



**NRDC'S FOOD
MATTERS
INITIATIVE**

Food Waste Reduction
Recommendations in
Cincinnati

Cincinnati City Council CEI Committee Meeting

May 9, 2023



The Natural Resources Defense Council works to safeguard the earth:
its people, plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends.

Our work includes fighting climate change; eliminating toxic chemicals from the food we eat, the water we drink, and the air we breathe; protecting endangered species and wild places; and advancing urban sustainability and healthy cities.



Source: Project Drawdown Analysis, www.drawdown.org

REDUCING FOOD WASTE

RANKS #1*

in Project Drawdown's list of the TOP 100 most impactful interventions

TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

Reduced Food Waste

8-10%
of global GHG emissions

Source: UNEP

*#1 most impactful solution in scenario 1 (2 degrees C temp rise by 2100), and #4 in scenario 2 (1.5 degrees C temp rise by 2100)

FOOD RECOVERY HIERARCHY

**MOST
PREFERRED**

SOURCE REDUCTION
Reduce the volume of surplus food generated

FEED PEOPLE
Donate extra food to food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters

FEED ANIMALS
Use food scraps to feed livestock

INDUSTRIAL USES
Provide waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion
and food scraps for digestion to recover energy

COMPOSTING
Create nutrient-rich soil amendment

LANDFILL/INCINERATION
Last resort disposal

**LEAST
PREFERRED**

**FOCUSING HIGHER
UP ON THE
HIERARCHY
BRINGS GREATER
ENVIRONMENTAL,
CLIMATE,
ECONOMIC, AND
SOCIAL BENEFITS**

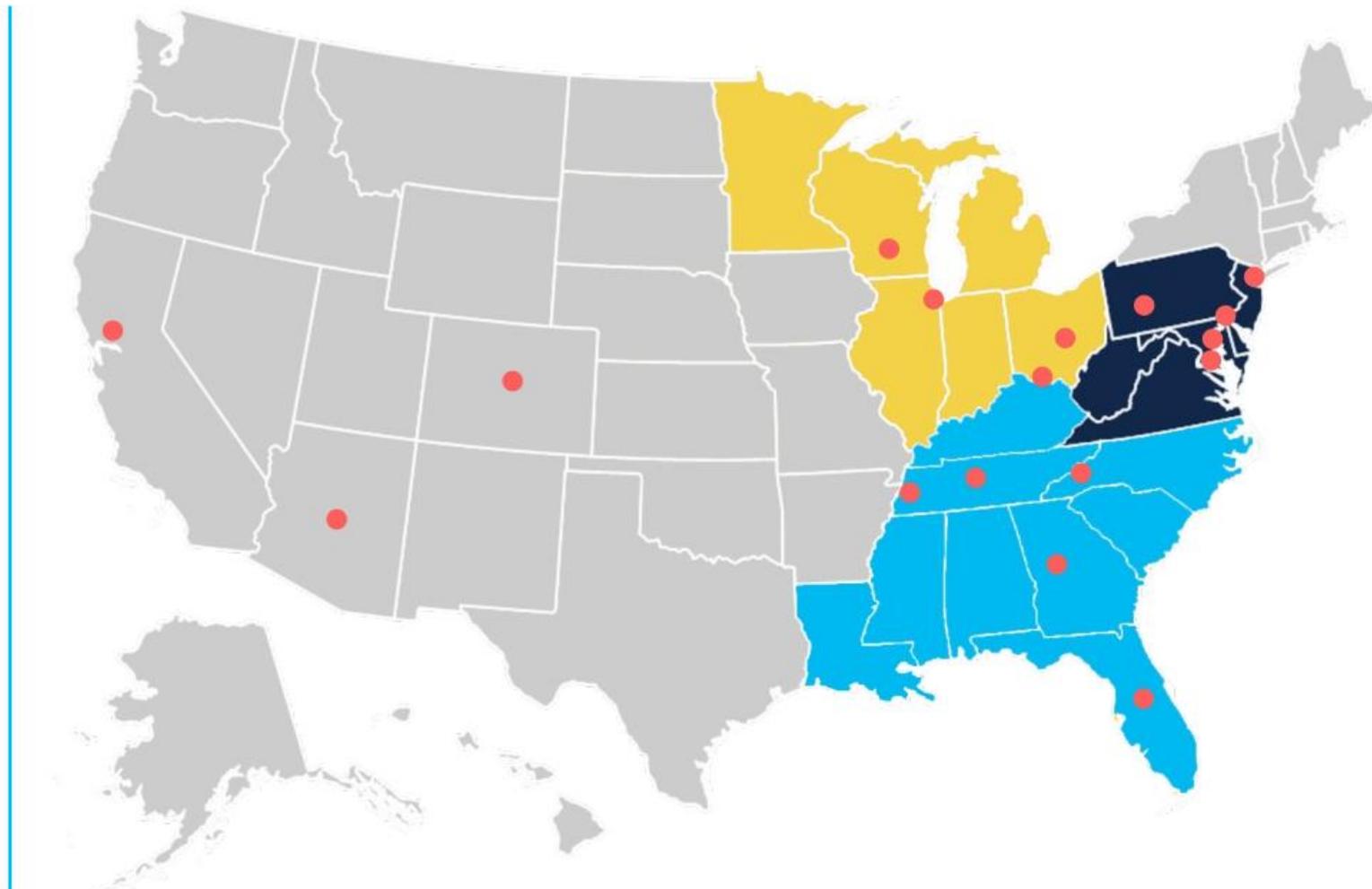
NRDC'S FOOD MATTERS INITIATIVE

INTENDED OUTCOME

Work with cities and counties to influence large-scale change around food waste across sectors, by implementing innovative policy and program solutions and promoting peer-to-peer knowledge sharing

