

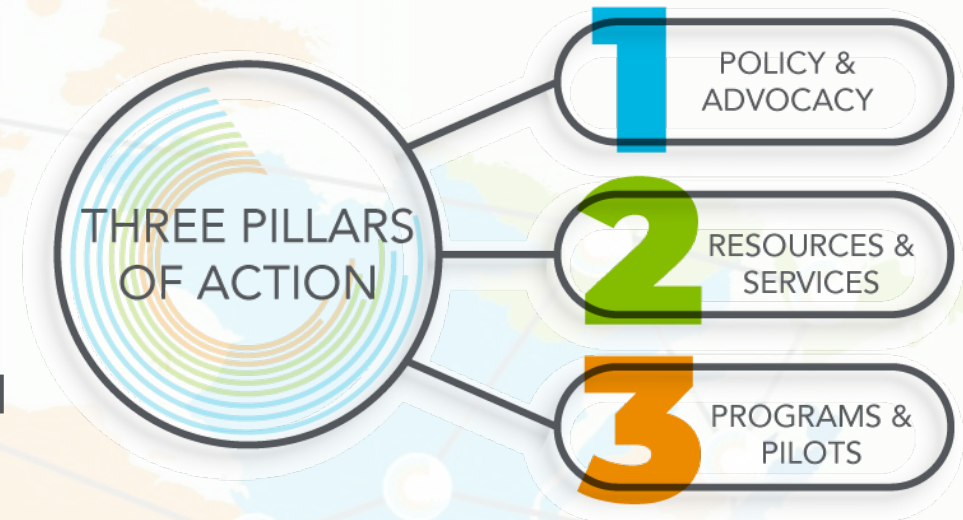


IC&I FOOD RESCUE & ORGANICS DIVERSION PILOT

**Pilot Program to Improve Management and Recovery
of Food and Food Waste in the Industrial,
Commercial, and Institutional Sectors**

CIRCULAR INNOVATION COUNCIL

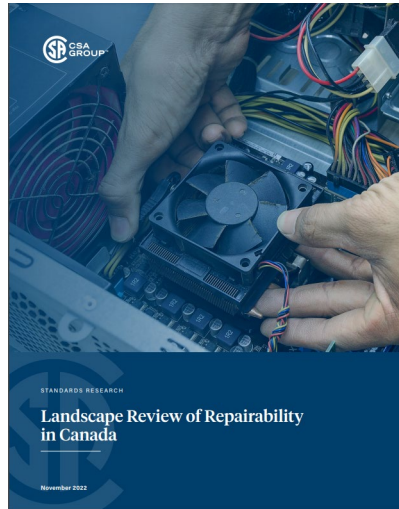
- Established as Recycling Council of Ontario in 1978
- Reimagined as **Circular Innovation Council** in 2020 - broader national mandate
- Established and expanding our membership and collaborations to reflect a wide diversity of sectors and stakeholders
- Mission:** Putting Circular Economy Concepts Into Action



Policy & Advocacy

Resources & Services

Programs & Pilots



Circular Procurement: Strategies for Circular Criteria

Considerations to support the development of circular procurement criteria.



Consultation paper: a proposed federal plastics registry for producers of plastic products



Canada



Driving the Circular Economy Through Public Procurement

CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ACTION
KNOWLEDGE SERIES



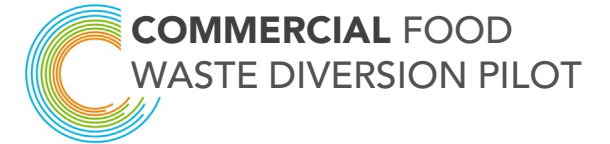
BUILDING CIRCULARITY INTO OUR ECONOMIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT



CIRCULAR CHRONICLE



CIRCULAR NEWSHUB



PROCURE CIRCULAR

Advancing Circularity Through
The Power Of Procurement



SHARE REUSE REPAIR HUB



PLASTIC ACTION CENTRE



A Comparative Assessment of Standards and Certification Schemes for Verifying Recycled Content in Plastic Products

