Lunch 'n' Learn: A Year in Review

FEBRUARY 2 | 1-2 PM ET

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FEDERAL ACTION ON FOOD WASTE

US Food Loss & Waste Policy Action Plan for Congress & the Administration

INTRODUCTION
Reducing and preventing food loss and waste (FLW) is a global imperative. Up to 40 percent of all food produced is lost or wasted; and addressing this challenge is essential to building a regenerative and resilient food system that helps to mitigate climate change, reverse nature loss, and deliver positive outcomes for both producers and consumers. An estimated $688 billion is spent each year in the US to grow, process, transport, store, and dispose of food that’s never eaten.

And proven solutions exist that save money, time, and natural resources. In 2015, the US adopted a national goal of halving FLW by 2030. We can achieve that goal by accelerating public and private sector leadership and building on existing public support for reducing FLW. The Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC), NRDC, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) recommend that the Biden administration and Congress take ambitious action to reduce FLW, prioritizing the following:

1. Invest in the infrastructure to measure, rescue, recycle, and prevent organic waste from entering landfills and incinerators.
2. Expand incentives to institutionalize surplus food donation and strengthen regional supply chains.
3. Invest the US Government's leadership on FLW globally and domestically.
4. Educate and activate consumers via private- and public-sector behavior change campaigns.
5. Require a national date-labeling standard.

Outlines the federal leadership needed to achieve our national food waste reduction goal

White House action plan recognizing food waste reduction as a climate solution and key for methane emissions reduction

Part 1
From Farm to Kitchen: The Environmental Impacts of U.S. Food Waste

EPA report analyzing the environmental impacts of food waste and loss through the food supply chain
The recently passed **Infrastructure Act** will support municipal recycling education and improvements to local waste management systems.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) invested in the **Multiscales RECIPES Project**, a network of researchers, institutions and organizations (including NRDC) working across the food system to advance the science needed to make our wasteful food system more sustainable, equitable, and resilient.

The USDA Cooperative Agreements for Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction funding granted $2M to 24 local governments for community compost and food waste reduction projects.
## FEDERAL FOOD WASTE POLICIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zero Food Waste Act/COMPOST Act</td>
<td>Introduced in tandem, would help support the expansion of food waste reduction and management across the country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fresh Produce Procurement Reform Act</td>
<td>Will develop new USDA program to contract with farmers and other food providers to donate fresh produce for food rescue organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Food Recovery Act</td>
<td>Will create a new program at USDA that would provide grants to schools to work on food waste reduction projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Donation Improvement Act</td>
<td>Will make donating safe food easier for businesses and organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Date Labeling Act</td>
<td>Will end consumer confusion around food date labeling and boost the consumption and donation of safe, surplus food</td>
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**STATES IN ACTION**

- **LOCAL NEWS**
  - How to comply with California's new food waste recycling law at home

- **What You Need to Know About California's New Composting Law – A Game Changer for Food Waste**

- **How SB 1383 Compliance Affects California Grocers**

- **New York food waste recycling law goes into effect**

- **Food Waste Generators Now Required to Recycle in New York**

- **Food Waste Disposal Ban In Maryland Now Law**

- **Maryland governor allows organics diversion mandate to become law**
FOOD MATTERS AT A GLANCE

- 15 cities and counties
- 70 strategies
- 49 government agencies
- 25+ Waste audits*
- 1.5M+ Pounds of food scraps/organics processed/collected**
- 613 MTC02e avoided from composting

*Completed or underway
**Overall and in some cases not directly linked to FM
SUITE OF MUNICIPAL TOOLS EXPLAINED

NEW NRDC REPORT

Feeding a City: Food Waste and Food Need Across America

Analyzes the results of NRDC’s baseline calculator across 22 U.S. cities and identifies key patterns and recommendations

NEW MODEL POLICY

NRDC and the Environmental Law Institute co-created model compost procurement policy language

NEW TOOL

Updated health inspector engagement tool based on feedback from partners and to make the tool easier for cities to customize

NEW PARTNER TOOLKIT

The Environmental Law Institute released a report, A Toolkit for Incorporating Food Waste in Municipal Climate Action Plans
Brandon Schauer
SVP, Head of Make it Personal
Rare
Regina Anderson
Executive Director
Food Recovery Network
Please answer the survey questions appearing on screen.

Your answers will be anonymous.

Thank you!
Together we can halve food waste by 2030. Join today!

ReFED Food Waste Action Network

bit.ly/JoinReFEDFWAN
Lunch 'n' Learn: ReFED’s Policy Finder Tool Launch and the Latest on State Policy

FEBRUARY 16 | 1-2 PM ET

Explore Food Waste Policy in Action
Innovation Demo Day: Waste-derived Products

MARCH 2 | 1-2 PM ET

REGISTER
Stay Connected!

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