Cities we have engaged with:

Asheville | Atlanta | Austin | Baltimore |
Chicago | Cincinnati | Columbus |
Denver | Detroit | Jersey City | Madison |
Memphis | Nashville | Oakland |
Orlando | Philadelphia | Phoenix |
Pittsburgh | Washington DC



CINCINNATI'S FOOD WASTE PREVENTION GOAL



In the Green Cincinnati Plan, Cincinnati committed to
50% reduction in food going to landfill
by 2030

Consistent with the **UN Sustainable Development Goal Target 12.3** and the **U.S. Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal**

CINCINNATI'S LEADERSHIP TO DATE



MUFPP is an international agreement of Mayors aimed at tackling food-related issues at the urban level

Jan/2021



Cincinnati joins NRDC's [Food Matters initiative's](#) Great Lakes cohort

Apr/2021



Former Mayor [Cranley signs a proclamation](#) in honor of Stop Food Waste Day

Oct/2021



Cincinnati wins an award from USDA for the [Cincinnati Community Composting Collective](#)

Sept/2022

[Cincinnati's Mayor Pureval signs](#) the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, showing international leadership

Oct/2022

Cincinnati [receives a special recognition](#) as part of Milan's annual [Pact Awards](#) for their food waste reduction strategies.



NRDC/Food Matters

Cincinnati's Food Waste

Policy Examples

Resources

FOOD WASTE GENERATION IN CINCINNATI

225K

tons of food are
landfilled each
year in Cincinnati

75%

comes from the
three highest
generating sectors:
restaurants, food
manufacturing
and residential



33% RESTAURANTS

23% FOOD MANUFACTURING

18% RESIDENTIAL

7% FOOD WHOLESALERS

6% GROCERS & MARKETS

6% HEALTHCARE

3% EVENTS & RECREATION

2% HOSPITALITY

1% COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

1% K12 SCHOOLS

<1% CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Source: NRDC's Baseline Calculator

