

Organics Management to Reduce Methane and Combat Climate Change Workgroup

Meeting #3
August 5, 2021



Housekeeping

- Please mute your lines if not speaking
- If you are having technical difficulties, chat Sam Kwok
- Presentation portion of today's meeting is being recorded
- All our presenters will present and then we will have 20 minutes for Q&A
- Please raise your hand by clicking on the “participants” button and clicking on the hand by your name if you have a question
 - I will call on people
- You can also put questions in the chat at anytime and we will answer them during the Q&A portion

Meeting #3 Agenda

AGENDA

2:00-2:10	Welcome and Agenda Overview
2:10-2:25	Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use Food Well Washington Food Waste Prevention Plan (Mary Harrington)• Q&A (Workgroup Members & Observers)
	Topic #1 Discussion: Food waste source reduction/diversion/ rescue/rescue groups
2:25-2:50	Strengthen Good Samaritan Law <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workgroup Member Input: Strengths & Concerns/Issues• Observer Input
2:50-3:35	Mandate (commercial) food scrap recycling to prevent food from entering landfills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workgroup Member Input: Strengths & Concerns/Issues• Observer Input
3:35-3:50	Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workgroup Member Input: Strengths & Concerns/Issues• Observer Input
3:55-4:00	Next Steps and Adjourn

Work Group Structure and Role

Purpose: Improve organics management system in Washington in order to reduce methane and combat climate change.

Role: Using California SB1383 Law as a starting point, gather stakeholder input to inform policy tailored for Washington.

Work Group Structure

- Made up of a diverse set of stakeholder organizations
- Each organization gets one seat at the table
- Others can join as observers (there will be a spot on each agenda for observers to comment or ask a question)
- Two meetings per month through end of year
- Meeting content will include:
 - Presentations of background info
 - Discussion of topics included in possible legislation:
 - If there is agreement on a topic, that will be noted
 - If there is not agreement, issues/concerns will be identified
- Copies of information from each meeting will be posted at: organicsworkgroup.org/

Agenda Committee

- Local Gov't: Andy Smith
- Environmental: Heather Trim
- Waste Management: Brad Lovaas
- Composter: Majken Ryherd
- Any other interested sectors?

Topics (revised per meeting #2 input)

1. Food waste **source** reduction/diversion/rescue/**rescue groups**
 2. Energy generation/Credits/Carbon sequestration/**Nutrient recovery**/Incentives Equity
 3. Financials/end-markets/purchasing, **Soil health/nitrogen cycling, Regenerative agriculture**
- Education/Generator behavior change/Source reduction/**Technical assistance**
 - Contamination/**Labeling**
 - Local governments/UTC (funding, **financing**, collection, rates, etc.)
 - Collection approaches
 - Sectors: Business/Commercial/Industrial sources/Multi-family/**single family**
 - Sources: Yard/Food/Wood/
- Dairies/Ag
 - Permitting/Air/**Water**/Odors/Monitoring
 - Geographic issues/Apple maggot/Localized/**Rail**
 - Targets/Performance standards
- Infrastructure/**New technologies**

Topics Discussion

Topic #1: Food waste source reduction/ diversion/rescue/rescue groups

Subtopics for discussion today:

1. Strengthen Good Samaritan Law (#2)
2. Mandate (commercial) food scrap recycling (#8)
3. Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management (#6) and Map food system flows (#16)

(Numbers (#) refer to recommendations in Ecology's draft *Use Food Well Washington Plan*)

Ecology definitions related to food waste and wasted food:

- **1. Prevention:** Prevent and reduce the amount of food waste.
- **2. Rescue:** Rescue edible food that would otherwise be wasted and ensure the food reaches those who need it.
- **3. Recovery:** Support productive uses of inedible food materials, including animal feed, nutrient recovery, and off-site or on-site management systems including composting, vermicomposting, anaerobic digestion, and other biological systems.

