ADDRESSING FOOD WASTE IN MICHIGAN

What Is Food Waste?

Food waste is a statewide issue that affects Michigan's communities, economy, environment, and natural resources. Across the country, approximately **40% of the food we grow goes uneaten**, while food waste in landfills contributes to methane emissions and wastes the water, land, labor, fuel, and other resources used to produce and transport food.

Economic Benefits of Food Waste Reduction

Reducing food waste can create meaningful economic benefits for businesses, schools and residents. Food-based businesses can **save 3–5% on food costs** by reducing the amount of food they waste. It is estimated that U.S. schools produce **530,000 tons of food waste** annually, sending **$1.7 billion dollars** directly to the trash. On average a single household throws away almost **$782 worth of food** each year. Reducing household food waste could save Michigan residents almost **8 billion dollars each year.**

Co-benefits Of Food Waste Reduction

Less food in landfills
Food waste comprises approximately 25–30% of landfilled material. Diverting food waste can reduce the need for larger and new landfills and meet statewide Materials Management Plan goals.

Cleaner air and water
Landfilled food waste contributes to methane emissions, odors, leachate production, and nutrient pollution.

Healthier soil
Turning food scraps into compost instead of sending them to landfills can improve soil health and support carbon sequestration.

Stronger food access
Rescuing edible food can help increase access to food for residents experiencing food insecurity.

Our Goal

Cutting Michigan's Food Waste In Half By 2030

The State of Michigan has set a goal to **reduce food waste 50% by 2030 in the MI Healthy Climate Plan.** Achieving this goal will require collaboration across sectors, communities, and regions of Michigan. Preventing food waste, rescuing and upcycling food, and keeping food scraps out of landfills can help create a more resilient food system while supporting communities and protecting Michigan's environment.

A Statewide Effort

Meeting Michigan's 2030 goal requires coordinated action and shared knowledge. The Michigan 2030 Food Waste Coalition brings together people and organizations from across the state to advance that work.