

---

The Global Food Donation Policy Atlas Webinar Series

# National Strategies for Food Waste and Food Donation

23 April 2024



---

ADVANCING FOOD LOSS & WASTE + FOOD DONATION POLICY

# THE GLOBAL FOOD DONATION POLICY ATLAS

Professor Emily Broad Leib,  
Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic



THE GLOBAL  
FOOD DONATION  
POLICY ATLAS




Webinar co-hosted by:



# Mapping food donation policies around the world

The Atlas evaluates laws and policies across the most relevant issue areas relating to food donation and food loss and waste. Explore the map to compare and contrast existing legislation and learn from best practices around the world.

Explore Interactive Map 

## POLICY AREA: DATE LABELING

-  Strong Policy
-  Moderate policy
-  Limited policy
-  No policy
-  Ratings unavailable  
*Click to view research*
-  Forthcoming

# Webinar Goals

---

Today's web conference is part of our multi-session series focused on topics in law and policy related to food waste, food recovery, and food donation.

## Goals:

- **Understand concerns and challenges** regarding the design and implementation of national food waste strategies;
- **Learn of best practices from around the world** in using national strategies to reduce rates of food waste and encourage food redistribution;
- **Discuss policy considerations** to encourage the adoption of national strategies worldwide.

# Atlas Project Goals

---



## IDENTIFY AND ANALYZE LAWS

*Share relevant laws, common legal barriers in 25+ countries.*

## RECOMMEND POLICY CHANGE

*Tailored for each country to achieve stronger, more sustainable food donation operations.*

## GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

*Through an online, interactive atlas tool that allows for comparison between countries; through webinars and conferences.*

