

FOOD & ORGANICS SUBCOMMITTEE: MEETING #4

Meeting Date/Time: Friday, May 16, 2025, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Attendees

Subcommittee Members

Maya Buelow, Lane County

Jeanette Hardison, No Food Left Behind - Corvallis

Sydney Tamplin, OSU Student

Holly Stirnkorb, Metro

Facilitator: Pea Hamilton, Start Consulting Group

Subject Matter Expert: Bryce Hesterman, RRS

Researcher: Allegra Starr, RRS

Notes

Key Takeaways

- Formed 3 key recommendation areas:
 - 1) Prevention tools for commercial/institutional
 - 2) Regional coordination for donation
 - 3) Expanding collection/processing for single-family and multi-family
- Identified need for regional collaborative body to coordinate efforts across prevention, donation, and recovery
- Emphasized importance of data consolidation, mapping, and gap analysis to inform infrastructure needs
- Discussed challenges around multi-family organics collection and need for depackaging capabilities

Topics

Prevention Recommendations

- Develop regional awareness campaigns focused on prevention, donation, and gleaning
- Create best practice guidance/toolkit for institutional and business prevention programming
- Engage with existing partnerships (e.g. Pacific Coast Collaborative) rather than creating new structures
- Consider grants/incentives to drive adoption, potentially with local government matching funds

Donation Recommendations

- Engage with existing partnerships to build regional focus, including new national food rescue agency association
- Consolidate/map data on donation and food insecurity across full region
- Conduct infrastructure gap analysis to determine refrigeration, storage, transportation needs
- Develop funding plan to address identified infrastructure gaps

Recovery Recommendations

- Provide template language for adding food waste to franchise agreements
- Create RFP templates for organics processing that include depackaging capabilities
- Explore publicly-owned processing facility for Mid-Valley region
- Conduct analysis to determine processing capacity needs across region
- Consider local government compost buyback programs to support end markets

Ideas

- Developing a regional awareness campaign focused on prevention, donation, and gleaning
- Creating a best practice guidance and toolkit for institutional prevention programming, including for businesses, schools, and farms
- Increasing coordination regionally and growing infrastructure to support food donation
- Consolidating and mapping data on food donation and food insecurity across the region
- Conducting a gap analysis to understand needed infrastructure (e.g. storage, refrigeration, trucks) for food donation and developing a plan to fund it

- For food recovery, focusing on expanding collection in areas without single-family programs first, then moving to multi-family
- Exploring the potential for publicly-owned organics processing facilities in the Mid-Valley region
- Considering how grants or incentives could help drive prevention and donation efforts

Considerations

- Adapting solutions to different geographic contexts and organizational needs - the group recognized that one-size-fits-all approaches won't work, and solutions need to be flexible.
- Balancing prevention, donation, and recovery - there was discussion around how these different strategies overlap and complement each other.
- Engaging the right stakeholders - the group talked about involving local governments, businesses, schools, farms, food banks/rescue orgs, and associations to build a comprehensive regional approach.
- Data and information sharing - consolidating and mapping data on food waste, food insecurity, and existing infrastructure was seen as important.
- Funding and incentives - the group explored different funding sources and mechanisms, like grants, local government matching, and potential state legislation.
- Regulatory and policy considerations - things like franchise agreements, flow control, and land use permitting were discussed as potential barriers or enablers.
- Prioritizing commercial/institutional over residential - the group felt the greatest potential impact was in the commercial and institutional sectors.
- Sequencing and timelines - the group discussed a phased approach, starting with building partnerships and doing assessments before implementing programs.

Questions

- Should the toolkit/guidance for prevention include farms, or is that too much of a stretch compared to businesses and institutions?
- Who should be the driving force behind the regional awareness campaign? Is it a new collaborative body, or an existing entity like Metro or DEQ?
- What is the process for getting food waste collection added to franchise agreements or municipal licensing? Is it more about updating contract language vs. an RFP process?
- For the infrastructure gap analysis, should it focus just on commercial/multi-family, or also consider single-family residential?
- What role can local governments play in guaranteeing markets/end-uses for the compost produced from the recovered organics?
- How can the group leverage or build upon existing regional partnerships and initiatives, like the Pacific Coast Collaborative and the Grow Food Summit in Lane County?
- What are the specific data and mapping needs to get a comprehensive view of food donation infrastructure and food insecurity across the region?
How can the recommendations be sequenced and prioritized, especially given the upcoming 28th meeting deadline?

Action: Research and analysis

- Conduct a regional gap analysis to understand the current capacity and infrastructure needs for food donation and recovery, including:
 - Mapping the locations of food generators, food rescue organizations, and processing/composting facilities
 - Quantifying the amount of food waste generated and currently recovered/diverted
- Explore existing regional partnerships and initiatives, such as the Pacific Coast Collaborative and the Grow Food Summit in Lane County, to understand how to leverage and build upon those efforts.
- Research successful models for local government procurement/buyback programs for compost, and develop template language that could be included in processing facility RFPs.

- Investigate funding sources and mechanisms, such as grants, state legislation, and local government matching, that could support prevention, donation, and recovery initiatives.
- Compile best practices and case studies on institutional food waste prevention programs, including examples from Metro, Lane County, and other leading communities.
- Assess the current state of food waste collection in multi-family housing across the region, and identify barriers and opportunities for expanding those services.
- Develop a clear understanding of the regulatory and policy landscape, including franchise agreements, flow control, and land use permitting, that impact organics infrastructure development.