



Priority Solution 3

POLICY PRIORITIES

Develop and support policy addressing wasted food prevention, rescue, and recycling.



POLICY PRIORITIES

Create annual policy agenda to reduce wasted food.

OBJECTIVE A

Work with civic and advocacy groups to ensure policy agenda is created for local and state policy to reduce wasted food in Illinois.

OBJECTIVE B

Become the go-to group for information about and support for local and state policy to reduce wasted food in Illinois.

WASTED FOOD ACTION ALLIANCE WILL...

Support local and state policy agenda

- I. Meet with stakeholders to discuss policy priorities and develop a short and long term policy agenda.
- II. Examine convergence points around the Harvest to Home bill.
- III. Collaborate with policymakers and stakeholders to contribute to and support a Good Food Policy.

Become the go-to group for food waste policy information

- I. Present Illinois Food Waste Action Plan to Governor Pritzker's appointed Statewide Materials Management Task Force.
- II. Map out policy relationships and opportunities to educate decision makers about the action plan and other policies, both local, state and federal (like the Good Samaritan Act).
- III. Develop a plan for grassroots outreach and partnership in support of state bills that have been introduced.
- IV. Collaborate with Illinois Department of Public Health to assist with outreach/education for local health inspectors, especially re: Good Samaritan act.
- V. Explore integrating food waste prevention/reduction info into food handler training & food protection manager certification overseen by Illinois Department of Public Health.

2020

HB 4704 Right to garden
(Harper/Bennett)

HR 683 / SR 992 Farming as a public
service (West/Bennett)

HB4715 / SB3087 Incidental compost
sales (Frese/Tracy)

SB3462 Nutrient Loss Reduction
Strategy fund (Villivalam)



A growing number of states and localities are enacting organic waste bans or waste recycling laws to restrict the amount of food waste an entity can send to the landfill. This helps to push businesses and consumers to reduce food waste.

Illinois does not currently have any food waste bans or food waste recycling laws.



POLICY PRIORITIES

Create annual policy agenda to reduce wasted food.

OBJECTIVE A

HOW WILL *YOU* SUPPORT A STATE POLICY AGENDA?

TAKE ACTION

- ❑ Join the work of an Illinois organization addressing food policy and ensure wasted food in part of that platform (see some examples below).
- ❑ Contact legislators about the Wasted Food Action Alliance and ask them to support reducing wasted food in Illinois.
- ❑ Host a policy open house at aldermanic, city, and county wide levels.
- ❑ Connect the impact of reducing waste to climate change goals for your community/place of business, etc.

ENGAGE OTHERS

- ❑ Share information on food waste reduction policy through your newsletter/website/social media

MAKE MONEY MATTER

- ❑ Join the Illinois Environmental Council to support food waste reduction policies.



OBJECTIVE B

HOW WILL *YOU* EDUCATE POLICY MAKERS?

TAKE ACTION

- ❑ Participate in a webinar to address state and local policies that support food waste reduction.
- ❑ Invite key decision makers to discussions about food waste reduction policy and impact.
- ❑ Share events and resources with the WFAA to be included on the website or in future meetings and presentations.
- ❑ Post the Illinois Food Waste Action Plan on your website and link to WFAA.

ENGAGE OTHERS

- ❑ Share the WFAA website and events with others.
- ❑ Encourage other groups to support the Illinois Food Waste Action Plan.

MAKE MONEY MATTER

- ❑ Identify policymakers who support food waste reduction and support their campaign.

LEARNING FROM OTHER CITIES AND REGIONS

Check out successful plans and programs from across the US for ideas that work.

- [Central Ohio Food Waste Initiative](#)
- [Vermont Universal Recycling Law](#)
- [Pacific Coast Collaborative](#)
- UK Love Food Hate Waste = 21% reduction in 5 years
- National Resource Defense Council Food Matters



ILLINOIS POLICY

PREVENT

2019 The Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Public Act [101-0074](#)

2019 Bulk Containers Public Act [101-0510](#)

RESCUE

2016 bill HB5530 was passed to allow food donations from schools and other government operated facilities to prevent it from ending up in the landfill.

2019 IL [HB3496](#) -- Amends the Good Samaritan Food Donor Act

RECYCLE

[1990](#) Landscape waste was banned from landfills in Illinois. There are many landscape waste composting facilities and jobs in Illinois as a result of this effort.

2009 Permit requirements for Commercial Food Scrap Composting were lowered, making this type of business more feasible for Illinois.

2013 Permit requirements were removed for urban farms and compost piles under 25 cubic yards.

2015 HB437 was passed to allow for temporary and permanent sites to collect organics for composting.

2019 Supporting Nutrient Loss Reduction Goals [SR0052](#)

2019 Promoting Soil Health Public Act [101-0484](#)
<https://ilenviro.org/2019-iec-legislative-report/>

LOCAL ORDINANCE/PLAN

[GREENEST REGIONS COMPACT](#) - Municipalities adopt the GRC by formal resolution and agree to work to achieve GRC goals in their community and in collaboration with other municipalities across the region. To date, 131 communities of all sizes and strengths have adopted the GRC to improve quality of life for more than 6 million residents making it the largest regional sustainability collaborative for municipalities in the country.

