



WASTED FOOD ACTION ALLIANCE

MISSION to develop a working strategy and action platform that makes Illinois a leader in reducing wasted food by connecting and building on current wasted food initiatives, education, and policy in unified ways that holistically promote source reduction; food recovery for hunger relief and other uses; and recovery of food scraps for composting and creating healthy soil.

The Wasted Food Action Alliance was formed in response to the 2016 ReFED Report addressing national concern for the amount of food wasted in the United States. Initially called the Wasted Food Solutions Task Force, the group focused on finding intersections between food recovery and food scrap composting. A multistakeholder approach was needed and included leading food businesses, solid waste agencies, environmental and hunger organizations, policymakers, and innovators. The group has grown both in number of members and focus, with each member contributing unique perspectives and expertise on the challenges and opportunities for waste reduction across the food supply chain.

The Wasted Food Action Alliance was renamed in 2019 and includes a Coordinating Team and the full Alliance playing critical roles in driving the overall strategic direction of the Alliance and development of this **Illinois Wasted Food Action Plan**, ensuring it accurately represents the food waste landscape, analyzes relevant and practical solutions, and results in actionable insights for all stakeholders.

In 2020, the wastedfoodaction.org website was launched in order to share resources and provide support to the local emergency food system response to the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting food system disruption.



Wasted Food Action Alliance VALUES

Collaboration – We build strong connections and engagement among rural and urban stakeholders in the Illinois food system, including support for the Illinois agriculture community.

Education – We strive to develop replicable and scalable models that educate statewide stakeholders on best practices for reducing food waste.

Good Stewardship and Sustainability – We value the links between reducing food waste and increasing healthy agricultural practices that are good for the soil, farmers, and food.

Equity – We value a community that is not only inclusive and respectful, but also strives to create economic opportunities and serve the needs of disadvantaged or underprivileged populations and communities.



WASTED FOOD ACTION ALLIANCE

COORDINATING TEAM (2020)

Herman Carnie/Brendan Kitt, Greater Chicago Food Depository
Susan Casey, Seven Generations Ahead
Amy DeLorenzo, University of Illinois Extension
Stephanie Katsaros, Bright Beat
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Vanessa Reese, Fresh Taste
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Co-Chairs: Brendan Kitt,
Chad Steward and Stephanie Katsaros

FUNDRAISING

Chair: Gary Cuneen

METRICS

Chair: Jen Nelson

POLICY

Chair: Jen Walling

SCHOOL TOOLKIT

Chair: Susan Casey

COLLABORATORS (Oct 2020)

The following organizations participated in WFAA meetings contributing to the development of this Action Plan. This list does not indicate an official endorsement by the organization or entity. See the website for more info.

Advocates for Urban Agriculture
Aramark
Beyond Hunger
Big Green Chicago
Bright Beat
Chartwells
Chicago Bridge Project
Chicago Food Policy Action Council
Chicago Public Schools
City of Chicago Dept. of Public Health
City of Chicago Office of the Mayor
City of Chicago Street and Sanitation
City of Chicago, Dept. of Planning and Development
City of Evanston
City of Highland Park
Compass - Northwestern University
Composting Partners
Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC)
Cook County Department of Environmental Control
Cook County Department of Public Health
DuPage County
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Faith in Place
Feeding Illinois
Food Recovery Network
Fresh Taste
Gourmet Gorilla
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Greenest Region Corps
Healthy Schools Campaign
Illinois Agri-Food Alliance

Illinois Environmental Council
Illinois EPA
Illinois Food Scrap Coalition
Illinois Public Health Association
Illinois Stewardship Alliance
Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
Kane County
La Casa Norte
Lake County
Lakeshore Recycling Systems
Liberty Prairie Foundation
Mindful Waste
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Peoria County, Sustainability and Resource Conservation
SCARCE
Seven Generations Ahead
SLoFIG
Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO)
Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC)
University of Illinois, Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urban Canopy
US EPA Region 5
US Foods
USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Midwest Region
Village of Oak Park
West Cook County Solid Waste Agency
Will County
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
Zero Waste Chicago

ILLINOIS FOOD WASTE ACTION PLAN

July 2019

Discuss need for Illinois Food Waste Action Plan

- Build collective knowledge
- Gather feedback on potential solutions

September 2019

Refine action plan goal and priority solutions

- Feedback on goal and priority solutions
 - **Prevent** input from food service providers, institutions, etc.
 - **Rescue** input from Feeding Illinois, food banks and food pantries
 - **Recycle** input from Illinois Food Scrap Coalition
- Draft actionable steps for priority solutions
- Identify key partners for each solution
- Consensus on goal and priority solutions