Subtopic Discussion:

Strengthen Good Samaritan Law (#2)

Encourage the Washington state legislature to pass a joint memorial to support federal legislation [or direct state legislation] that strengthens the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act to:

- **Allow the sale of food at a discounted price:** Broaden language to protect nonprofit organizations that sell food at a discounted price and the donors that donate to these nonprofits.
- **Encourage direct donations from restaurants:** Modify language to include donations made by food service establishments and retailers directly to individuals.
- **Emphasize food safety:** Change the definition of apparently wholesome food to replace “quality and labeling standards” with “safety and safety-related labeling” to clarify that donated food must meet all federal, state, and local food safety requirements.

Workgroup Input: Strengthen Good Samaritan Law

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Observer Input: Strengthen Good Samaritan Law

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Subtopic Discussion:

Research... to prevent food from entering landfills:

Mandate food scrap recycling (#8)

CA Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling: Businesses that create organic waste must arrange for organic waste recycling services, and local governments must implement a commercial organics recycling collection program. – *California AB 1826 (2014)*

MD Organics Recycling – Waste and Diversion: Effective January 2023 commercial generators of >2 tons of food scrap must either reduce, divert to food rescue organizations, farms for animal feed operations, or compost or anaerobically digest the residuals. In 2024, the threshold lowers to generators >1 ton. - *Maryland HB264 (2021)*

CA 1383 Edible food tiers: Commercial edible food generators must recover for human consumption the maximum amount of their edible food that they would otherwise dispose of in landfills by making written agreements with food recovery organizations or services to accept this food instead

Commercial Edible Food Generators

Tier 1

January 1, 2022

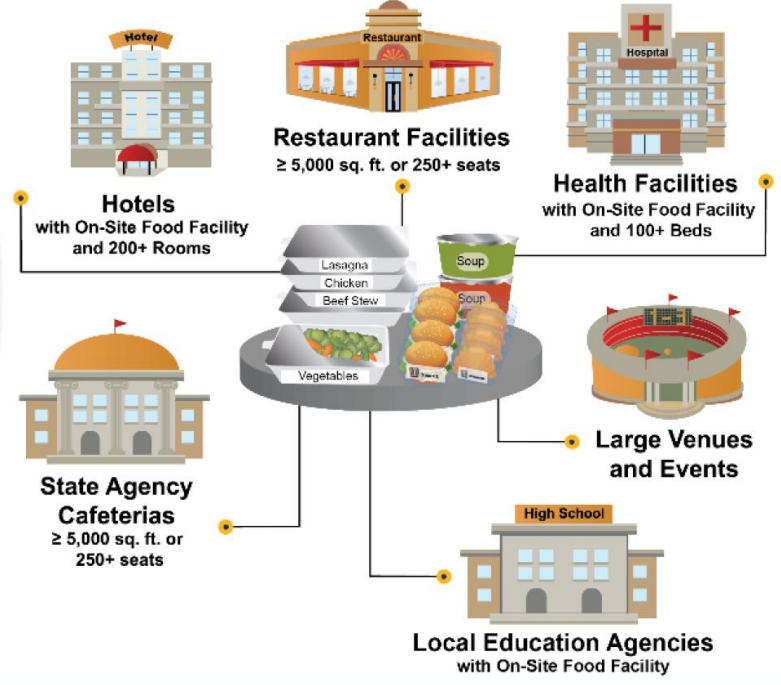
Tier one businesses typically have more produce, fresh grocery, and shelf-stable foods to donate.



Tier 2

January 1, 2024

Tier two businesses typically have more prepared foods to donate, which often require more careful handling to meet food safety requirements (e.g. time and temperature controls).



Workgroup Input: Mandate (commercial) food scrap recycling

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Observer Input: Mandate (commercial) food scrap recycling

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Subtopic Discussion:

Create **WA Center for Sustainable Food Management (#6)** and **Map food system flows (#16)**

- **Create the Washington Center for Sustainable Food Management** to help coordinate state-wide food waste reduction
- **Map** Washington's food system to:
 - **Identify food flows**, where waste occurs and opportunities to prevent food waste.
 - Find **resources that could be shared** for greater efficiencies and resilience (such as cold storage, processing, and transportation).
 - **Connect potential partners**, especially hunger relief organizations, and facilitate sharing challenges and opportunities within the food system.



