Wonderful Company



Jesse Fink *Trustee*, The Betsy and Jesse Fink
Family Foundation



Stacey Greene-Koehnke Chief Operating Officer, MedShare



Shashank Mohan Managing Director, BlackRock



Jeff Rhodes Vice President Finance, Trane Technologies, Commercial HVAC Americas



Eduardo Romero
President and CEO, Hana Group



Chuck C. Savitt

Trustee and Treasurer,
The Windward Fund



Yalmaz Siddiqui Vice President, Environmental Sustainability, The Walt Disney Company



Eric Woods Corporate Officer, VP Field Operations, Sysco



Nicola Dixon Former Chair, ReFED Board of Directors Director of Global Impact, General Mills

Our Advisory Council

The Advisory Council is a forum of food system experts who share their insights to help accelerate action on ReFED's priority programs and long-term strategic goals. We were thankful to have five Advisory Council members continue their term from 2021 and to welcome six new Advisory Council members in 2022.

Continuing Advisory Council members:



Dr. Liz Goodwin, OBE Senior Fellow and Director, Food Loss and Waste, World Resources Institute



Ami McReynolds Chief Equity and Programs Officer, Feeding America



Susan Robinson Senior Director of Sustainability, Waste Management



Andrew Shakman
Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder,
LeanPath



Ryan Shadrick Wilson Founder, Boardwalk Collective LLC

New Advisory Council members in 2022:



Benjamin Crook

VP Dressings & Condiments NA, Unilever



Amy Duffuor General Partner, Azolla Ventures



Claudia Fabiano
Sustainable Management of Food Team, EPA



Leah Lizarondo

CEO and Co-Founder, Food Rescue Hero



Julia Ruedig *Principal,* Amazon Fresh



Sauleh Siddiqui Associate Professor of Environmental Science, American University





Looking Ahead to 2023 -Now is the Moment to Fund the Food Waste Movement

As concerns about climate change continue to escalate and our hunger crisis deepens in the wake of repeated food system shocks, food waste solutions are gaining recognition on the global stage. National and international goals call for a reduction in food loss and waste by 50% by 2030. While this is an incredibly important goal, it is also one that is out of reach unless there is a significant uptick in direct activities that lead to action across our entire food system. ReFED has been laying the foundation for this moment since we released our landmark 2016 *Roadmap* and advanced that work significantly in our 2021 data release and the launch of our Insights Engine — the only online tool available to assure the system is making changes based on real data, rather than just "best" guesses.

Our goal for 2023 is capitalizing on the surge of momentum in the space and maintaining our focus on our three core areas of impact — leveraging data and insights, catalyzing capital and innovation, and mobilizing stakeholders from across the food chain. The continued support of our community of funders will be instrumental in making this work possible.



Online Giving

Drive sustained change with a monthly gift.



Legacy Giving
Make ending food waste part
of your lasting legacy.

Mail a Check



Stock Gifts

Maximize your impact by donating appreciated stock.



Support ReFED by mailing a check. Please make checks payable to ReFED, Inc. and mail to 4602 21st Street, #1531, Long Island City, NY 11101-9888.



Reimagining our food system will take all of us. We'd love to speak with you about how you can play a key role.

Our Funders

The movement for food waste reduction is at a tipping point. We are very grateful to the many funders who have supported the implementation, advancement, and growth of our organization as a galvanizing force for the sector and enable us to scale our impact.

ANONYMOUS DONOR

AJANA FOUNDATION ARJAY R. & FRANCES F. MILLER FOUNDATION

ATTICUS TRUST /
ELIZA BROWN



BYRNE & PAMELA MURPHY











HINDAWI FOUNDATION

THE HOCH 2009 CHARITABLE TRUST



KENNETH GOLDMAN DONOR ADVISED FUND



MENTAL WELLNESS FOUNDATION



ROBERT W. WILSON CHARITABLE TRUST

Roy & Hunt Foundation



THE THREE GRACES FOUNDATION





ZEGAR FAMILY FOUNDATION

*The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation or The Kroger Co.

In-Kind Donors

ReFED appreciates the significant in-kind support of data and technology services from these partners, however, our extensive Insights Engine would not be possible without datasets from other partners. Please visit our website to see additional in-kind donors contributing to our suite of services.





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In 2022, we launched Perennial Partners, a giving society that recognizes donors who make multi-year commitments, increasing the long-term capacity of ReFED to better our food system and our planet.

A special thank you to our inaugural Perennial Partners

— The Betsy & Jesse Fink Family Foundation, Crown
Family Philanthropies, and The Posner Foundation
of Pittsburgh — for helping our newest giving society
take root and laying the foundation for a bright future.