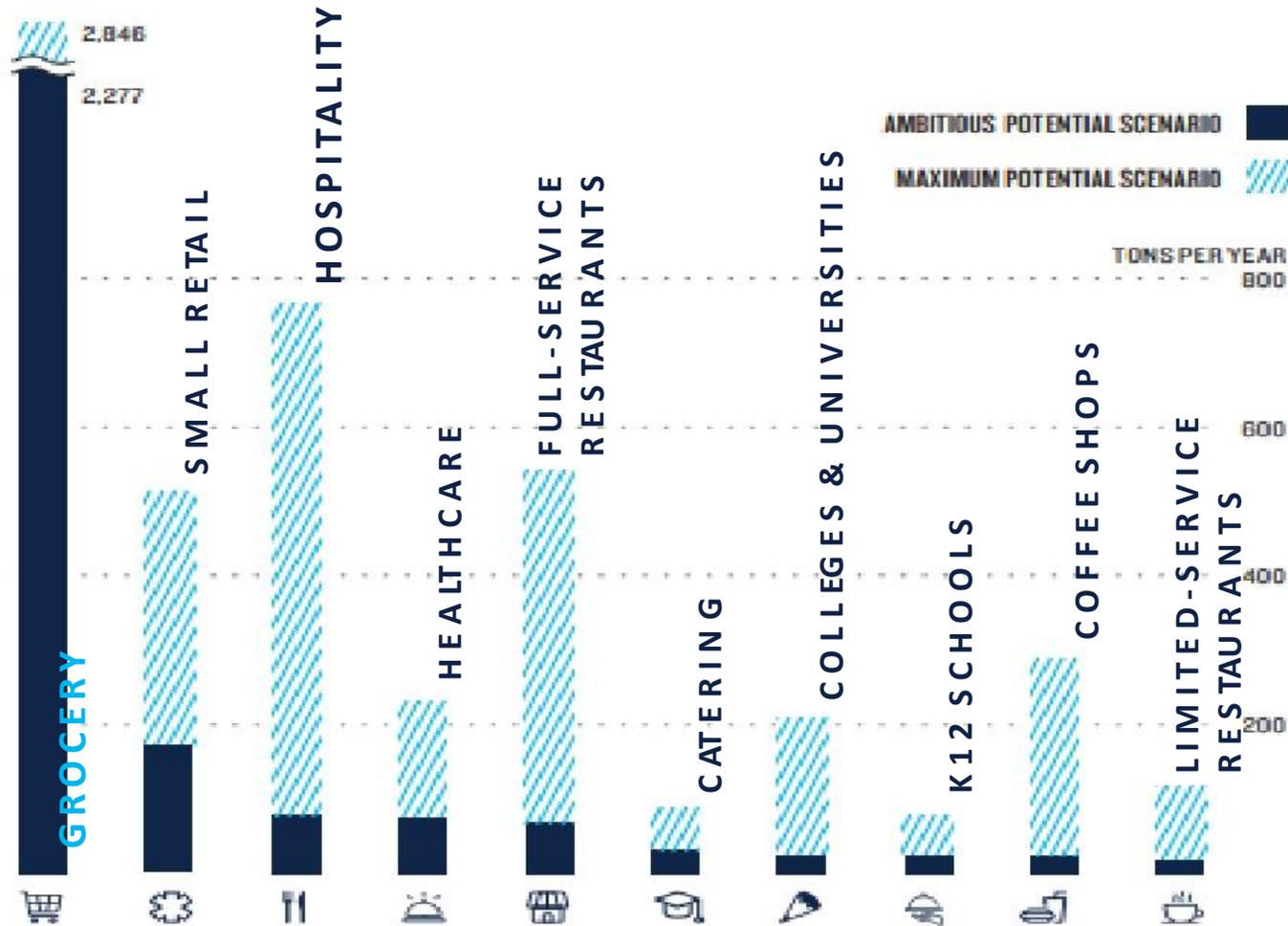
POTENTIAL FOR FOOD RESCUE BY SECTOR

5,700

tons of surplus food that is going to waste could potentially be rescued

60%

total potential comes from retail grocery stores and small retail/corner markets



BASELINE RESULTS RECOMMENDATIONS

Partner with the county and surrounding communities on **household reduction** messaging and outreach.

Food manufacturers and processors are a large component of Cincinnati's total food waste generation and may be an area of opportunity for food rescue and waste reduction through **high-visibility technical assistance or a peer-to-peer learning group**.

There is high potential for **increased surplus food rescue**, especially from **wholesalers** and **grocers**. New food donors may need assistance to overcome barriers to donate additional surplus food. Local rescue organizations likely have information about what food is currently being donated and from where.

RESTAURANTS

and small retail could be focus sectors for food scrap collection and meeting zero waste goals

MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP ON FOOD WASTE REDUCTION IN CITY OPERATIONS

Policy Opportunity:

Lead by example

- (1) Can reduce the amount of food wasted throughout municipal operations;
- (2) Highlight the importance of reducing food waste to businesses, residents, and other community members; and
- (3) Demonstrate food waste reduction measures that businesses and other entities may voluntarily replicate.

Supporting NRDC resource:

Model Executive Order

Template provides municipalities with “off-the-shelf” model language and options to lead by example (LBE).