The Washington Center for Sustainable Food Management may:

- Coordinate the implementation of the Use Food Well Washington Plan
- Draft plan updates and measure progress towards actions, strategies, and the statewide reduction goals.
- Maintain website with current food waste reduction information and guidance.
- Provide staff support to the Pacific Coast Collaborative food waste reduction work.
- Stay connected to the Food Policy Forum's work on food system resiliency.
- Facilitate and coordinate public-private and non-profit partnerships focused on food waste reduction through voluntary working groups.
- Collaborate with federal, state, and local partners on solutions to food waste.
- Develop and maintain mapping of the food system of Washington.
- Research and develop emerging organics and food waste reduction markets.
- Coordinate and implement the statewide food waste prevention and organics contamination reduction campaigns.
- Distribute and monitor grants dedicated to food waste prevention, rescue, and recovery.

Workgroup Input: Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Observer Input: Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Form food waste subcommittee
 - Volunteers?
- Next meeting 8/19
 - Continue Topic #1: Food waste source reduction/diversion/ rescue/rescue groups subtopics:
 - Improve school food waste in Washington schools
 - Increase funding for local health jurisdictions and consistent application of regs
 - Require food waste tracking and analytics
 - Improve the system logistics:
 - Donation transportation
 - Increase access to cold chain management
 - Value-added food processing and manufacturing
 - Community food hubs
 - Topic #1 discussion will mirror the Ecology plan
 - But, please let us know if there are any topics missing that should be added for discussion!
- Thank you!

Topic #1 Background for Future Meetings

Improve school food waste in Washington schools:

(#11) Require food waste prevention, rescue, and recovery education

(#20) Require 20-minute seated lunch minimum

(#21) Require recess before lunch

- **Education: Require food waste reduction education** in K-12 schools statewide and include the necessary investment in staffing at the state, county, and local level to support education efforts.
- **10-minute lunch:** Require statewide policy for **20-minute seated lunch** minimum in Washington schools.
- **Recess before lunch:** Support statewide policy requirement for **recess before lunch** in Washington schools.

Workgroup Input: Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Observer Input: Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

(#12) Increase funding for **local health jurisdictions** [and **consistent application of regs**]

Increase public health funding to local health jurisdictions (LHJs) to :

- **Provide inspections and technical assistance** to hunger relief organizations (HROs).
- Promote **proper food donation** with food businesses, schools, and institutions.
- Support **consistent application of food safety regulations** regarding HROs and food donation.

Workgroup Input: Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Observer Input: Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

(#15) Food waste tracking and analytics (required)

Support waste tracking analytics to better understand food waste flows in Washington, including:

- Standardizing **food waste tracking and analytics statewide**, modeling after methods developed by the [ReFED Insights Engine](#) and [wrap](#).
- **Incentivize** food flows and food waste data tracking.
- **Increase voluntary** food waste tracking and analytic efforts.
- **Connect food waste tracking and analytics to funding mechanisms and incentives.**
- **Provide technical assistance** through work like the Pacific Coast Collaborative to help share information through cross-sector working groups

Workgroup Input: Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Observer Input: Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Improve the system (logistics) I:

(#17) Improve donation transportation

(#22) Increase access to cold chain management

Improve donation transportation by:

- Developing partnerships between food businesses, logistic companies, and hunger relief organizations.
- Increasing food rescue through efficient transportation and incentives.
- Increase funding for transportation investments.

Increase access and funding for cold chain management across the food supply chain, especially for hunger relief organizations.

Workgroup Input: Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Observer Input: Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Improve the system (logistics) II:

(#23) Value-added food processing and manufacturing

(#24) Community food hubs

Support value-added food processors and manufacturers by:

- Increasing incentives for sector development in rural and urban areas.
- Promoting innovations in depackaging and re-packaging technology.
- Increase understanding of regulations and best practices for value-added food processing and manufacturing.

