

<b>Country</b>	United States of America					
<b>Population</b>	302,687					
<b>Title of policy or practice</b>	Food Waste Cincinnati					
<b>Subtitle (optional)</b>	A Holistic Approach					
<b>URL video</b>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vJ-Ni7N7eAjrcFbrbNIT9ReObh27dOoz?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vJ-Ni7N7eAjrcFbrbNIT9ReObh27dOoz?usp=sharing</a>					
<b>Category</b>	06 – FW		<b>SDGs</b>		11 – 17 – 2	
<b>Year of start</b>	2016		<b>Year of end</b>		ongoing	
<b>Actors involvement</b>	<b>Municipal departments</b>	<b>Public institutions</b>	<b>NGOs CSOs</b>	<b>Research centers</b>	<b>Private sectors</b>	<b>International bodies</b>
	13	3	14	1	6	
	<b>Other</b>	1 Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); NRDC Food Matters Great Lakes Cohort;				
<b>Budget</b>	€464,161.88					
<b>Brief description</b>	<p>Since 2016 Cincinnati has been engaged in addressing the issue of food waste (FW) utilizing policy, programs and partnerships in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional manner. Cincinnati is a medium size city (302,687 inhabitants), with a 23% poverty rate, and 33% of residents reporting food insecurity. Organics comprise 31% (16.8% FW) of the waste stream. The Green Cincinnati Plan, guiding sustainability document for the city, identifies goals of access to fresh, healthy food, landfill diversion of organics and reduction of food waste. Utilizing the USEPA FW Hierarchy, Cincinnati Food Waste has created partnerships &amp; solutions to address and create the most impact within a variety of environmental, social and economic contexts /perspectives in the following ways: PLANNING/POLICY: Two FW Summits; a regional food waste plan; Data analysis; Food Policy Council creation &amp; participation in strategic planning; Share Table Guidance for schools in three states &amp; local implementation support; Mayor endorsed Conference of Mayors Food Waste Resolution; two governmental (City and County) FW Proclamations.</p> <p>PREVENTION: Partner funding for impact; Bus Campaign; County did six business waste audits and launched residential FW prevention campaign Food Waste Stops With Us.</p> <p>RECOVERY: Stakeholder analysis; City/County funding to partners; Four Health Department Inspector Trainings and educational material for increased restaurant donation; Work of local NGOs La Soupe and Last Mile Food Rescue to transport and repurpose donated food to the food insecure.</p> <p>RECYCLING: Anerobic Digester exploration convening; Revision of City Municipal Code to increase composting; Formation of Cincinnati Community Composting Collaborative and USDA award to create FW drop offs and create medium scale compost sites; FW/Compost Pilot at City Recreation facility; Compost Trainings by national and local NGOs; County trainings with state partner Rust Belt Riders &amp; City/County funding to local partners.</p>					
<b>Innovation</b>	<p>FW Cincinnati efforts are noteworthy for their holistic, comprehensive approach and promoting inclusivity and regional cooperation from the beginning. The 2016 FW Summit was the first time multi-disciplinary stakeholders across jurisdictions gathered, providing connection, identification of interests/needs/barriers and a framework to build on. Changes to city municipal zoning codes by an intra-city department and community stakeholder collaboration provided a path forward for enhanced composting within city limits. Issue-responsive working groups have evolved (i.e. how to improve quality of fresh food donated at food distribution sites and reduce waste while serving people with dignity). However, often the best innovation and most nimble responses occur with community stakeholders. La Soupe, an organization started in 2015 with a mission of Rescue-Transform-Share, has used a chef-based model, multiple innovative programs and a variety of in-person &amp; virtual culinary education opportunities to rescue 3M lbs. of food &amp; provide close to 2M restaurant quality,</p>					

	<p>ready-to-eat meals to food insecure people at their 100 partner organizations. La Soupe recognized food insecurity and poverty are closely linked with a person's health and many neighbors are focused on preventing or managing diet-related illnesses, so La Soupe developed a new program, Nourish The 'Nati, preparing evidence-based, nutritious meals and programming for food-insecure individuals seeking healthier choices.</p>
<b>Impact</b>	<p>Local food rescue organizations and small-scale composters self-reported 13,483.19 tons of food diverted from the landfill in 2021: 5,871.71 tons recovered for feeding people, 1,959 tons recovered for feeding animals and 5,652.48 tons for composting or industrial use (numbers not yet verified by the OEPA). In 2022 Cincinnati Health Department sent 2000 brochures promoting food donation from food service entities. HCR3Source funding (€77,466.86) for composting and FW prevention projects leveraged an additional \$99,526 (€198,832.65) in match dollars, diverted 305 tons from landfill &amp; touched more than 19,823 people and 23 organizations. City compost zoning code now allows more material to avoid the landfill, enhances soil at community gardens and has economic job creation for small FW haulers and compost companies. There is economic and enviro impact as business waste audits inform waste policies and practices. The public bus campaign utilized FW messaging on 200 buses for 5+ weeks and was estimated to generate 719,230 impressions. The HCR3Source Wasted Food Stops with Us marketing campaign has resulted in 2 million impressions (ads presented to consumers), 156,800 reached (views, clicks, interactions) 5,600 engaged viewers (visited WastedFoodStopsWithUs.org). A WFSWU Day resulted in 150,281 viewers through traditional media interviews and more than 150 in person participants. City funding is dependent upon grants; The County has financial resources and a designated Food Waste Diversion Coordinator.</p>
<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>This effort addresses all MUFPP FW recommended actions and some additional fields- Governance: facilitates collaboration across city agencies and between city and county governments; enhances stakeholder participation at the City level; identifies and maps local initiatives. Diets: encourages joint action by health and food sectors, Equity: promotes decent employment, promotes networks and supports grassroots activities. Food Production: promotes and strengthens urban ag food production and processing, improves reuse in agriculture and food production. FW Cincinnati has involved many entities, including but not limited to multiple City departments, County government and several County Departments, multiple business entities, numerous NGOs, school systems, one state and two federal public institutions, regional and national collaborators (see list of Actors and Stakeholder Involvement). Cincinnati has been intentional in broad territorial inclusion ranging from a neighborhood level (all 52 Cincinnati neighborhoods are involved in GCP creation), to the county, to the state, to the region (NRDC Food Matters Great Lakes Cohort) and the broader US and now has the potential for international sharing/learning. Additionally, within GCP effort, there is a focus on equity and engaging in a variety of strategic outreach efforts to include historically marginalized voices, including Black, Brown, Refugee and Immigrant and low-income residents, thus deepening the inclusion.</p>
<b>Challenges and learning needs</b>	<p>1) The City needs to create a comprehensive Zero Waste Plan, or at the very least, a comprehensive organics waste plan that could in turn more robustly inform the required policy and programs needed to achieve diversion goals. 2) The City Charter prohibits charging for trash collection, so it has been challenging to incentivize recycling and we anticipate the same would be true for wide-scale organics/FW collection. 3) Does having a significant poverty rate and high rental rate impact the development of policies and programs and how to ensure they do not disproportionately impact the most vulnerable? 4) Creating alignment between the City's waste diversion plans and the County's Waste Diversion Plan goals to make the most impact across the city/county region. 5) Scaling up composting to more robust level, requires large compost facility 6) How to best use the MUFPP to impact efforts moving forward and having political will lined up. 7) City Funding and additional funding mechanisms.</p>