



## Food Matters Initiative

### Briefing Sheet

#### Background:

- Up to 40 percent of food in the United States is wasted, contributing to extensive environmental, economic, and societal impacts. But solutions to the enormous challenge of food waste can create equally extensive benefits, particularly at the local level.
- By reducing the amount of food that is thrown out, cities can stabilize their waste management costs and make progress toward climate and sustainability goals. By rescuing surplus food, municipalities can address food gaps in local communities. And by recycling food scraps, cities can minimize what goes into landfills and incinerators.
- Through the Food Matters program, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) will provide extensive technical assistance along with a small amount of funding to support a cohort of 5 cities in the Southeast.
- The Food Matters project at NRDC partners with cities to achieve meaningful reductions in food waste through comprehensive policies and programs. They previously worked with Denver, Nashville, Baltimore and New York. In the Food Matters Regional Initiative, city representatives network with one another, with NRDC, and with local partner organizations to set goals, develop programs, and identify regional strategies that help maximize their resources.
- The Food Matters 2020 Southeast Cohort consists of: Memphis, Nashville, Asheville, Atlanta, and Orlando.
- This grant will help the city increase awareness around food waste prevention to residents, tourists, city employees, and students and to businesses and facilities via food waste audits. Organics collection in the city will increase and there may be a chance to work with local health inspectors to incorporate more training on food waste and donation.





### **Food Matters Project Overview:**

- This project will build upon current city programs and our Green Works zero-waste goals while implementing new strategies to decrease the amount of food being sent to the landfill and reducing the amount of greenhouse gasses that enter our atmosphere.
- Cities were provided with a subset of 6 NRDC strategies, of which they will choose 3-4 to implement.
- **CORE REQUIREMENTS:** In order to participate in the cohort, the applicants must commit to the following core requirements:
  - [1] Convene a local working group to drive progress on selected strategies
    - Include staff from multiple agencies, local partners and stakeholders outside of city government, etc.
    - Discuss existing work, goals and priorities, and preferred method of engagement • Regularly engage in updates / check-ins
    - Assign a point person for the initiative who can devote an estimated average of 3-5 hours per week
  - [2] Develop and implement a multi-year work plan to address food waste
    - During the engagement with NRDC, implement 3-4 NRDC-recommended strategies
    - Provide NRDC with necessary data to run the baseline calculator (if this has not already been done)
    - Develop a metrics framework and track progress on food waste reduction
  - [3] Make a public commitment to reduce food waste or public announcement regarding this new commitment to participate
  - [4] Participate in the regional cohort
    - Join monthly working group calls with regional cohort cities and NRDC
    - Attend 1-2 in-person regional convenings per year (NRDC will subsidize travel costs; could be virtual depending on circumstances)
  - [5] Submit bi-annual progress reports including, but not limited to, narrative and metrics around the city's progress on agreed upon strategies



### **City of Orlando chosen strategies and activities:**

1. Conduct a food waste audit at government food service operations and/or provide technical assistance for food businesses/institutions to conduct food waste audits
  - Conduct food waste audit at Orlando International Airport (performed by ecoPreserve - City and NRDC to provide technical assistance)
  - Conduct food waste audit at neighborhood centers (50% sample size, 6-8 sites)
  - Qualitative survey of employee food waste practices
2. Implement organics waste collection at city offices and city-leased properties
  - Solid Waste and Fleet and Facilities
  - Neighborhood centers
  - MCO \*pending audit
3. Include food waste prevention messaging in existing literature distribution and on website and/or Use Save the Food ads in public spaces
  - Include wasted food prevention messaging in city employee newsletters (monthly), Office of Sustainability quarterly newsletters (all)
  - Include wasted food prevention messaging in partnership with Lynx to include signage at bus stops, busses
  - Include tips to reduce food waste and food waste facts on city food waste page of website
  - Use social media to share food waste messaging
  - Include food waste messaging in the Tiny Green Home kitchen
  - Include wasted food prevention messaging in city office breakrooms
  - Distribute printed materials in community centers
4. Conduct health inspector training and distribute information to food businesses encouraging food donation and prevention from food facilities (TBD).

Outside the scope of this project, but tying in, the Office of Sustainability would like to conduct a food waste rescue pilot at select neighborhood centers. It was found in a previous food waste audit that each child in our afterschool program wastes an average of 1.4 pounds of food per day.

### **Community outreach and stakeholder engagement:**

- Good Foods Central Florida (GFCF) will serve as our local working group to drive progress on metrics. The core group will be finalized in October 2020. Additional stakeholders will be invited to pertinent meetings.
  - DoH, DACS, DBPR, Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, Florida Division of Hotels and Restaurants
  - GOAA, ecoPreserve
  - Neighborhood center leadership
  - Solid Waste and Fleet & Facilities leadership



**Timeline:**

- October 2020- June 2021 (possibility to extend to June 2022)

**Funding:**

- \$16,100 in funding will be allocated to each city by NRDC.
- NRDC will handle the funding and engage directly with the local partner or expenses that are incurred by the project, up to the \$16,100.

## **SOUTHEAST PER CITY BUDGET**

Category	Cost per SE city
Local partner support	\$2,000.00
Regional convening - travel, lodging, food, etc.	\$1,300.00
Local, in-city convening	\$500.00
Materials and printing	\$7,500.00
Public outreach	\$4,800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,100.00</b>

**Fiscal Impact:**

- This initiative will not require the City to expend any resource that were not budgeted in the fiscal year 20-21 budget.
- All items that require approval will come before the City Council for approval.