



FOOD WASTE ACTION NETWORK

## *Lunch 'n' Learn: A Year in Review*

FEBRUARY 2 | 1-2 PM ET



LILY HERD  
ReFED



YVETTE CABRERA  
NRDC



BRANDON SCHAUER  
Rare



REGINA ANDERSON  
Food Recovery Network



# Yvette Cabrera

Director, Food Waste

NRDC



# 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,<sup>1</sup> 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 \$408 billion is spent each year in the US to grow, process, transport, store, and dispose of food that's never eaten.<sup>2</sup>

Yet proven solutions exist that save money, time, and natural resources.<sup>3</sup> 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 overwhelming public support for reducing FLW.<sup>4</sup> The Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC), ReFED, 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 Assert the US Government's leadership on FLW globally and domestically
- 4 Educate and activate consumers via private and public behavior change campaigns
- 5 Require a national date labeling standard

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

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF DOMESTIC CLIMATE POLICY

# U.S. METHANE EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACTION PLAN

CRITICAL AND COMMONSENSE STEPS TO CUT POLLUTION AND CONSUMER COSTS, WHILE BOOSTING GOOD-PAYING JOBS AND AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS

NOVEMBER 2021



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

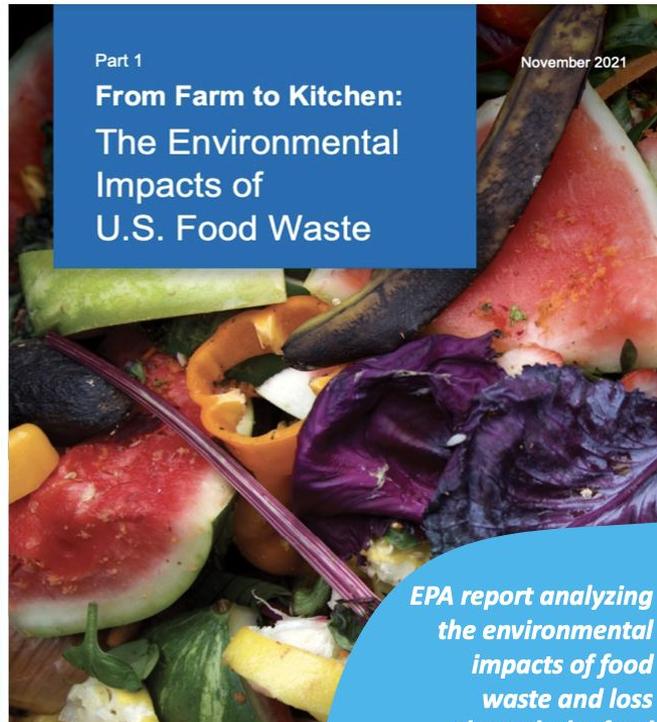
whitehouse.gov

*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

November 2021



*EPA report analyzing the environmental impacts of food waste and loss through the food supply chain*



1. USDA, "Food Waste Facts" (2021). <https://www.usda.gov/foodwaste/facts>  
2. ReFED, "2021 Reducing US Food Waste by 50% and the World's Impact on Climate" (2021). <https://www.refed.org/2021-reducing-us-food-waste-by-50-and-the-worlds-impact-on-climate>  
3. ReFED, "2021 Reducing US Food Waste by 50% and the World's Impact on Climate" (2021). <https://www.refed.org/2021-reducing-us-food-waste-by-50-and-the-worlds-impact-on-climate>  
4. Ely, "The US Food System and Climate Change: Policy Research Center Report" (2021). <https://www.pewresearch.org/2021/04/01/us-food-system-and-climate-change/>

# FEDERAL FUNDING FOR FOOD WASTE



\$70  
million/year

The recently passed **Infrastructure Act** will support municipal recycling education and improvements to local waste management systems



\$15  
million

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.

## Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Project Cooperative Agreements

Cooperative agreements assist local and municipal governments with projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. Implementation activities will increase access to compost for agricultural producers, improve soil quality and encourages innovative, scalable waste management plans that reduce and divert food waste from landfills.

[Visit the Cooperative Agreements webpage](#) for recipient lists, factsheets, webinars, and the latest news about urban cooperative agreements.

