



DENVER FOOD MATTERS

CONNECTING TO THE VISION

Winnable Goal:

- 57% reduction in tons of residential food waste collected by the City

Priority: Resilient

- Reduce amount of food going to waste in the City and County of Denver

Strategies:

- Support consumer education and reduce the amount of food going to waste in the City and County of Denver
- Encourage businesses to reduce food waste and celebrate expanded food donation efforts
- Expand residential and commercial composting opportunities to reduce bulk and emissions at landfills

PROJECT NAME: Food Matters
PROJECT DURATION: 2 year pilot, then continuous implementation
PROJECT LEAD: Natural Resources Defense Council

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Food Matters project is exploring work with the City and County of Denver to advance strategies that have a significant impact in reducing the amount of food being wasted, prioritizing preventing food surpluses and feeding more people. The City and County of Denver is deeply engaged with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to integrate multiple strategies to prevent wasting food, rescue surplus food for those in need, and recycle food scraps. NRDC will partner with city officials over the next two years to engage stakeholders, while identifying, designing (or modifying as needed), adopting, and in some cases implementing programs and policies to address food waste.

CASE STUDY // SUPPORTING RESEARCH

An estimated 40% of the U.S. food supply goes uneaten each year. This takes an enormous environmental toll in terms of water, energy, agricultural chemicals, and labor that go to waste when food is discarded. At the same time, too many Denver residents are food insecure. Increased donation and re-purposing of food that would otherwise go to waste can play a vital role in meeting our community's food insecurity challenge and increasing the efficiency of the entire food system.

PROJECT LEAD

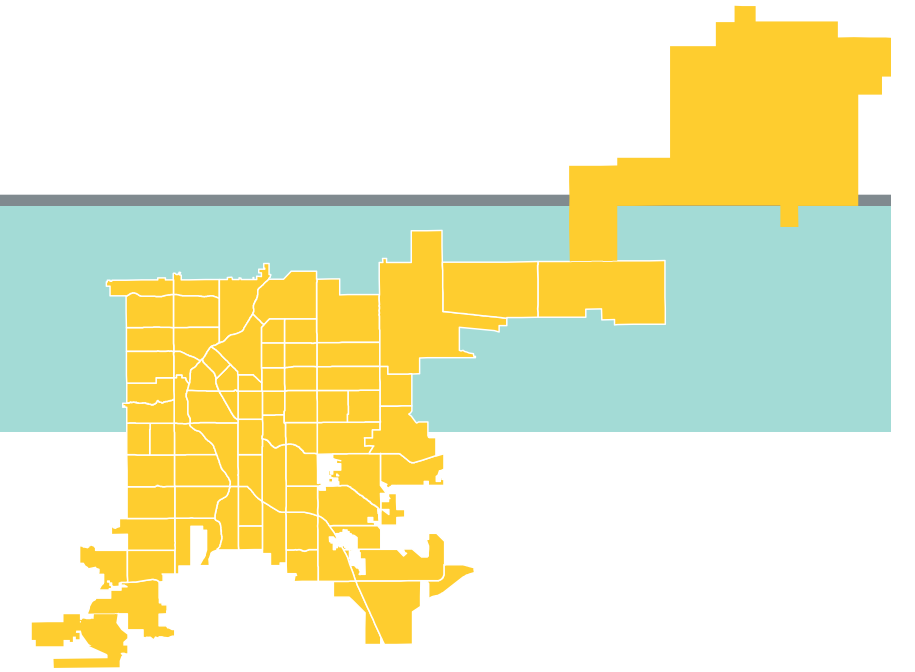
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
 DENVER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT PARTNERS

DENVER PUBLIC WORKS
 TBD

FUNDING DETAILS

FUNDING: \$200,000
SOURCE: THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION



PROJECT OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Households:

- Increase household food scrap recycling by diverting food waste

Neighborhoods:

- Increase neighborhood participation in the Sustainable Neighborhood Program and pilot neighborhood level food waste diversion

Businesses:

- Increased number of food service businesses in the Certifiably Green Business Program
- Increased amount of food waste prevented

2018

Deliverable: Wasted Food Prevention

- Consumer education
- Business engagement
- Health inspector education

2019

Deliverable: Surplus Food Rescue

- Food donation policy change
- Stakeholder engagement (e.g., businesses)
- Philanthropic investment to reach food donation potential

2020

Deliverable: Food Scrap Recycling

- Sustainability plan for residential composting
- Sustainability plan for commercial composting pilots
- TBD

THEN

Deliverable: Sustainability & Continued System Alignment

- Stakeholder/partner engagement to sustain efforts
- Ongoing City level support for Food Waste and Rescue initiatives
- TBD