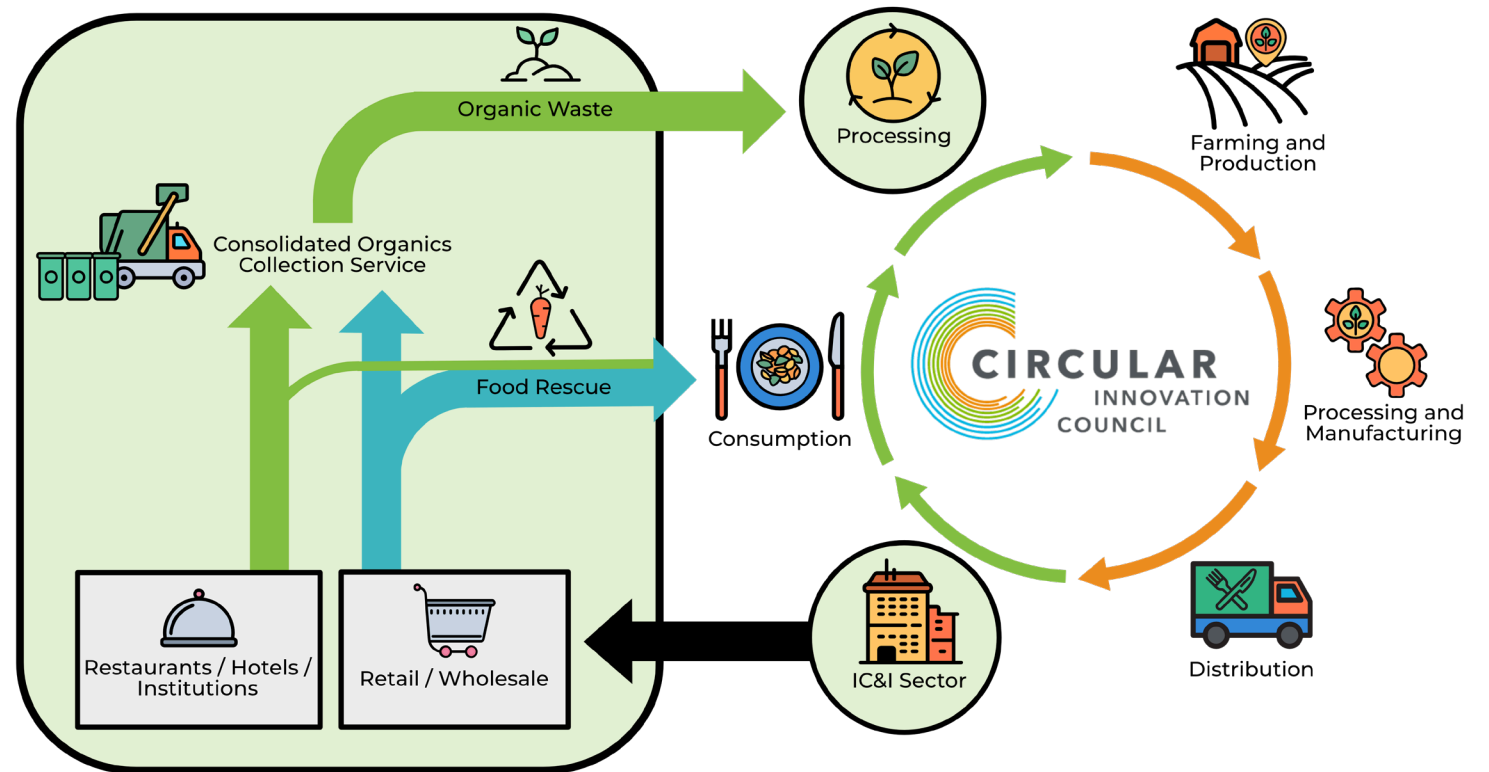
Eunomia Research & Consulting with support from Circular
Innovation Council

October 19, 2021



AGENDA

1. Background
2. How the pilot works
3. Current business impacts
4. Interim learnings
5. Questions/Comments



AWARDS



FOOD WASTE
REDUCTION
CHALLENGE



MILAN
URBAN
FOOD
POLICY
PACT

WHY DIVERT FOOD WASTE?

Over 50%

of all food wasted
in Canada


1 in 6 Canadians
suffer food insecurity

5-9 Million Tonnes

IC&I food waste
Canada/year

THE CHALLENGE

Most major cities in Canada have food waste diversion services (e.g. green bins) for single-family residential sector, **but not businesses or multi-family**

IC&I food waste diversion services - costly or complicated to implement **without support**

How do we make food waste diversion affordable & effective for businesses of all sizes?