## TAILORED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

*Strategic engagements with in-country partners on policy implementation.*

# Legal Issues

---



Food Safety



Date Labeling



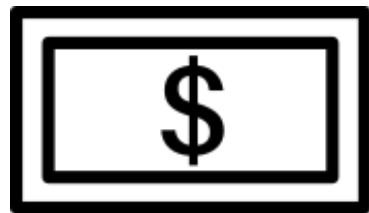
Liability



Food Waste  
Law & Policy



Tax Incentives  
& Barriers



Requirements  
& Penalties



Govt. Grants  
& Incentives

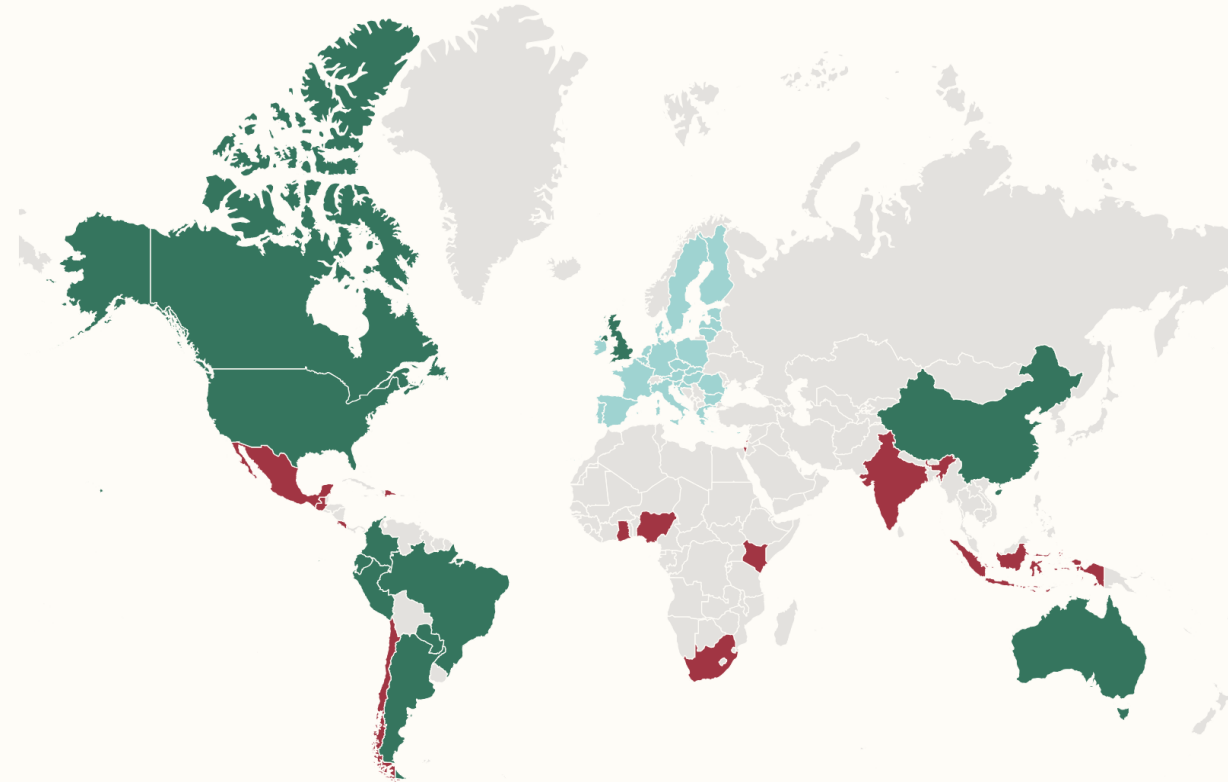




ISSUE BRIEF

**PROMOTING  
FOOD DONATION:**  
National Food  
Waste and  
Donation  
Strategies

APRIL 2024



**NATIONAL LAW OR POLICY ON FOOD WASTE**

Transportation and storage costs are often cited as the main expenses that manufacturers, retailers, and restaurants need to overcome to donate food. Tax incentives, including deductions and credits, can help to offset these financial inputs and make donation a more attractive, affordable option.

- Strong Policy
- Limited Policy
- Ratings Unavailable
- Moderate Policy
- No Policy
- Forthcoming

# Explore Key Policy Issues



## Date Labeling

Confusing date labels on food products are a major driver of food waste and an obstacle to food donation. Laws should differentiate between quality- and safety-based labels to reduce unnecessary waste.

[Learn More](#)



## Food Safety for Donations

Clear, accessible guidance on food safety—specific to donated food—is necessary to encourage donation and protect public health.

[Learn More](#)



## Food Waste Deterrence

Governments should establish food donation requirements or food waste deterrence laws that require that food is recovered and donated instead of going to waste.

[Learn More](#)



## Government Grants & Incentives

National and local grants and incentives can scale food donation, especially in countries where tax benefits are insufficient or where limited infrastructure hinders food recovery.

[Learn More](#)



## Liability Protection for Donations

Lack of clear or comprehensive legal protections can result in food donors discarding safe, surplus food instead of donating it to food recovery organizations.

[Learn More](#)



## National Law or Policy on Food Waste

Adopting a national food loss and waste or food donation framework can help governments advance food recovery efforts along the supply chain.

[Learn More](#)



## Special Report: Food Donation Operations During COVID-19

Amid the COVID-19 crisis and exacerbated rates of food insecurity, urgent and effective policy opportunities are needed to scale food recovery operations.

[Learn More](#)



## Tax Incentives and Barriers

For food donors, fiscal barriers, such as high transportation and storage costs are a barrier to donating to food recovery organizations. Tax regimes can play a crucial role in discouraging or incentivizing donation.

[Learn More](#)

## ISSUE BRIEFS

- Date Labeling
- Liability Protection
- Tax Incentives
- Food Safety
- Food Waste Deterrence Policies
- COVID Response (2-part series)
  
- National Strategies (Release Tomorrow)
- Emissions Reporting (Release Tomorrow)
- Carbon Accounting (Coming Soon)
- Government Grants + Incentives (Coming Soon)





# Turning to Our Session

---

Discuss **best practices, challenges, and opportunities** regarding national strategies to address food waste, food recovery

**Moderated discussion** with speakers

**Open floor** discussion amongst all speakers and attendees

## Moderator

**Ambassador Ertharin Cousin**, Founder and CEO Food Systems for the Future; Managing Director Good Food Opportunity Fund; Distinguished Fellow Chicago Council on Global Affairs; Visiting Scholar Stanford University Center-Food Security and Environment

## Speakers

**Lana Coppolino Suárez**, Associate Manager in the Materials Management Branch, The Environmental Protection Agency, USA

