

# SAVE MORE THAN FOOD

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## FOOD BUSINESSES

### REDUCING FOOD WASTE IN FOOD BUSINESSES

Nearly **one million pounds** of food is sent to the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill every day. When food goes to waste – so does all of the time, money, and resources that went into producing and distributing it. That’s why SWACO and the Central Ohio Food Waste Initiative brought together over 150 partners from across the region to create the Central Ohio Food Waste Action plan and established a goal to cut food waste in Central Ohio in half by 2030.



## WASTED FOOD = WASTED RESOURCES



Food waste costs Central Ohio an estimated \$400 million every year. By making small adjustments to purchasing and menu offerings, practicing safe food donation, and diverting food waste by feeding animals or composting, your business can save money, preserve natural resources, and be a better neighbor by providing meals to hungry members of your community. Save More Than Food aims to help food businesses realize all the benefits of reducing food waste by providing case studies, guides, signage, communication tools and more to help you take food waste off the menu.



#### Lost Meals

On average, every Central Ohio resident sends 260 pounds of food to the landfill each year – that’s equivalent to throwing away 145 potential meals.



#### Lost Money

On average, every Central Ohio resident wastes \$375 a year on food that they throw away.



#### Lost Resources

By wasting food, we also waste environmental resources that were used to grow our food – soil, energy, water, and more.

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## Measure your Food Waste

As the old saying goes, “You can’t fix what you don’t measure.” There are a variety of food waste evaluation tools available, with a wide range of complexity. You can use audits to see snapshots of your waste stream (with methods ranging from visual audits and employee surveys to in-depth waste audits), or you can use real-time food waste measurement technology to monitor your food waste production. Go to [SaveMoreThanFood.org](http://SaveMoreThanFood.org) to choose the food waste measurement tool that works best for your business.



## Prevent Food Waste

Of all the ways that you can reduce food waste in your business, prevention has the greatest potential to improve your business’s bottom line. Use tracking technology to monitor your food waste production in real time. Once you understand where and why your business produces food waste, take action by making changes in purchasing, adjusting menus, or conducting employee trainings to both reduce your food waste production and save money for your business.



## Rescue and Donate Food

Safe food donation of excess food both reduces food waste and allows your business to provide fresh meals for hungry members of your community. Learn about easy ways to start a food donation program with local examples, connections with local partners, and guidance on liability protection and tax benefits at [SaveMoreThanFood.org](http://SaveMoreThanFood.org).



## Divert Food Waste

Some food scraps are unavoidable- like lemon rinds and avocado pits- but those items can still be valuable sources of nutrients either for feeding animals or for composting. Learn from local champions of food waste reduction, connect with local compost collection services, and find tips and resources that will help you set up food waste diversion at [SaveMoreThanFood.org](http://SaveMoreThanFood.org).

Find guides, case studies, signage and additional resources at [SaveMoreThanFood.org](http://SaveMoreThanFood.org).

## GET INVOLVED

Central Ohio businesses have resources available to help them reduce food waste. Here is a list of a few places to start.

### Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO):

Help your team see the big picture case for waste diversion by touring the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill. Learn about waste diversion including both food waste, and how to recycle right at home and at work.

### Engage your Co-Workers:

Using the Save More Than Food Toolkit, you can educate your co-workers on the importance of food waste and provide reminders around your workspace. Download the Save More Than Food Toolkit for presentation slides, brochures, posters, videos, and more to spread the word on reducing food waste.



This program is brought to you by SWACO, in partnership with the Central Ohio Food Waste Initiative. Learn how you can make a difference at [SaveMoreThanFood.org](http://SaveMoreThanFood.org)

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