**Will be released Summer 2023*

Key provisions of the model:

- Setting a food waste reduction target
- Designating staffing
- Mandatory best practice for:
 - municipal buildings and properties, including organics collection
 - municipal departments that serve food
- Special event permit application process
- Procurement laws and policies
- Employee benefits, education and recognition programs
- Municipal department strategies

Related GCP priorities:

City Operations | Food | Zero Waste



MANDATORY REPORTING FOR LARGE FOOD WASTE GENERATORS

Policy Opportunity:

Mandatory reporting ordinance

Policy can require large surplus food generators to report the amount of food waste and surplus food they generate

Supporting NRDC resource:

Model Ordinance

Template provides municipalities with “off-the-shelf” model language that can be adapted and enacted by local municipalities to require reporting of food waste and surplus food generation from large food waste generators

Key provisions of the model:

- Covered entities
- Reporting requirements
- Methods for quantifying food waste generation and surplus food donations
- Business education and compliance assistance
- Keys to equitable implementation

Related GCP priorities:



Food | Zero Waste

COMPOST PROCUREMENT POLICY

Policy Opportunity:

Compost procurement

Policy can require the use of compost products where appropriate

Supporting NRDC resource:

Model Compost Procurement Policy

Template is easily adaptable with commentary provided explaining the benefits of each provision.

Key provisions of the model:

- Purpose
- Municipal and state legal authority and policy support
- Definitions
- Procurement requirements (e.g. landscaping, construction, roads and highways)
- Compost sourcing and quality requirements
- Reporting

Related GCP priorities:

Resilience & Climate Adaptation | Natural Environment Food | Zero Waste



ADDITIONAL POLICY EXAMPLES

Volume based pricing: Policies that charge residents for the amount of trash generated and provide recycling and composting services for free (case study on slide 14).

Organics ban: Policies that mandate the amount of organics that can be disposed of and require diversion plans or organics hauling contracts for certain entities, including businesses (case study on slide 14).

ADDITIONAL POLICY EXAMPLES

Mandatory food recovery program: Policies that requires certain entities to have a plan for surplus food rescue

Local capacity grants for food waste reduction: Programs that provide small grants and technical support to local organizations and businesses to support food waste reduction efforts (case study on slide 15)

DENVER'S WASTE NO MORE INITIATIVE

COMMERCIAL

- Applies to residents in multi-family buildings and all businesses and events
- Mandated subscription to composting and recycling services
- Applies to food waste producers
- <https://www.wastenomoredenver.org/official-language>

DENVER'S EXPANDED WASTE SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

- Funding freed up from general fund
- Applies to single family homes and multi-family up to 7 units
- Up to 100% rebate for low-income residents
- Free compost and recycling carts
- Volume-based pricing:
 - 95 gallon: \$21/month
 - 65 gallon: \$13/month
 - 35 gallon: \$9/month

DC FOOD WASTE INNOVATION GRANTS

- **Virtual or in-person food waste assessment**
- **Compost Credit:** 100 businesses selected for \$1,000 in credit for food scraps collection for composting.
- **Food Waste Innovation Grants:** Food Waste Innovation Grants for a total of \$300,000 for the Fiscal Year 2022.

Source: DSLBD, Food Waste Innovation Grant RFA 10-26[37]_0.pdf

RESOURCES AND DOWNLOADS

- [Tackling Food Waste in Cities: A Policy and Program Toolkit](#)
- Model Ordinance on Mandatory Reporting for Large Generators ([landing page](#)):
 - [Model Ordinance on Mandatory Reporting for Large Food Waste Generators \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Model Ordinance on Mandatory Reporting for Large Food Waste Generators, With Commentaries \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Mandatory Reporting for Large Food Waste Generators - Background Memorandum \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Model Ordinance on Mandatory Reporting for Large Food Waste Generators - Presentation \(PDF\)](#)
- Model Compost Procurement Policy ([landing page](#)):
 - [Model Compost Procurement Policy \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Model Compost Procurement Policy with Commentaries \(PDF\)](#)
- Model Executive Order on Municipal Leadership on Food Waste Reduction: This resource is forthcoming and we will send to Cincinnati team upon completion– projected for early Summer 2023.
- Pay-as-you-throw Model Policy: This resource is forthcoming and we will send to Cincinnati team upon completion– projected for early 2024.
- [Input with Impact: A Case Study on Equitable and Inclusive Food Waste Grant-Making in Denver and Baltimore- Case Study \(PDF\)](#)
- The [Zero Food Waste Coalition](#)

Read these reports

[Food Matters Reports](#)

[Feeding a City Report](#)

Then use these to learn about strategies

[Policy & Program Toolkit](#)