**Pete Pearson**, Senior Director, Food Loss and Waste, World Wildlife Fund, USA

**Sarah Pennell**, Chief Operating Officer, Foodbank Australia

**Valentina Huepe Follert**, Circular Economy Office, Ministry of the Environment, Government of Chile (prerecorded message)

# Draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics

## *Development Process*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Sustainable Management of Food  
April 23, 2024







# Federal Interagency Collaboration to Reduce Food Loss and Waste

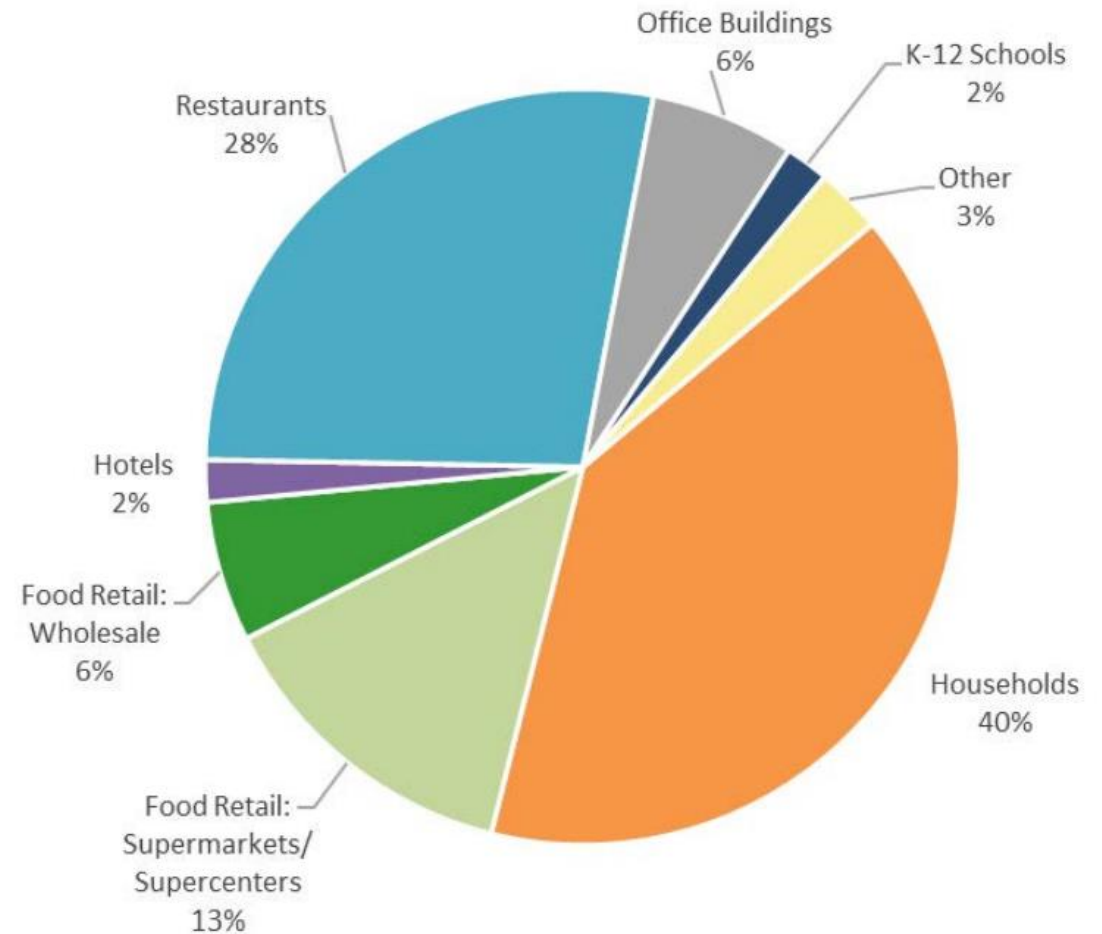




# Food Waste in the U.S.

- **66 million tons** of wasted food was generated in the food retail, food service, and residential sectors.
- **Most of this waste was sent to landfills.**

