

7.8 Develop a Food Waste Prevention and Food Scraps Recovery Campaign

5 Points

10 Points

15 Points

Action Updates

This action has been revised for the **current certification cycle**. A version of this action from the prior program year is [available for comparison](#). Edits are highlighted in yellow. (Last update 2020)

Objective

Reduce or eliminate food waste and increase food scraps recovery.

What to Do

If you collaborate with other municipalities or other stakeholders to implement this Action, please describe the partnership in the “partners” box of your submission. Please also consult this [guidance document](#) to help your municipality earn points for actions pursued in partnership. Regional collaboration and other forms of partnership are highly encouraged.

If you collaborate with one or more neighboring municipalities, each municipality will earn points.

1. Choose one or more target sectors and implement or maintain an ongoing food waste prevention campaign in those sectors. Consider any measurable impacts observed as a result of the program. Examples of campaigns eligible for points under this Action are listed below. **(5 points)**
 - An educational campaign prevent food waste in schools. Strategies include teaching students about making responsible food selection choices and the consequences of food waste.
 - A campaign to prevent residential food waste. Strategies include educating residents on effective menu planning and shopping and the difference between “sell-by,” “use-by,” “best-by,” and expiration dates.

Submit: A brief overview of outreach (suggested 5 sentences maximum), including target populations (if any); at least one example from among materials disseminated, which could include flyers, articles, letters, newsletter, powerpoint presentations, or pdfs of other digital communications materials. Include a list of any campaign-sponsored events or public meetings where the campaign was highlighted and discussed.
2. Choose one or more target sectors in which to implement a food scraps recovery program or food waste prevention. Explore connections and opportunities to share information with your municipal or district health department in implementation to balance food scrap recovery goals with public health concerns. Examples of programs eligible for points under this Action are listed below. **(10 points)**
 - Organize home composting workshops and distribute compost bins to residents.
 - Implement a curbside composting pilot, establish a curbside composting program, or implement a pilot or full program to collect food scraps for anaerobic digestion.
 - Support one or more schools in your community in the implementation of a food waste prevention or food scraps recovery program, including the collection of unused food items and creating a community compost garden.

Submit: An overview of your community's food scraps recovery or food waste prevention program, including target populations (if any); the date of your municipality's most recent meeting with its municipal or district health department regarding implementation of your program; and at least one additional piece of document, which could include flyers, articles, letters, newsletter, powerpoint presentations, or pdfs of press coverage or digital communications materials.

Credit for Past Action

For spring certification, count back from February 1st of the current year. For fall certification, count back from August 1st of the current year. For further clarification on determining if your prior work is eligible to earn points, [click here](#).

- Each campaign must have been initiated or actively continued within the past year.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

The municipal recycling coordinator, public works department director, or other appropriate municipal staff involved in materials management should be involved in the implementation of this Action. Community partners include representatives from the target sectors involved.

Funding

For a complete listing of potential funding opportunities to assist with implementing Sustainable CT Actions, please visit the [Sustainable CT Grants Portal](#), which is searchable by Action. Please also visit the [Sustainable CT Resources for Certification](#) page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

- [Urban Act Grant Program](#)
- [Municipal Grant Program \(MGP\)](#)
- [2020 Sustainable CT Community Match Fund](#)

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- [Legal Fact Sheet for Connecticut Food Donation: Date Labeling Laws](#)
- [Legal Fact Sheet for Connecticut Food Donation: Liability Protections](#)
- [Legal Fact Sheet for Connecticut Food Donation: Tax Incentives for Businesses](#)
- [Phood: Commercial Waste Prevention Program](#)
- Oregon's [Wasted Food Wasted Money](#)
- NRDC and Ad Council "[Save the Food](#)" campaign
- RecyclingWorks [Food Waste Estimator Tool](#)
- Center for EcoTechnology's [Wasted Food Solutions](#)
- Center for EcoTechnology's [Food Donation by Connecticut Schools](#)
- [EPA Food Scraps](#)
- [EPA Food too Good to Waste Guide](#)
- [EPA Small Business Guide on Preventing Waste](#)
- [Managing Food Waste for Sustainability: Composting versus Landfills](#)
- [USDA Food Product Dating](#)
- Institute for Local Self-Reliance "[Yes! In my Backyard: A Home Composting Guide for Local Government](#)"
- [EPA's Sustainable Management of Food](#); Excess Food Opportunities Map

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [Center for Ecotechnology](#) offers free technical assistance.
- [Center for Ecotechnology Wilton case study](#)

- [CT DEEP Food Waste Reduction and Recovery](#)
- [United States Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)

Why This Matters

The primary component of solid waste in Connecticut is organic waste, most of which is discarded food. Through composting, food waste can become a precious agricultural resource (organic fertilizer). When food waste goes into landfills, it does not decompose, but rather off-gases methane. Not only does the off-gassing contribute to climate change, but also that earth-friendly fertilizer resource is lost.

Benefits

When you reduce the food waste in your community, you also lower the adverse environmental impacts on your air and water supply, reduce your greenhouse gas emissions, and decrease your solid municipal waste. As a result, both the sector targeted by your campaign and your municipality will save money through less over-purchasing and reduced disposal costs. Thoughtful and strategic donations of uneaten food can also ensure that low-income residents in your community have something to eat, helping build community and promote equity.

CT Success Stories

- [2018 Glastonbury - Detailed Submission and Outreach](#)
- [West Hartford Food Waste Recycling in Schools](#)