Increase the number of community food hubs across the state to help rescue and recover edible food

Workgroup Input: Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Observer Input: Create WA Center for Sustainable Food Management and map food system flows

Strengths	Concerns/Issues

Topics from Ecology Food Waste Plans to
be discussed at future meetings
(i.e., recommendations that fall under other topic categories)

Recommendations related to other topics

End Markets

(#3) Increase markets for lower-grade produce Increase market demand for lower-grade produce by:

- Changing customer perception of produce by incorporating gardening into elementary school curriculum.
- Including stipulations in state purchasing contracts to require a certain percentage of produce purchased to be lower-grade.
- Supporting federal legislation to review the Code of Federal Regulation, Title 7, subpart B grading standards to identify best practices and programs that increase demand for lower-grade produce.

Finance/Funding

(#8) Research levers and develop partnerships to prevent food from entering landfills: Ban organic waste in landfills/*Mandate food scrap recycling*/Implement Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Pricing/Levy a Landfill Tax)

(#9) State grant funding for food waste prevention, rescue, and recovery Sustain and increase funding for state-level food waste prevention, rescue, and recovery focused grants.

(#10) Infrastructure investment in schools Increase funding and support for food waste prevention infrastructure in Washington schools.

(#18) Build more farm to school partnerships Build more farm to school partnerships in Washington through increased funding and staffing.

Recommendations related to other topics

Contamination/Statewide Education

(#13) State-wide food waste reduction campaign Develop state-wide food waste reduction campaigns focused on Washington's residential and commercial sectors

(#19) Develop an emergency food distribution plan for Washington schools OSPI will develop best practices and statewide guidance for the K-12 system to distribute school meals to students, when an emergency prevents students from in-person attendance.

(#25) Food waste contamination reduction campaign Develop and promote a food waste contamination reduction campaign.

Local government

(#14) Support local government food waste reduction efforts Support local government food waste reduction work by:

- Stabilizing and increasing **state-level funding** for local government food waste reduction work.
- Developing **standardized language and communication materials** for local government use.
- Create spaces for local governments to **share information** and lessons learned.

Recommendations related to other topics

Infrastructure

(#26) Anaerobic digesters (ADs) Increase the use of anaerobic digesters (ADs) at Water Resource Reclamation Facilities (WRRFs) and on farms.

(#27) Anaerobic digesters (ADs) at Compost facilities Increase opportunities for high-solids anaerobic digesters at commercial compost facilities.

(#28) Increase use of small-scale anaerobic digestion (AD) Increase the use of small-scale AD food waste management systems through funding and continued research and innovation.

(#30) Diversify food waste management systems Increase the development of a diversified and innovative food waste management system

Permitting

(#29) Improve regulatory certainty for compost facility operations Improve regulatory certainty for compost facility owners..

Recommendations – to incorporate

Resolutions for federal action

- **(#1) Support national date labeling standard** Encourage the Washington State legislature to pass a joint memorial to support federal legislation to:
 - **Standardize date labels:** Require standard labels be used by food manufacturers.
 - **Differentiate between quality and food safety labels:** The suggested standard is to use “best if used by” or “best if used or frozen by” as a food quality date label and “use by” or “use or freeze by” as a food safety date label.
 - **Provide consumer education:** Require retailers to provide consumer education about how to understand labels.
- **(#4) Improve federal tax incentives** Encourage the Washington state legislature to pass a joint memorial to support federal legislation to:
 - Expand the **federal tax deduction for food donation** to include non-profit sales and transport.
 - Offer an **alternative tax credit for food donation by farmers.**
 - Develop valuable end markets through **tax incentives.**

Support

- **(#5) Continue Washington State’s support for the Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC).**
- **(#7) Connect UFWW Plan to Food Policy Forum.** Build connections between the Use Food Well Washington Plan and the Food Policy Forum’s food system resiliency planning.