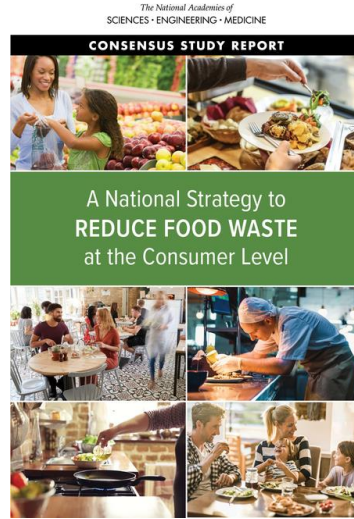
Distribution of Wasted Food Generation from the Food Retail, Food Service, and Residential Sectors (2019)



# Strategy Milestones Timeline

- ▶ **April 2019** - EPA, USDA, FDA Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Federal Interagency Strategy to reduce food waste, prioritizing six action areas in which to coordinate efforts.
- ▶ External Partner Input (e.g., ReFED Roadmap, US FLW Policy Action Plan)
- ▶ **November 2021** - National Recycling Strategy posted
- ▶ **December 2021** - Key FLW External Partner Input Meeting
- ▶ **December 2022** - Biden-Harris Administration led an Interagency Policy Committee kick off
- ▶ **May 2023** - Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution released for public comment
- ▶ **December 2023** - Draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics released for public comment

# External Partner Input



## PREVENTION



Optimize the Harvest



Enhance Product Distribution



Refine Product Management



Maximize Product Utilization



Reshape Consumer Environments



Strengthen Food Rescue

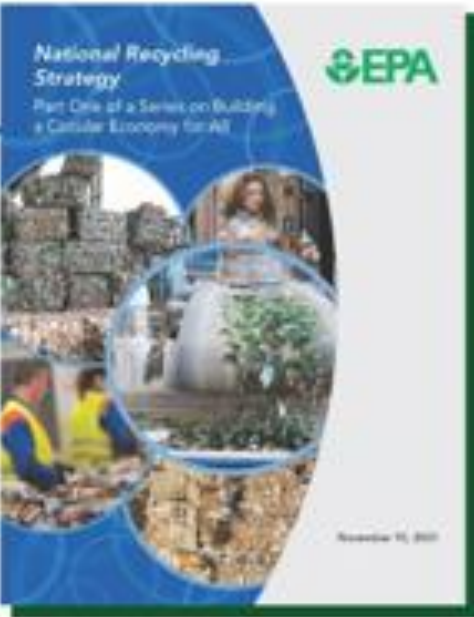


Recycle Anything Remaining

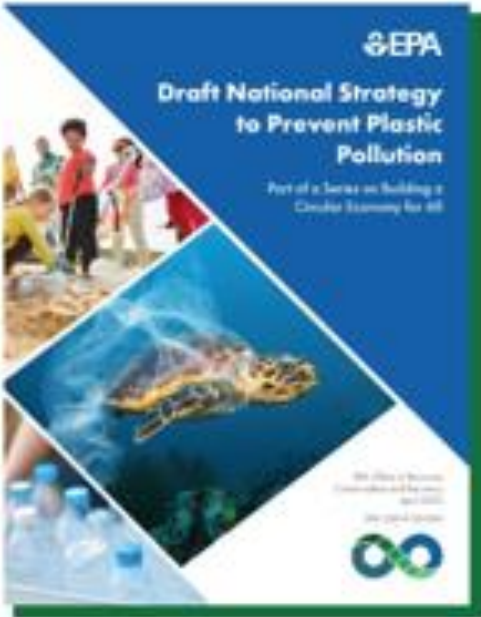
## RESCUE

## RECYCLING

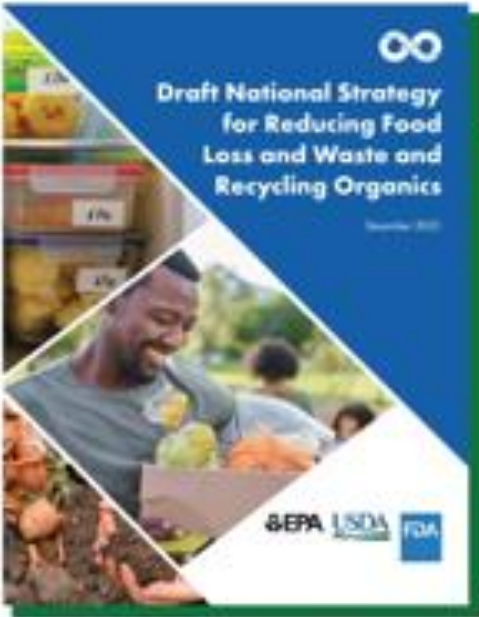
# Support for Building a More Circular Economy



