

THE PROBLEM

In the United States, an estimated 30-40% of the food supply is wasted. **In Connecticut, over half a million tons of food is wasted annually.** Every stage of the food system contributes to this figure, from farms and processing plants to grocery stores and households.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Addressing this waste not only benefits the environment but also provides a solution for reducing food insecurity.

CURRENT POLICY STATUS

- The CT Commercial Organics Recycling Law (CGS 22a-226e) reduces waste by requiring large commercial generators to improve efficiency, donate surplus food, or divert food scraps to composting and other processing facilities.
- Organic Waste Bans have been successful in Massachusetts, Vermont, and California in the past year. Additionally, New York has a Food Donation and Food Scrap Recycling Law.

LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS

- Lower the threshold for food scrap generators to participate in the CT Commercial Organics Recycling Law to increase food waste recycling.
- Require a surplus food donation program for food waste generators.
- Classify food scraps as recyclable to promote municipal and household food scrap recycling.

These expansions represent a commitment to reducing food waste, cutting methane emissions, and addressing food insecurity.



Food waste accounts for **58% of methane emissions** from municipal waste, equivalent to 50 million gas-powered cars.

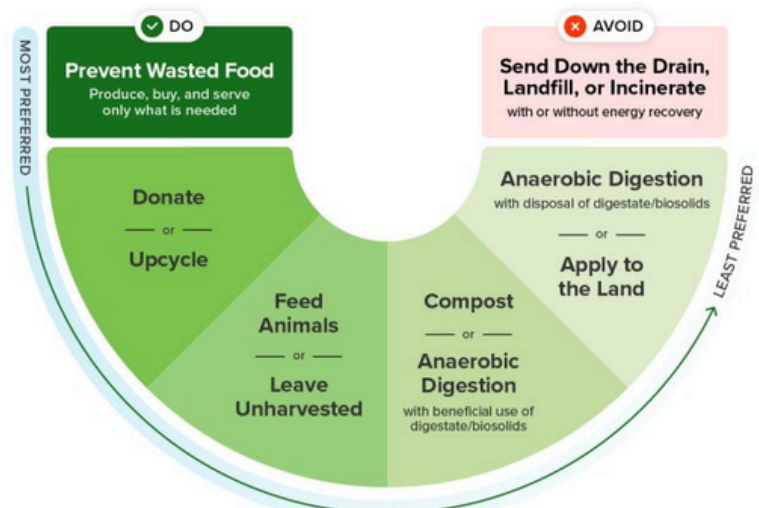
21% of U.S. freshwater use is wasted on uneaten food.



Food waste costs businesses and consumers **\$165 billion annually**, including unsold inventory, spoilage, and disposal.



1 in 8 Connecticut residents (470,000 people) and 1 in 6 children **face food insecurity**. Nationally, food insecurity increased by 23% since 2021.



Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food

MORE INFORMATION

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