



Characterization and Management of Food Waste in North America



Recommendations and Strategies



Source: Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence, 2014; NRDC, 2015

Content

- Recommendations
- Opportunities of Trilateral Cooperation



Source: Just Eat It: A Food Waste Movie, 2016

1. National Task Force on Food Waste Prevention for Implementation Coordination

- Develop partnerships for public reporting of wasted food
- Continue research on cause, impact and solutions
- Establish/continue national call to action for reduction and recovery of food waste
- Establish norms for providing technical assistance to businesses
- Establish/support a national organization to oversee implementation of food waste prevention initiatives
- Provide access to programs, initiatives, research and training to help companies and organizations along food chain tackle food waste through sharing platform

2. National Food Policy and National Food Waste Strategy

- Establish a national goal for initiatives addressing food waste reduction, food access and food security
- Leverage opportunities to collaborate with public health, other government departments, to move related initiatives forward



Source: Tetra Tech, 2015

3. Support Voluntary Food Waste Reduction Initiatives for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Sectors

- Encourage all industrial, commercial and institutional entities across food supply chain to set a target and commit to reduce packaging and food waste
- Provide technical assistance, workshops, guidebooks to help stakeholders and a reporting platform



Source: LeanPath, 2016

4. Standardize Date Labeling

- Standardize best-before dates across North American countries and establish effective educational campaigns to reinforce standards
- Review existing food labeling policies to balance food safety with food waste reduction



Source: NRDC, 2013

5. Changes in Cosmetic Food Grading

- Reduce cosmetic requirements for food grading to categorize more food as acceptable for primary market
- Support secondary market campaigns for second-grade food consumption and ensuring alternative buyers have access



Source: Tetra Tech, 2016

6. Improving Supply Management (Mexico)

- Use appropriate trucks, improve distribution timing
- Provide technical support to reinforce best practices and financing to upgrade equipment, especially for sole proprietors
- Improve communications with border officers to prevent unnecessary delays



Source: Alimento para Todos, 2016

7. Support Innovation in Food Waste Source Reduction and Recovery

- Increase government and foundation grants or funding for research projects and development of technology
- Identify and activate markets, seek alternative uses for currently wasted products
- Provide employment and training to leverage innovation opportunities



Source: Food Cowboy, 2017

8. Develop Review and Approval Process for New Food Products from Recovered Food

- Cultivate secondary markets by bringing food products or animal feed using recovered food or food waste into regulatory approval process
- Prepare guidelines and support for entrepreneurs to understand and maneuver through preparation and approval process



Source: Campbell Soup Company Brands L.P., 2013

9. Facilitate an Efficient Food Donation System

- Optimize food donation systems by analyzing legislative tools to encourage food donation and use
 - Improve system for perishables
- Determine the most effective regulatory and incentive tools to:
 - Encourage perishable food donations that benefit all parties
 - Mitigate concerns related to ensuring donated food is healthy and usable
- Facilitate efficient system development for improved infrastructure related to storage, distribution, tracking and education

10. Standardize Measuring, Tracking and Reporting Methods

- Develop and improve upon methods for measuring, tracking and reporting food waste
- Standardize how food waste is measured, tracked and reported by using terms and definitions that are consistent with the Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard (FLWRS)



Source: Tetra Tech, 2014

11. Track and Report Performance Over Time

- Establish baseline food loss and waste for each country, using a methodology mutually agreed upon by all three countries
- Report performance on a regular basis agreed upon by all three countries
- Monitor and compare progress against goals/targets across countries, fine tune policies and programs as needed



Source: Tetra Tech, 2015

12. Collaborate between Departments across Levels of Government to Augment Existing Reporting Frameworks

- Build upon existing reporting systems for food waste supply, consumption and waste reporting
 - Census data and national surveys
 - Taxation
 - Corporate annual reporting
 - Business permits and licensing
 - Utility usage tracking
 - Industry association tracking
- Determine ways of estimating food waste quantities from existing tracking systems

Opportunities for Further Trilateral Cooperation

- Continue to monitor trilateral progress related to the recommendations provided above by engaging key federal government and other stakeholders on a regular basis.
 - Establish an ongoing Working Group to track and move food waste recommendations and future initiatives forward across the three North American countries.
 - Sponsor conferences to convene key stakeholders across the three North American countries on a regular basis.
 - Support community-led initiatives for food waste avoidance through instruments such as the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) grants.
 - Promote use of the Food Loss and Waste (FLW) Standard across the three North American countries to standardize measurement for monitoring and comparison purposes.
- Pursue additional studies on food waste on the two other key parts of the food supply chain: farm production and consumers.



Thank you

Questions?

Tetra Tech Project Team



Source: Tetra Tech, 2015