[Beginner's Guide](#)

Implementation tools and guides

[Case Studies](#)

[Strategic Comms and Partnership Guide](#)

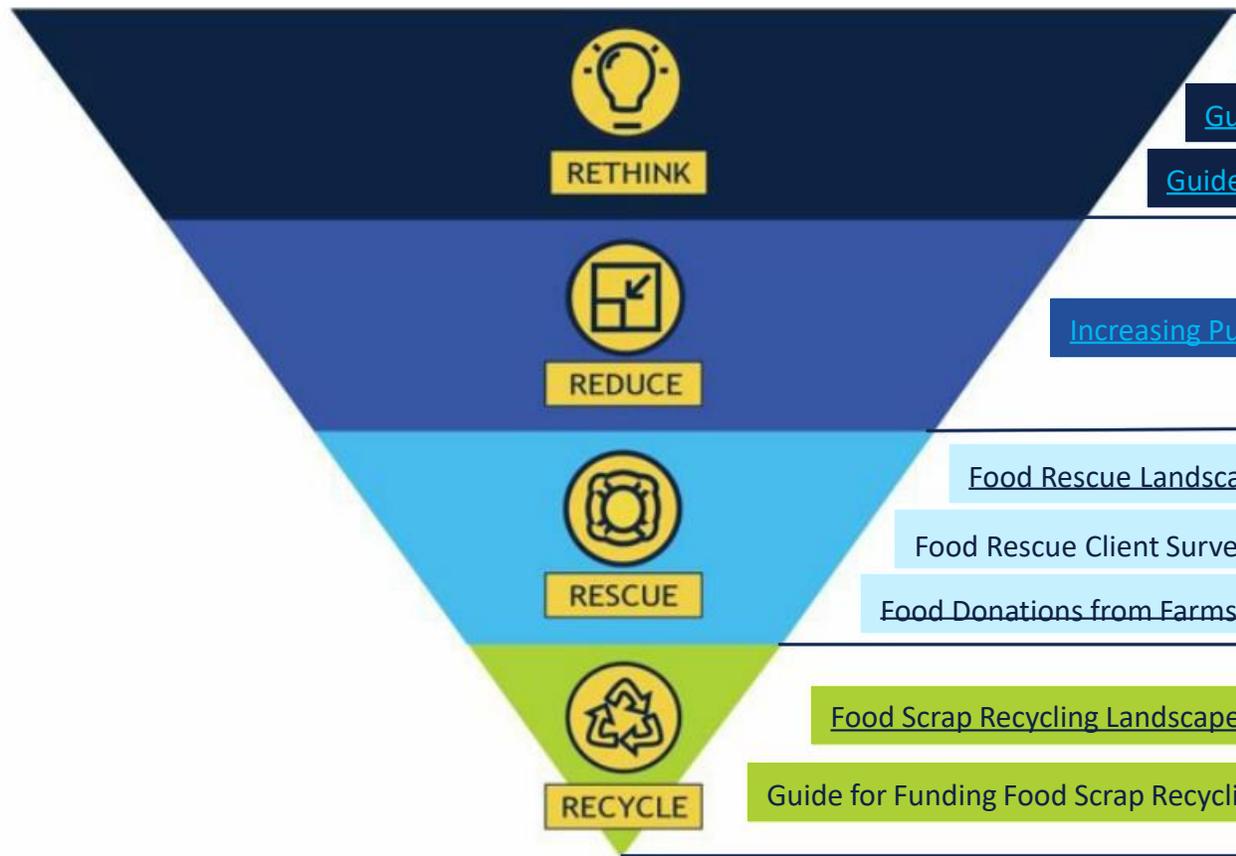
[Assessing Progress aka Metrics](#)

[Restaurant Challenge](#)

[Engaging Health Departments](#)

[Blogs](#)

Cross-cutting resources



[Baseline Calculator](#)

[Guide to Public Commitments](#)

[Guide for Hiring a City Food Waste Coordinator](#)

[Increasing Public Awareness](#)

[Food Rescue Landscape Assessment](#)

[Food Rescue Client Survey](#)

[Food Donations from Farms Guide](#)

[Food Scrap Recycling Landscape Assessment](#)

[Guide for Funding Food Scrap Recycling](#)

When you want to tackle policy, read these:

[State Policy Reports](#)

[Model Compost Procurement Policy](#)

[Model Generator Reporting Ordinance](#)