



RECYCLINGWORKS IN MA SPRING 2025 FORUM

5/20/25



City of Boston
Food Justice

MISSION

The mission of the Mayor's Office of Food Justice (OFJ) is to build a food system that is equitable, resilient, sustainable, and just.

In pursuit of this mission, OFJ will work to expand equitable access to nutritious food with respect to affordability, physical accessibility, and cultural connectedness; support Boston's food economy; and promote environmentally sustainable and resilient food production.



STRATEGIC PLAN



- **Goal 3: Increase food recovery from public and private institutions and strengthen pathways to connect food insecure residents with fresh, healthy recovered food. Strategies:**
 - Reduce food waste generated by public and private institutions by increasing donations of recoverable food
 - Support improved coordination between emergency food organizations, food recovery entities and wasted food generators across the city of Boston and regionally -- using approaches that destigmatize recovered food for all residents
 - Identify infrastructure gaps that are roadblocks to scaling distribution of recoverable food to food insecure communities



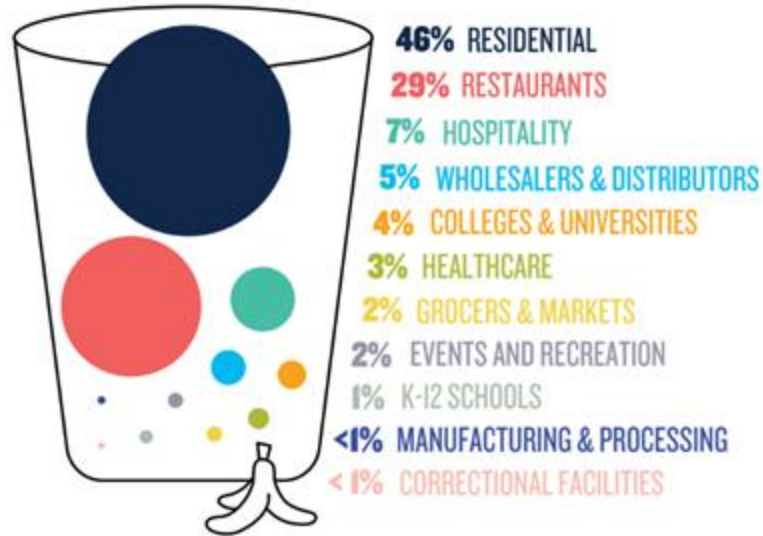
CITY OF BOSTON FOOD RECOVERY INITIATIVES



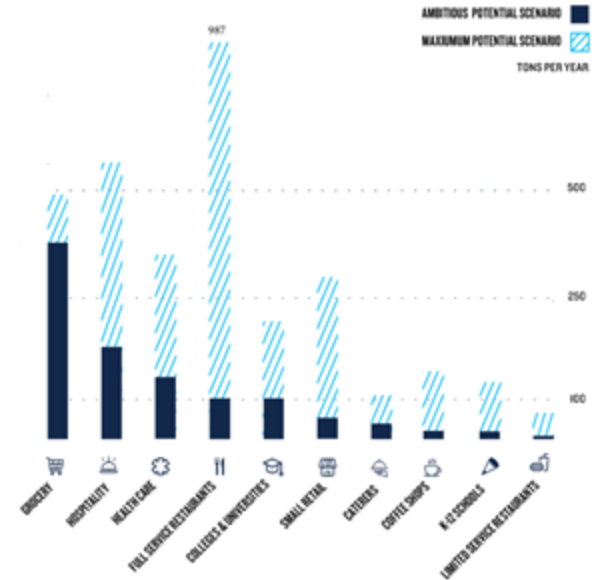
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FOOD MATTERS -- NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

Boston Wasted Food Generation



Boston Food Recovery Potential



FOOD RECOVERY ASSESSMENT

OBJECTIVE

- Evaluate the food recovery landscape in Boston and help identify interventions by the City to the City's food recovery ecosystem to improve effectiveness, responsiveness to community needs and reduce wastage of surplus food.

PROCESS

- Phases: Pre-work 1)Research 2)Engagement 3)Synthesis & Recommendations

HIGHLIGHTS OF FINDINGS

- **Assets/Enabling Environment**
 - variety of models to support food recovery; technical assistance; MA organics ban
- **Core challenges**
 - Food Recovery Side: need for infrastructure and labor; more streamlined education and permitting around food safety
 - Food Donor Side: both information about donation and incentives to donate -- including coordination
 - Both sides: data to communicate available food in real time; demonstrate the value of food recovery



COLLABORATIVE FOOD DISTRIBUTION HUB AND NETWORK



CITY OF BOSTON/OFJ ROLE

- **Funder; Participant in design and planning**

COMPONENTS

- **Infrastructure**
 - refrigerator and freezer space
 - space for receiving, storing, packing, staging, distributing food
- **Collaboration**
 - community-based food access partners come together
- **Increase fresh, perishable food including recovered and donated food**
 - through citywide distribution and connecting to a “choose your own food” style pilot space



HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS THROUGH COLD STORAGE GRANT

PURPOSE

- Funding strategies that expand refrigeration and freezer space to ensure food (including recovered and donated food) is fresh, safe and available to Boston residents

DETAILS

- Funds: ARPA dollars totaling \$500,000
- Duration: Approx. 2 years through Nov 2026
- Awards: 12 in amounts from \$8,000 - \$80,000

AWARDEE SPOTLIGHT

- Centre for Faith, Art & Justice's purchase of an electric cargo van helps:
 - to increase recovered fresh produce for food programs by 40%
 - to double the amount of food recovered from Haymarket



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LOOKING AHEAD



NEXT STEPS

- **Prioritizing Assessment Recommendations**
 - Categories:
 - Incentives
 - Education and Awareness
 - Permitting and Policy Change
 - Funding, Resources and Infrastructure
 - Convening and Value Chain Coordination
- **Implementation of Assessment Recommendations**





THANK YOU

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