Baltimore Food Matters

Wednesday, April, 2020, National Wildlife Federation

Family & Community
Systems Thinking

Food Systems

Climate Justice

Waste Management

Food Matters Program, Baltimore Office of Sustainability
Food waste in the U.S. is...

**Excessive**

40% of all food produced in the U.S. is wasted

133 billion pounds

Food wasted per year. That represents 1,249 calories per person, per day.

**Expensive**

$161 billion

Uneaten food at retailers, restaurants, and homes costs $161 billion annually

$1,500

Per capita, this amounts to over $1,500 for a family of four
ENVIRONMENTALLY HARMFUL

Food makes up 20% of landfill weight—the single largest municipal waste source.

CH$_4$ : CO$_2$

The methane released by food is a greenhouse gas 21 times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

AN OPPORTUNITY

Diverting 15% of the food that currently goes to waste would be enough to cut the number of food insecure Americans in half.

Food waste can be composted into sustainable soil additives or be used to generate electricity.

Encouraging institutions to purchase so-called “ugly” produce would help farmers find new markets for healthy products that currently go to waste.

*All statistics from U.S. Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency

www.pingree.house.gov/foodwaste
A new study found that air pollution is disproportionately caused by white Americans' consumption of goods and services—but disproportionately inhaled by black and Hispanic Americans.

Study Finds Racial Gap Between Who Causes Air Pollution And Who Breathe...
Blacks and Hispanics are exposed to higher levels of air pollution than whites, yet whites consume more of the goods and services that cause it, according to new ... npr.org
CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S A BIG HOAX AND WE CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- ETC. ETC.

Food Matters Program, Baltimore Office of Sustainability
Food waste should be banned from landfills and trash incinerators due to their high capital costs, pollution, and contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.
FOOD MATTERS

Baltimore
### Food Waste Reduction Strategy & Baltimore’s Sustainability Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All of Baltimore City</td>
<td>50% reduction</td>
<td>2030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial sector</td>
<td>50% reduction</td>
<td>2040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>100% diversion</td>
<td>2040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Schools</td>
<td>90% diversion</td>
<td>2040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>80% diversion</td>
<td>2040</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Data Tracking

**Baseline Data**

**Tracking food waste by sector**

**Policies and programs that support better data tracking**

**Data driven decision making**

**Short-term**

Work with institutions that manage large quantities of food to assess current food waste levels.

Use estimation tools such as NRDC's

**Short to mid-term**

Support institutional waste assessments to determine food waste reduction and diversion trends over time.

**Mid-term**

Establish policies and practices to support routine food waste tracking and reporting at the city and state level.

**Mid to long-term**

Routine measurements and metrics reported on food waste prevention, rescue, recycling and city-wide
# Food Matters: Capacity Grants

## Small Grants Program
- $100,000 in funding allocated
- 11 organizations supported
  - 4 community gardens/farms
  - 4 community projects
  - 2 schools
  - 1 food rescue organization
- Providing ongoing technical support
- Supporting small programs and projects

## Mid-Sized Grants
- $100,000 allocated
- Implementing a network of community composting and drop-off sites across the city
- Supporting food waste prevention in city schools
- Support food rescue via a food sourcer role
Multi-Sector Engagement

**Institutional**
- Higher Education
- Healthcare systems
- Commercial foods

**K-12 Schools**
- Food waste reduction workshops
- Food waste pilots in elementary and high school

**Residential**
- Farmers market collection
- Urban farms and community gardens
- Community centers
Food Waste Prevention

Save the Food Campaign

#SAVETHEFOOD
savethefood.com
Food Rescue

• Partnering with the Maryland Food Bank’s Middle Mile Program
• MFB launched the Meal Connect application
  • Fast and easy to use
  • Supported by a network of volunteers
• Hired food sourcer to increase small-scale food rescue city-wide
• Exploring ways to support food rescue organizations
MealConnect & Food Sourcer

Lessons Learned

• Integrated work plan that meets both the needs of the MFB and non-profit - and the city’s waste reduction goals

Lots of challenges!

• Resistance from food service leaders
• Disconnect between food service management and the workers that implement the changes
• Assumption about liability and legal concerns associated with food donations
• Adequate facilitation of donors, nonprofits and volunteers
Food Scrap Recycling

- 26,000+ lbs. collected
- 4000 interactions
- 7 site for compost drop-off and community composting coming in Spring 2020
Community Composting Sites
Policy Updates

• Composting Bill: This would be an organic waste ban prohibiting large waste generators from sending organic waste to landfills or incinerators, unless no organic recycling exists within 30 miles.

• Plastic Bag Ban: This bill would ban plastic bags, require a fee for paper bags, and launch a working group to address single-use post-consumer waste.

• Food Waste Grants for Schools: provides funding to schools across the state interested in implementing food waste reduction and/or composting programs.
Looking Forward

- 6 bimonthly B-FWRWG meetings (rotating locations)
- Launching 5-7 community composting and drop-off sites
- Expanding our farmers market composting program
- Increasing food rescue city-wide
- 2020 restaurant challenge (details to be released soon)
- Regional engagement with NRDC
- Proposed Leaf Bank in 2020
THANK YOU!!

Contact Us

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Next Meeting: March 2020 - Waste Tracking and How to Conduct a Waste Audit

@sustainbmore    #sustainbmore

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