November 2019

Consensus on target actionable steps

- Breakout groups to develop work plans and goals for targeted actionable steps
- Review expected measurable outcomes

2020

Engage others in Action Plan priority solutions

- Graphic design/professional layout of action plan
- Present plan to outside stakeholders

August 2019

Align current WFAA work with national plans

- Determine where to align goals with ReFED, USEPA, etc
- Feedback on goal and priority solutions
- Participant in local convenings on policy issues, work and strategies regarding local food and sustainable agriculture in Illinois

October 2019

Seek feedback on action steps from stakeholders

- Feedback on targeted actionable steps
 - Recycle input from ILCSWMA
- Refine targeted actionable steps

December 2019

Final feedback on Action Plan

- Present refined work plans
- Consensus on entire action plan
- Identify outside stakeholders to engage

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

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2. [2015 Illinois Commodity/ Waste Generation and Characterization Study Update](#)
3. State of Illinois [Executive Order 2019-006](#)
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5. [EPA's Waste Reduction Model \(WARM\)](#) to estimate streamlined life-cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emission factors for food waste
6. [National Resource Defense Council \(NRDC\)](#) - Tackling Food Waste in Cities: A Policy and Program Toolkit
7. Illinois Environmental Council [Chicago Environmental Mayor Report](#), February 19, 2019
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9. [Data \(ReFED\), 2016.](#)
10. [Green City Market](#)
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12. [ReFed: Rethink Food Waste](#)
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14. [How the coronavirus crisis is changing grocery shopping: From stock-ups to more online ordering, behavioral shifts among shoppers are emerging](#); Russell Redman 1 | Apr 03, 2020; published in Supermarket News
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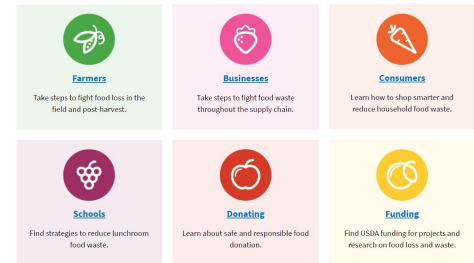
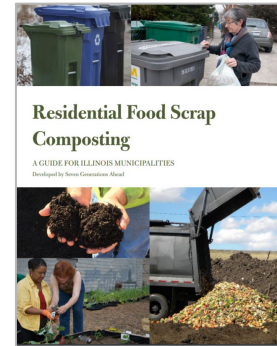


IMAGE CREDITS

Front cover, left, EsfilPla (Shutterstock); **Front cover**, center, Greater Chicago Food Depository; **Front cover**, right, Seven Generations Ahead; **Contents**, Sense & Sustainability; **Wasted Food Action Alliance - An Introduction**, top, Food Production-Illinois, Illinois Environmental Council; **Wasted Food Action Alliance - An Introduction**, center, Rush Surplus Project; **Wasted Food Action Alliance - An Introduction**, bottom, Weera Prongsiri (123RF); **Illinois Food Waste Action Plan - Overview**, Agriculture at Illinois State, agriculture.illinoisstate.edu; **Solution 1 - Take Action**, US Food Supply Chain Map, University of Illinois; **Schools - Take Action**, bottom right, Go Green Illinois, Zero Waste Schools, Seven Generations Ahead; **Institutions - WFAA**, Lake County Adult Corrections, Seven Generations Ahead; **Institutions - Take Action**; left, Illinois Food Scrap Coalition, right, Seven Generations Ahead; **Continued Recommendations**, top, Wasted Food Infographic, National Resource Defense Council; **Food Waste - An Illinois Problem**, top; **Food Waste - An Illinois Problem**, bottom; **ReFED**, **ReFED**; **Food Waste in the US** top, Pool/Getty Images, bottom images Seven Generations Ahead; **Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic on Food Waste**, left, Inside Waste, right, Patch; **Prevent - Why & How**, top, Northern Illinois Food Bank; **Prevent - Why & How**, bottom; **Prevent - Labeling, Packaging, & Education**, US Environmental Protection Agency; **Rescue**, top, US Environmental Protection Agency, center, right; **Recycle**, left, Shrewsbury, MA, center right, Collective Resource, right, SCARCE, **Why Recycle**, top, US Environmental Protection Agency; **Background & Vision**, left, EsfilPla (Shutterstock), center, MeaningfullMeals

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Food:Land:Opportunity
Localizing the Chicago Foodshed

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