OUR CIRCULAR SOLUTION



Simplify food
rescue



Divert organic
waste



Shared collection
for IC&I

Reduces



Cost



Waste



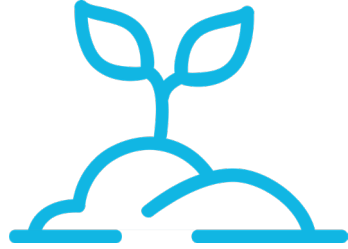
GHG emissions



OUR CIRCULAR SOLUTION



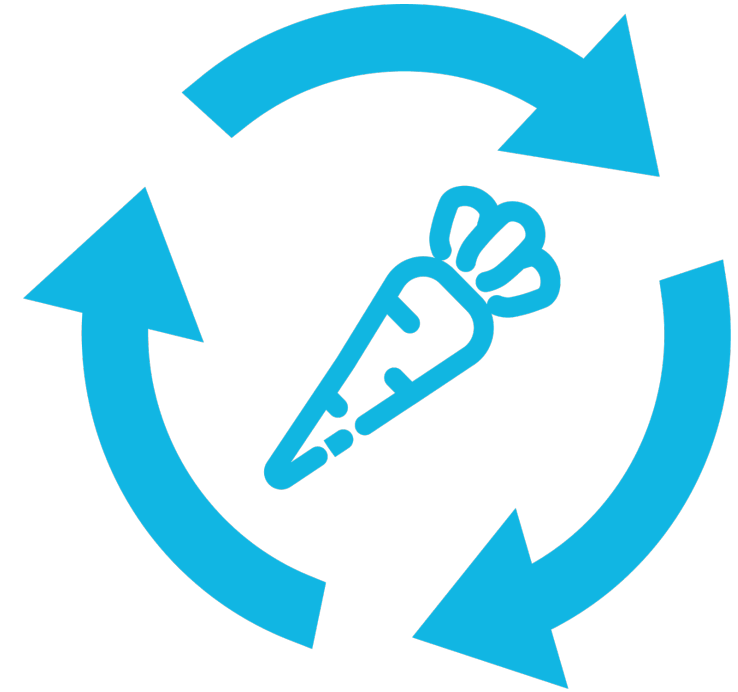
Simplify food
rescue



