

FOOD WASTE PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have set an unprecedented goal to reduce domestic food loss and food waste by 50% by 2030, through a multi-stakeholder partnership including local governments. The United States spends an estimated \$218 billion each year -- 1.3% of GDP -- growing, processing, transporting and disposing of food that is never eaten, which impacts food security, water and resource conservation, economic development and climate change. Food loss and waste is the single largest component of disposed U.S. municipal solid waste, costing municipalities collectively more than \$1 billion each year and accounts for a significant portion of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions through both landfill methane emissions and upstream agricultural activities.

Recent research demonstrates that with current technology and policy, prevention and recovery are the most cost-effective strategies for reducing food waste, and that recycling is the most scalable. Nearly half of U.S. states mandate the separate collection of yard and lawn debris in residences, creating an organics collection and transportation infrastructure that can be cost-effectively scaled and expanded into food waste collection and transportation.

Experts have projected that an \$18 billion investment in 27 food waste reduction solutions could unlock \$100 billion in societal economic value over the next decade, including 1.8 billion additional meals recovered annually, 1.6 trillion gallons of water conserved annually, \$5.6 billion in increased annual spending power for American consumers, \$2 billion in increased annual profit potential for U.S. businesses and the potential to create 15,000 new jobs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports a multi-stakeholder partnership approach to achieve the goal of a 50% reduction in food loss and waste by 2030, as set by the USDA and EPA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes the value of a food waste reduction hierarchy that seeks to maximize economic, social and environmental benefits by pursuing the following waste reduction actions:

1. Prevent food waste from occurring by facilitating solutions such as the sale of cosmetically-imperfect produce, the use of waste tracking and analytics in food businesses and municipalities and widespread consumer education campaigns.
2. Recover edible food for redistribution through hunger relief organizations by standardizing food donation and safe handling regulations, coupled with donation liability education for businesses, to increase the volume of food donated by businesses while maintaining high standards of food safety.
3. Recycle food scraps as animal feed, compost and clean energy by reducing barriers to organics recycling facility permitting, facilitating the siting recycling facilities close to urban areas to

37           reduce transportation costs, facilitating the source separation of food scraps, increasing access  
38           to financing for recycling processing facilities and developing end markets for recycled products.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors calls upon federal and state  
40 governments to increase access to grants, loans, guarantees, tax incentives or other sources of financing  
41 that can facilitate the financing of organics and food waste recycling infrastructure.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors calls upon the private sector to  
43 help address the investment needed for improved food waste recycling infrastructure.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors calls for increased education on  
45 food waste all along the food chain.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors encourages Dane County  
47 municipalities to facilitate the adoption of new food waste reduction innovations through pilot projects,  
48 public-private partnerships and municipal procurement preferences.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors calls upon a partnership between  
50 Public Health Madison/Dane County, food businesses and the Food & Drug Administration to  
51 standardize the implementation of safe handling guidelines to protect the safety of recipients of food  
52 donations while encouraging an increase in the donation of food that is still safe to eat.

53 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Dane County Board of Supervisors declares 2017 the year of  
54 Food Waste Prevention and Recovery in Dane County, Wisconsin.

55

56 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors requests the Dane County Food  
57 Council support a strong coalition around food waste prevention and recovery goals, strategies and  
58 metrics. This will include awareness, education and actions appropriate to help Dane County become a  
59 leader in food recovery.