

N A S H V I L L E

FOOD

WASTE

I N I T I A T I V E

Up to 40%

food wasted in America each year

\$408 Billion

**value of wasted food in the U.S.
each year**

\$1,300

**annual cost of food waste to the
average American adult**

1 in 8

**people are food insecure in
America**

**If we reduce food waste
by just 30 percent and
redistribute it
effectively, we could
feed up to 42 million
food-insecure
Americans every day.**



URBAN GREEN LAB™

Source: Natural Resources Defense Council

The Challenge

Up to forty percent of the food supply in the United States goes uneaten every year. When we waste that food, we also waste all the water, energy, agricultural chemicals, labor, and other resources to grow, store, and transport it. Most waste occurs among consumers, restaurants, grocery stores, and institutional foodservice, and 95 percent of that food is disposed in landfills where it emits methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. The federal government has set a national goal of reducing food waste by 50 percent by 2030.

The Nashville Food Waste Initiative

The Nashville Food Waste Initiative (NFWI) works to grow local policies and strategies that reduce wasted food by rescuing surplus food for people in need, composting, digesting food scraps to build healthy soil, and preventing food waste from the start. A program of Urban Green Lab in partnership with the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), the NFWI is part of the effort to achieve Nashville's goals of zero waste and 80 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Cities play a critical role in meeting America's food waste challenge. In 2015, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) selected Nashville as its pilot city for developing high-impact, on-the-ground actions to address this issue. The NFWI partners with local governments, restaurants, retailers, consumers, and more through various research, mobilization, and education projects that leverage work already underway and implement new approaches. We share our stories of success as models regionally and nationwide.

Urban Green Lab

We teach communities how to live sustainably. Founded in 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee, Urban Green Lab is working to make sure learning how to live sustainably is a part of life. We partner with champions in organizations to organize teams, train them how to teach others, and connect them to resources that make a lasting difference.

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