Divert organic
waste



Shared collection
for IC&I



Increases

Access to nutritious food
Nutrient-dense compost

Reduces



Cost

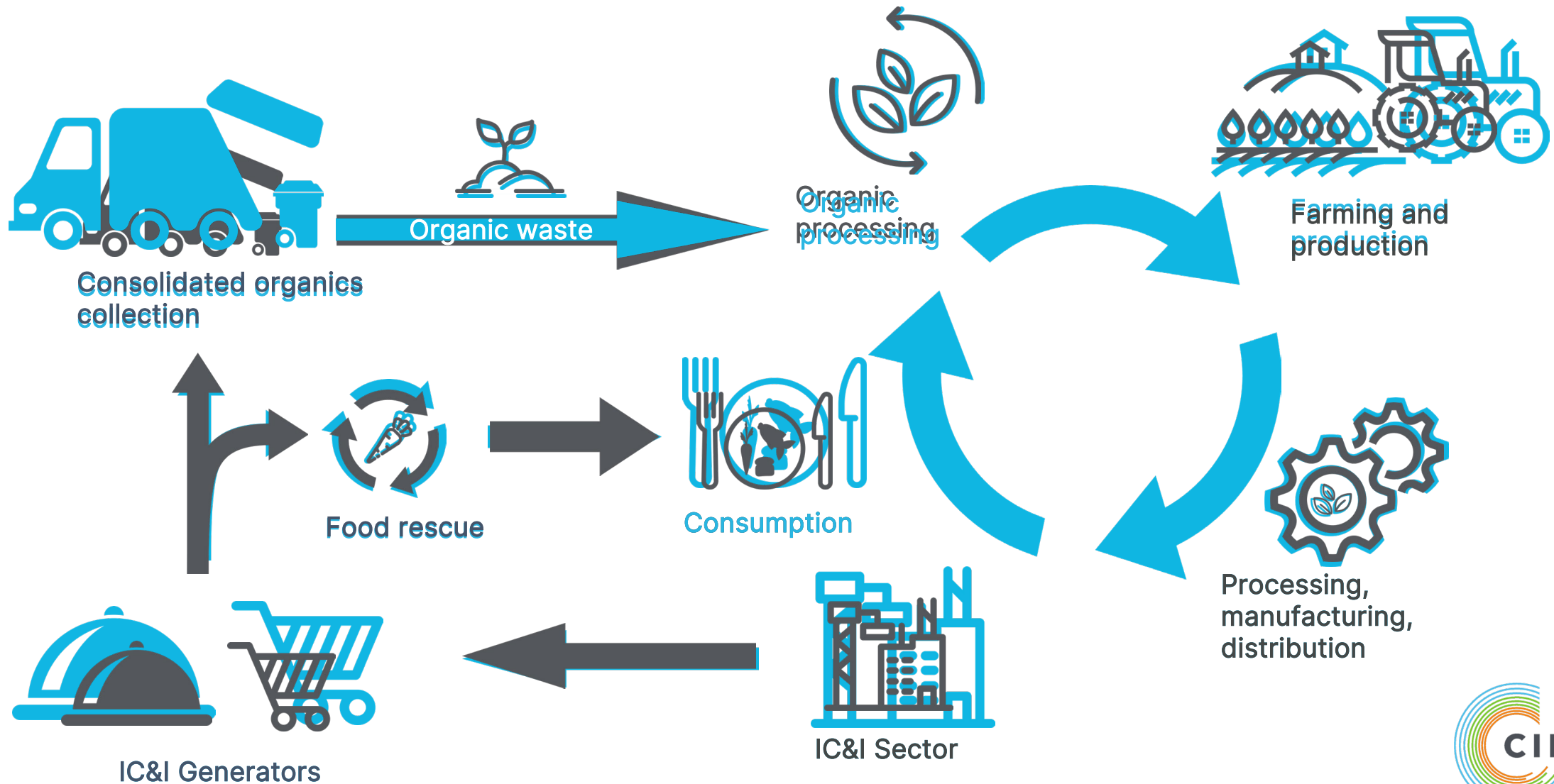


Waste



GHG emissions

HOW OUR PILOTS WORK

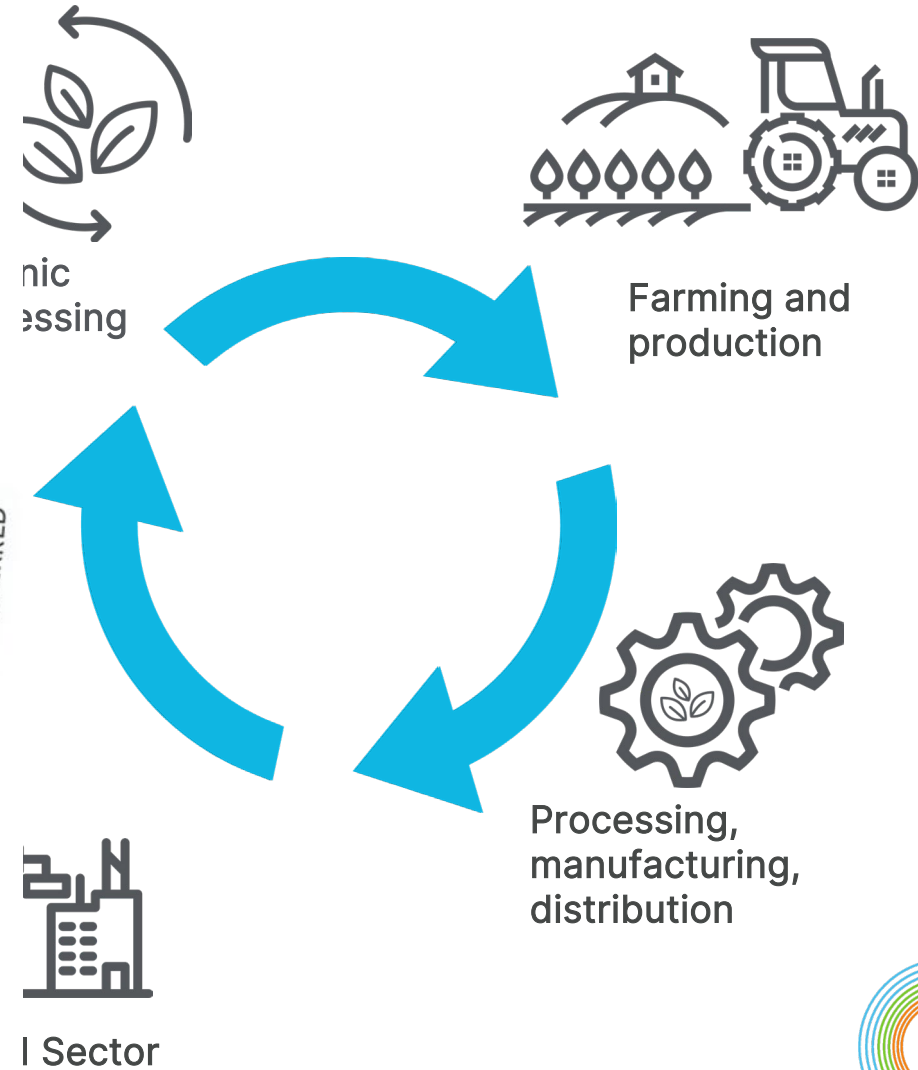
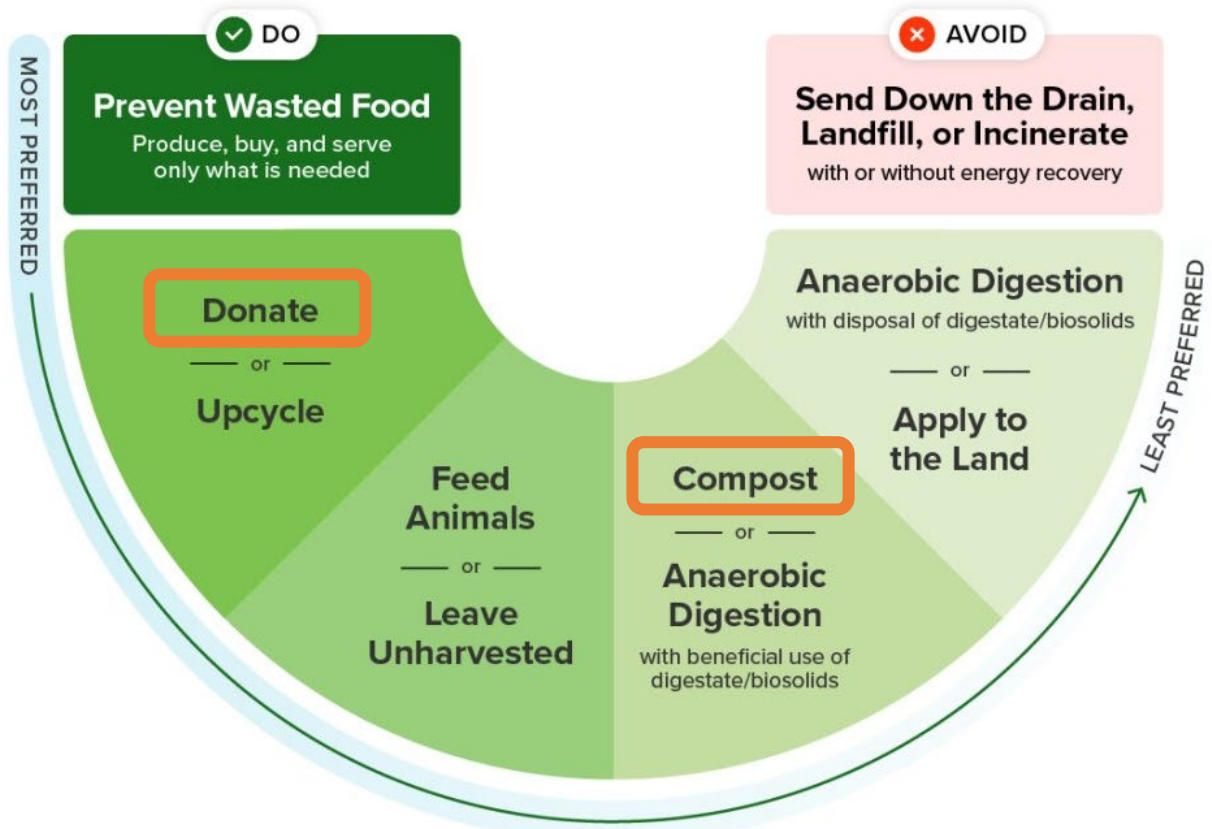


HOW OUR PILOTS WORK



Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



Source: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/wasted-food-scale>



OUR PILOT PROGRAMS



Launched first pilot Fall 2021 – City of Guelph and Wellington County (ON)