\$2  
million

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

## Zero Food Waste Act/ COMPOST Act

Introduced in tandem, would help support the expansion of food waste reduction and management across the country

## Fresh Produce Procurement Reform Act

Will develop new USDA program to contract with farmers and other food providers to donate fresh produce for food rescue organizations

## School Food Recovery Act

Will create a new program at USDA that would provide grants to schools to work on food waste reduction projects

## Food Donation Improvement Act

Will make donating safe food easier for businesses and organizations

## Food Date Labeling Act

Will end consumer confusion around food date labeling and boost the consumption and donation of safe, surplus food



Congresswoman Julia Brownley  
@RepBrownley

Americans waste more than 40% of the food they purchase, which is alarming, but also presents a tremendous opportunity to reduce the significant impact food production and consumption have on greenhouse gas emissions.



CONGRESSWOMAN  
**JULIA BROWNLEY**  
CALIFORNIA'S 26TH DISTRICT

Brownley, Kuster, Pingree, Booker Introduce Bills to Incentivize Sustainable Pract...  
Today, Congresswoman Julia Brownley (D-CA), Congresswoman Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH), and Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-ME) introduced two bills...  
[juliabrownley.house.gov](https://juliabrownley.house.gov)

# STATES IN ACTION



LOCAL NEWS

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

**How SB 1383 Compliance Affects California Grocers**

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

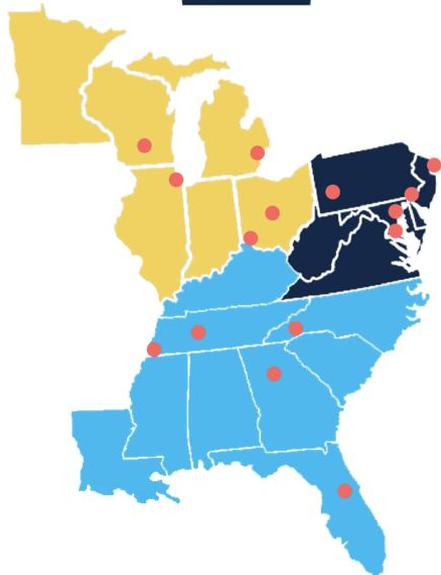
**Food Waste Generators Now Required to Recycle in New York**

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

**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**

MTCO<sub>2e</sub> avoided from  
composting



\*Completed or underway

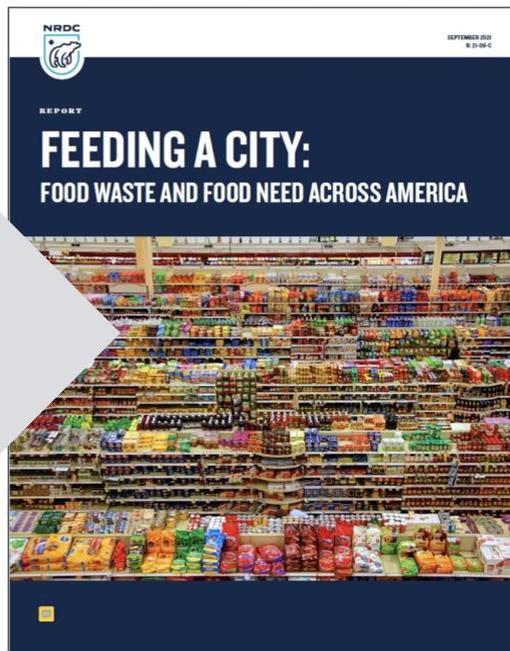
\*\*Overall and in some cases not directly linked to FM

# 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





FOOD WASTE ACTION NETWORK

Lunch 'n' Learn: A  
Ahead to Reduce F

FEBRUARY



LILY HERD  
ReFED



YVETTE CABRE  
NRDC

**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](https://bit.ly/JoinReFEDFWAN)



FOOD WASTE ACTION NETWORK

*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



# ReFED

FOOD WASTE ACTION NETWORK

*Innovation Demo Day:  
Waste-derived Products*

MARCH 2 | 1-2 PM ET

REGISTER



# Stay Connected!



@refed

refed.org

insights.refed.org

**Questions/Feedback: [lily.herd@refed.org](mailto:lily.herd@refed.org)**

**Food Waste Action Network: [bit.ly/JoinReFEDFWAN](https://bit.ly/JoinReFEDFWAN)**

**Food Waste Funder Circle: [bit.ly/FoodWasteFunderCircle](https://bit.ly/FoodWasteFunderCircle)**