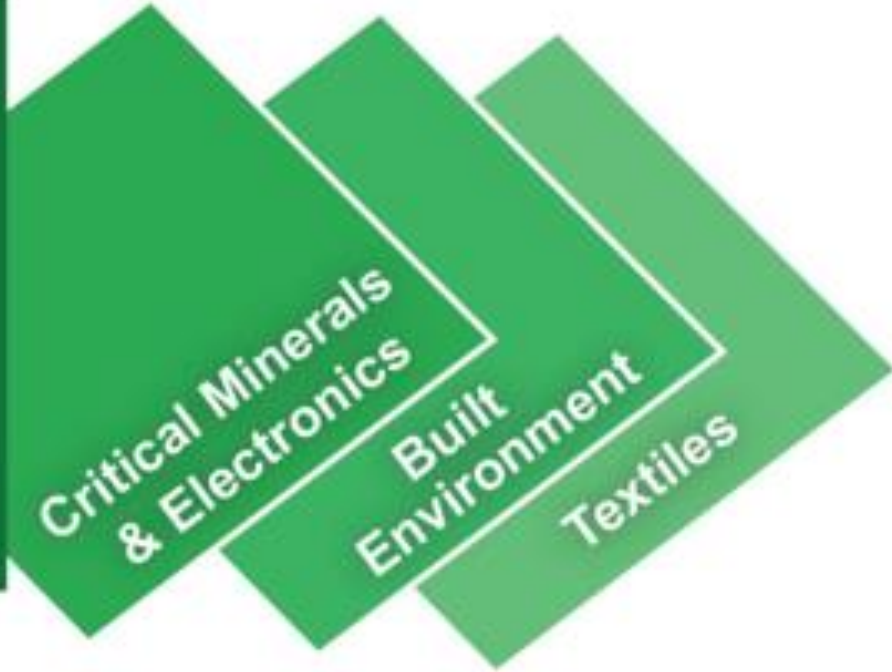
National Recycling Strategy



National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution



National Strategy to Reduce Food Waste & Organics



To Come

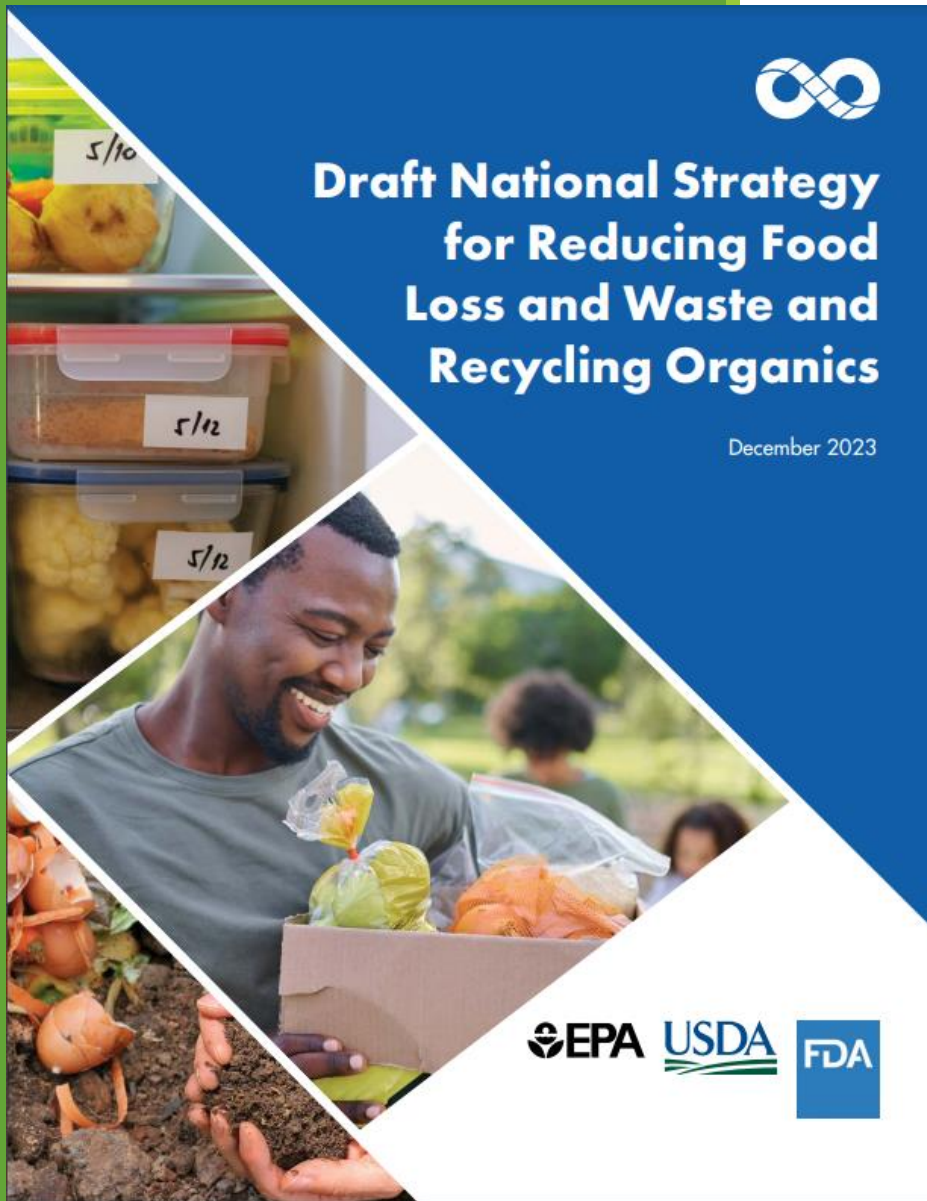
In Place



# From Internal Draft to... Public Release *DRAFT*

- ▶ March - May 2022, Multi-Agency Strategy Drafted
- ▶ May - **September 2022**, Administration Review
  - ▶ Response to interagency and administration comments
- ▶ December 2022, Launch of a Biden-Harris Administration Food Loss and Waste Interagency Policy Committee
- ▶ October 2023, restarted interagency review of the draft strategy
- ▶ **December 2023**, Draft strategy announced and posted
  - ▶ Federal Register Notice, 60-day Public Comment Period
- ▶ Communication Plan → web content, press release
  - ▶ All products requiring interagency review





# Draft National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics

## *Objectives*

- 1. Prevent** the loss of food.
- 2. Prevent** the waste of food.
- 3. Increase** the recycling rate for all organic waste.
- 4. Support** policies that incentivize and encourage food loss and waste prevention and organics recycling.

# Next Steps

- ▶ Interagency review of over **10,000 comments** received during the public comment period
- ▶ Anticipated release later this year