MWRD Resource Recovery Ordinance [change](#) - Area breweries will have the opportunity to tip or deliver their organic waste locally at a more affordable cost at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) Calumet Water Reclamation Plant (WRP).

CHICAGO 2015 [Amendment of Municipal Code](#) Titles 7, 11 and 17 by modifying regulations for recycling facilities and urban farm accessory composting operations



RECOMMENDATIONS

PREVENT

Date Labeling - Under current federal law, date labels are almost entirely unregulated, except for use on infant formula. States have a variety of inconsistent date labeling regulations that often fail to reflect the distinction between food safety and food quality.

CURRENT: Illinois does not have date labeling regulations except for Admin. Code tit. 8, § 65.30 (2013) which pertains to eggs

- “It shall be allowable to include expiration dates in the labeling of consumer-size containers at retail.”
- “Eggs with an expiration date marked on the container shall not be offered for sale or sold to a consumer after the date marked on the container.”

Bring-Your-Own Container HB5534 (Cassidy) — Expands the ability of consumers to bring their own containers into retail establishments.

RESCUE

Liability Protection - Many potential food donors, including grocers and retailers, cite fear of liability as a primary deterrent to donating food. However, the federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act provides a national baseline of civil and criminal liability protection for food donors and recipient nonprofit organizations that receive and distribute food to needy individuals. States cannot make laws that remove or reduce the protection created under the Act, but they are free to enact laws that are the same or even stronger.

CURRENT: 2016 bill HB5530 was passed to allow food donations from schools and other government operated facilities to prevent it from ending up in the landfill. 2019 IL [HB3496](#) -- Amends the Good Samaritan Food Donor Act

Tax Incentives for Donation -

CURRENT: Illinois does not offer additional tax incentives beyond federal incentives.

Donation from Schools - HB5203 Share tables (Edly-Allen) — Requires that Illinois State Board of Education provide standard operating procedures for share tables.

RECOMMENDATION

- Mandate that the Department of Health not require date labels on food products that do not pose an increased safety risk.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand liability protections for food donations to cover food donors that donate food directly to individuals;
- Expand liability protections to cover charitable or non-profit organizations that charge a fee for distributed food to cover the cost of handling;

RECOMMENDATION

- Create a tax credit for individuals and businesses that donate food to non-profit organizations;

RECOMMENDATION

- Require Department of Health to develop a food donation recommendations and train health inspectors on the information in the guide.



RECOMMENDATIONS cont.

RECYCLE

Organic Waste Bans & Waste Recycling Laws

In order to push businesses and consumers to reduce food waste, a growing number of states and localities are enacting organic waste bans or waste recycling laws to restrict the amount of food waste an entity can send to the landfill. Five states and several localities have passed either waste bans or waste recycling laws for food waste.

CURRENT: Illinois does not currently have policy that addresses food waste.

Animal Feed

Using food scraps as animal feed in a safe, resource-efficient way can be environmentally friendly and energy-efficient, providing multiple benefits for both farmers and food waste generators, such as retailers, restaurants, and institutional cafeterias.

Under federal law, food scraps can generally be fed to animals, so long as food scraps with animal derived by-products are heat-treated by a licensed facility before being fed to swine; and food scraps containing animal-derived by-products are not fed to ruminants. The federal regulations function as a floor, and most state regulations go beyond them.

CURRENT: Illinois restricts this. 2014 § 5/48-7 No feeding garbage to animals. Exception for individuals feeding household garbage to swine.

[Incidental Compost Sales HB4715/SB3087](#) (Frese/Tracy) — Allows for the sale of compost generated at incidental levels without the need for a special permit from the IEPA.
2020

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct a statewide waste characterization study to determine the weight, type and generator sector of food scraps being disposed of in Illinois.
- Prioritize food scrap recycling in the state's Solid Waste Management Plan and Climate Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

- Update regulations to allow food scraps to be fed to animals safely.

Minnesota: "An individual or facility may feed byproducts of canned or frozen foods to livestock or poultry provided that the individual or facility has obtained an "exempt materials" permit. §§ 35.73, 35.751 (2015)."

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Require the use of compost on state, county or municipal projects.
- Create a set of standards to guide food scrap compost education and training to provide consistency and quality.

Cook County Policy Roadmap 2019

Objective 3A - Improve access to healthy and affordable food options to reduce hunger and enable healthy living, especially within marginalized communities.

Objective 2.3 - Support transportation and land use policy that prioritizes efficient use of land and the connectivity between jobs, transportation and land use.

Objective 4.3 - Develop equitable, healthy and sustainable local food systems to improve resident health and create economic opportunity.