

City	
Country	Italy
Population	1,242,123
Title of policy or practice	Local Food Waste Hub
Subtitle (optional)	
URL video	
Category	Food Waste
SDGs	SDGs: 1, 2, 10, 12.
Brief description	<p>In 2015, the Municipality of Milan adopted a comprehensive Food Policy with the overall objective of increasing the sustainability of its food system. Reducing food waste is one of the priorities of the Food Policy, with the goal of cutting food waste by 50% by 2030. In order to do so, the Municipality signed a joint agreement with Assolombarda and the Polytechnic University of Milan, with the aim of designing innovative and participatory solutions to fight food waste. As a result, the Municipality established the first Local Food Waste Hub, a pilot project that recovers food surpluses from local supermarkets and canteens and redistributes it to people in need through local neighbourhood networks. The Municipality donated a public space, dedicated to stocking and redistribution of recovered food, to local charities involved in the project. At present, there are two active hubs serving two different districts within the city, while more are under development. This model allows to provide beneficiaries with a mixed offer of food, thanks to the intermediation of the hub, which recovers food from both supermarkets and canteens. This project is complemented by a tax reduction measure, that rewards businesses that donate food with a 20% reduction on the waste tax. The reduction is based on the quantity of food donated and acts in synergy with the establishment of Food Waste Hubs. Similarly, Assolombarda created a label dedicated to food donations to signal virtuous businesses.</p>
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	2016 Ongoing
Actors and stakeholders involvement	The Municipality of Milan provided the public space for the Hub, as well as the legal framework for the initiative. The Polytechnic University of Milan developed a preliminary feasibility study and currently monitors the operation of the hub and the impacts generated by the project. Local charities are engaged in the system, while Banco Alimentare manages the actual food redistribution through the Hub. Ricetta QuBi, a private investment fund, provided funding for the project.
Approach	
Innovation	The food waste strategy of the city proved to be a complete innovation both in Italy and in the Lombardy region. At the national level, Milan was the first city to develop a holistic food policy with a specific priority on food waste reduction. At the regional level, only three other cities implemented a waste tax reduction for food donation (Bergamo, Brescia and Sondrio), but they activated it with several restrictions related to the kind of business that can access the measure. Milan is also the only municipality that promotes an integrated strategy with the clear objective of cutting food waste by 50% by 2030, involving all the active local actors (municipal agencies and departments, food banks, NGOs, universities, private sector, etc.) and developing shared initiatives to advance knowledge on the sustainable food waste treatment. As a term of

comparison in 2015, 830 tons of food were saved within the entire regional context (10 million inhabitants in Lombardy Region), whereas in 2018 6,995 tons of food were saved only at within the Municipality of Milan (1.3 million inhabitants). The Food Policy Office is planning to extend all the lessons learned to other big drivers of the food system (such as healthcare services, railway stations, university centres, private canteens) and to strengthen existing actions, saving all the food waste that is generated by those drivers. The Food Policy plays a key role in supporting, stimulating and facilitating all kinds of innovations.

Impact

Thanks to their systemic approach, Local Food Waste Hubs generate positive economic, social and environmental impacts.

Economic co-benefits:

With the Food Policy actions of recovery and donation of the food losses, the Municipality is able to estimate different economic co-benefits:

- commercial value of food donation estimated at about 44,200,000 EUR for the total of food saved;
- Money saving from the treatment management, using the standard cost of 86 EUR per each ton of food waste management estimated at about 600,000 EUR;
- Deduction of the VAT and income tax, in addition with the 2018 Local Waste Tax reduction for companies that donate food;
- For the first-year pilot, the waste tax allowed to engage 50 supermarkets from six different companies, five big retailers from the general markets, six small pilot retailers and 106 school canteens.

Environmental co-benefits:

- CH4 methane emission in about 77.15 tons saved;
- PM2,5-10 emission in about 2,619 kg saved;
- Water needed to produce food that would have been wasted in about 59 million hectolitres;
- Land needed to produce the food that would have been wasted in about 4,927 ectaras;
- Social co-benefits;
- On the social side, the Local Food Waste Hub is able to donate a huge quantity of food, which is the base to calculate all the other economic and environmental co-benefits;
- In the 2018, the city of Milan has saved and donated 6,995 tons of food losses, equivalent to 13,990,000 meals.

Inclusion

The establishment of the hubs and the relative incentives was realized thanks to the cooperation among actors and city departments. Banco Alimentare, a large local charity organization, was selected as a partner to manage the hub, while private actors were involved as donors. The synergy among these different actors allowed the Municipality to act on the problem of food waste in a localized manner.

Cooperation among different departments within the Municipality proved to be essential to set up the Food Waste Tax Reduction that encouraged food donations from private actors. The Department of Labour Policies, Trade and Manufacturing activities played a primary role in the process. The Department of Urban Planning has been equally active in the provision of public spaces to be converted into Local Food Waste Hubs.

Local hubs are specifically designed to act on a local scale, facilitating synergies among actors within the same neighbourhood. To this end, the Food Policy has been working in close contact with the municipalities hosting the hubs.