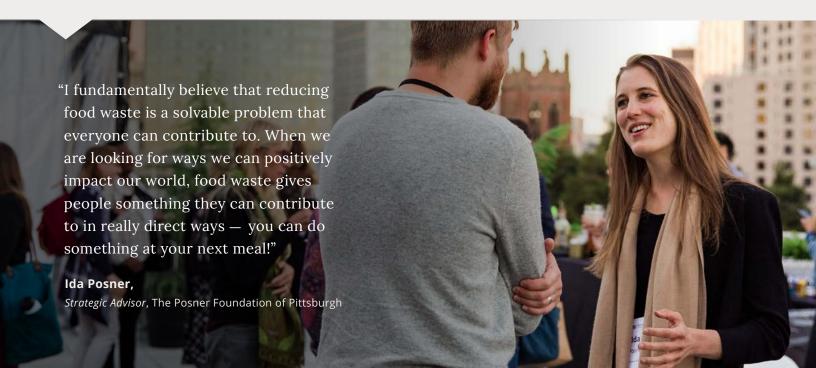
PARTNER PROFILE

The Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh

The Posner's are one of the leading families that have identified food waste in their philanthropic portfolio. Founded in 1963, the Foundation has taken some great strides in recent years. In 2019, it hired its first staff member — Executive Director Anne Marie Toccket — created a mission statement, and launched formal priority areas, most notably the environment and its direct connection to food waste.

Ida Posner, a Strategic Advisor to the Foundation, is also the great granddaughter of the Foundation's co-founder. She is helping the Foundation frame its current work and is a strong advocate for addressing food waste as a critical issue.

With so many big challenges in the world today, the Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh looks for systemic approaches and solutions-driven organizations to support. They were happy to find a partner in ReFED when they started thinking about food waste.



Our Individual Donors

ReFED laid a strong foundation for organizational sustainability and efficiency by building the infrastructure for online individual giving this year. We want to thank all the donors who have made this endeavor a success.

RICHARD & JOANNA ADCOCK HU'S GIVING LIFE IS A GIFT LEGACY FUND RAJAGOPALUN SESHASANKARAN **ROBERT ALLEN** JOHN GUETTER **EMILY MA** SHAWN SHEPHERD ALEX ARUI HAMMOND STREET FUND FOR **EMILY MAHONEY** ARTS & EDUCATION ANNA SHORE WITSANU ATTAVANICH MICHAEL MARANO SARAH HARPAZ YALMAZ SIDDIQUI VIGNESH BHARADWAJ MCCORMICK PETER HELLWIG DEBORAH SOKOL LAUREL BLOSSOM PETER J. MCLAUGHLIN AND JANE TONGTONG HU KITCHEL MCLAUGHLIN FAMILY FUND **RAJEEV SONI BLUE SPARROW** ELIZABETH MOSOLOVICH **DANIEL HUGHES** MARK STRAUSS MARCO BORLA NICHOLE HUNTLEY CONNIE MUI STEVE SWARTZ SAM BUCK THENMOZHI MURTHI MANRATANA INTRAKAMHANG AGNES SWEILEH TOM AND NANCY BUCK VICTORIA IIAO NEATGOODS, LLC XINROU TAN ADRIENNE BUHMANN NEWMAN FAMILY NICHOLAS TARRANT PETER KLAICH EMILY CECIL **EMILY OCON** STACEY G. KOEHNKE EMILY TRINH ROSELLA CHAPMAN SHRIRAM PARANIPE YASHWANTH KUMAR KORUKONDA SARAH VARED AMY CHARD LAND O' LAKES GIVING CAMPAIGN PENNY LOAFER ALI VAZIRALLI JILL CHERRSTROM **HOWARD & GERALDINE POLINGER** NICHOLAS WEBER AMANDA LANG KENDALL CHRISTIANSEN **FAMILY FOUNDATION ERIC WOODS** CYNTHIA LE JOHN DANNAN **IEFF RHODES** MARY LEPLEY SARAH ZILINSKI NICOLA DIXON WILLIAM ROSENFELD MAX LEVINE **BOB DIZON CHUCK SAVITT** DALE LEWIS LEYLA FARZANEH SERVICENOW **GERRY GERSOVITZ**







Ways to Engage with ReFED

Help ReFED create a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food system:



EXPLORE THE INSIGHTS ENGINE

The ReFED Insights Engine is a data and solutions hub designed to provide anyone interested in food waste reduction with the information and insights they need to take meaningful action to address the problem.

LAUNCH THE INSIGHTS ENGINE **>**



ENLIST STRATEGIC ADVISORY SERVICES

Inquire about ReFED's suite of offerings that translate our extensive analysis and expertise on food waste reduction into customized, strategic recommendations for food businesses and capital providers.

CONTACT ALEXANDRIA COARI AT ALEXANDRIA.COARI@REFED.ORG ▶



JOIN THE FOOD WASTE FUNDER CIRCLE

Co-founded by ReFED and Upcycled Food Association, the Food Waste Funder Circle is for private, public, and philanthropic funders interested in using their capital to solve food waste challenges. Members get access to regular programming about investing in food waste innovations; deal flow reports and pitches from solution providers; opportunities to work with like-minded funders; and more.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FOOD WASTE FUNDER CIRCLE



JOIN THE FOOD WASTE ACTION NETWORK

ReFED's Food Waste Action Network (FWAN) is a space designed to inspire collaboration between individuals and organizations from across the food system and from a diverse set of backgrounds. FWAN members get access to events and opportunities like networking events, lunch 'n' learns, innovation demo days, and more.

BECOME A FWAN MEMBER >



CONNECT WITH US ABOUT FUNDING NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

ReFED directly supports our network of solution providers by highlighting their funding needs to a select group of capital providers through our Food Waste Funder Circle.

SUBMIT A FUNDING REQUEST ▶