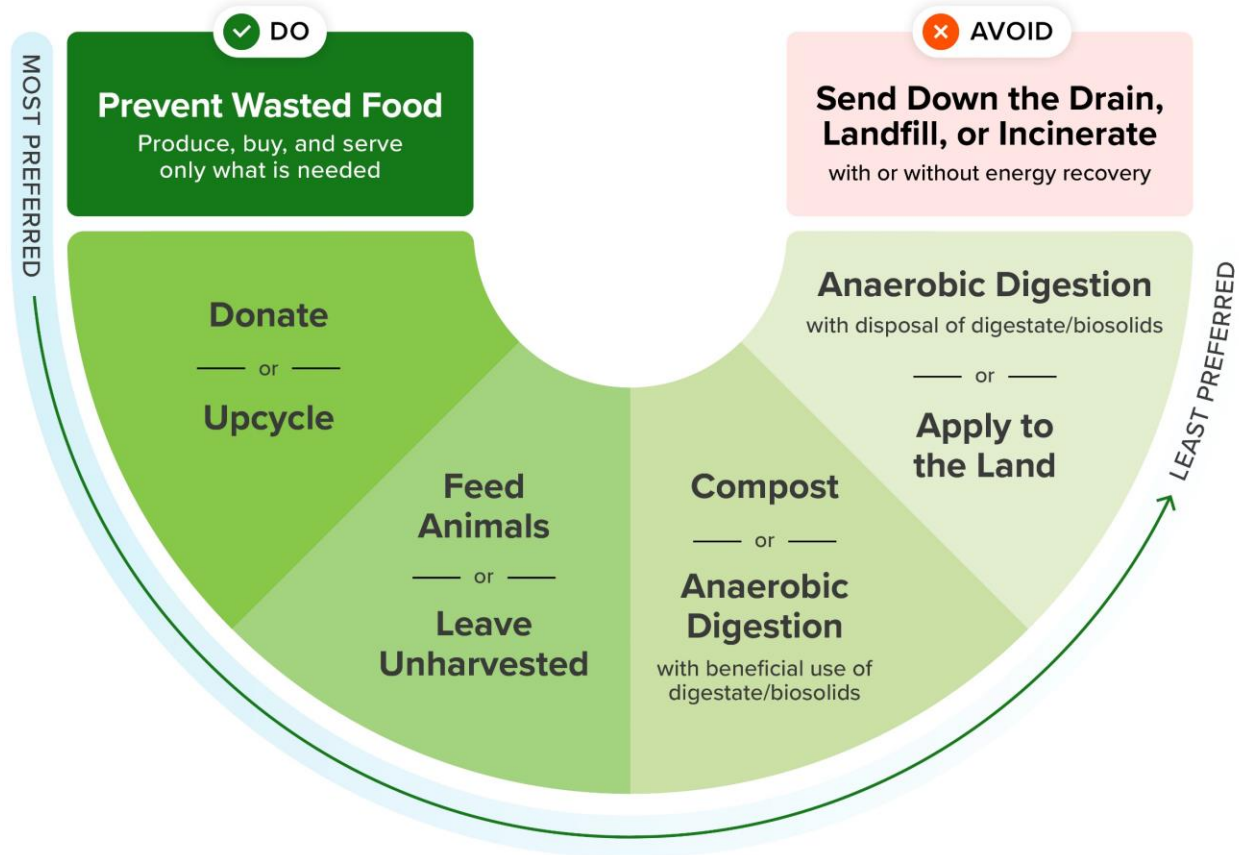
# Resources related to Donation

- ▶ EPA Sustainable Management of Food
  - ▶ Food Donation Basics
  - ▶ Excess Food Opportunities Map
- ▶ USDA Food Loss and Waste
  - ▶ Donating
- ▶ FDA Food Loss and Waste
  - ▶ Key Steps for Donating Food - For Retail Food Establishments
- ▶ **Food Donation Improvement Act**
  - ▶ On Jan. 5, 2023, President Biden signed into law the Food Donation Improvement Act (FDIA). The bipartisan bill passed in the Senate by unanimous consent and in the House by voice vote at the end of December. President Biden signed bill S5329 into law.
  - ▶ The FDIA amended the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act.



# Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



October 2023

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/wasted-food-scale>



Thank You

[SMMFood@epa.gov](mailto:SMMFood@epa.gov)





---

The Global Food Donation Policy Atlas Webinar Series

# National Strategies for Food Waste and Food Donation

23 April 2024







**70%** of biodiversity loss is due to food & agriculture production







# Food Loss/Waste Strategy

1



HOSPITALITY  
TOURISM

2



RESTAURANTS  
FOOD SERVICE

3



RETAIL  
GROCERY

4



FARMS

5



SCHOOLS





**U.S. Food  
Waste Pact**



**PACIFIC  
COAST**  
Food Waste  
Commitment



# First Food Circularity Investment



**Colombian Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) that enables surplus food matching between food producers, retailers and foodbanks**

**\$250K investment, to support**

- **Preparation for 2024 Series A**
- **Improvements in technology & platform**
- **Scale pilots across Mexico & LAC region**



Photo Credit: Fundación Soclar

## ATLAS PROJECT

Website Link:

<https://atlas.foodbanking.org/>

### JOIN UPCOMING WEBINARS

Emissions & Food Waste Reporting:  
**May 16th, 2024**

Government Grants & Incentives:  
**June 2024**





Thank you!

[atlas.foodbanking.org](https://atlas.foodbanking.org)