MUNICIPAL HOSTS



SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



OUR PILOT PROGRAMS - SCALING NATIONALLY

Launched second pilot June 2024 in Alberta

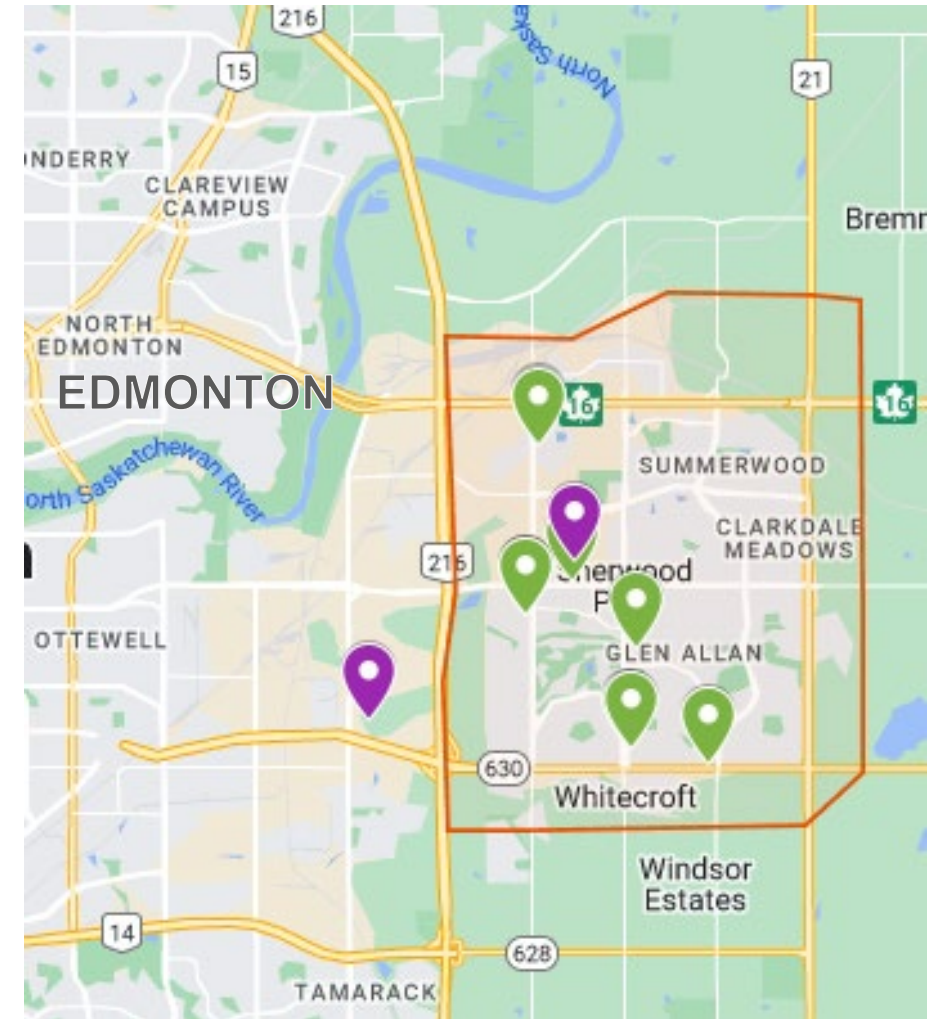
MUNICIPAL
HOSTS



OPERATIONAL
PARTNERS



SPONSORS
AND PARTNERS



BENEFITS OF BUSINESS PARTICIPATION



Cost Savings: Lower cost of collection service

Space Savings: Reduction in garbage dumpster sizes and collection frequency if diverting high volumes

Brand Appeal: Attractive to customers and staff valuing sustainability

Customized Support and Solutions: Advisory services tailored to business's needs

Climate & Social Impact Reporting: Quantity of organics diverted, food rescue impacts, and greenhouse gas emissions avoided

Easy Transition: Test and refine food waste diversion solutions before regulations are enforced

CURRENT IMPACTS

In 2.5 years – 70 participating businesses have diverted



462,000 kilograms of food waste diverted from landfill



86,200 meals recovered from surplus food donations



230 tonnes of compost turned into healthy soil amendment



5,014 tonnes of CO₂e avoided from entering atmosphere



LEARNINGS – FOOD RESCUE

Food Rescue service through the pilot model effectively supports food retailers with larger, consistent donation volumes

- Reduce volume surplus food going into disposal while supporting community food security
- Businesses save \$ in garbage & compost collection costs by donating food *first*
- Collect data - weight, surplus food type, and GHG emissions



"Food Rescue app provided a convenient way for Foodland to connect with local agencies & further reduce waste volumes by 30%."

Key Challenges – Non-retail SMEs (ie. hotels, hospitality, catering)

- Logistical limitations – cold storage, donation containers, small volumes of prepared food, sporadic timing of donation availability
- Small generators often interested in donating surplus food but **gaps in infrastructure support** hinder participation and edible food ends up in disposal as result

LEARNINGS – CONSOLIDATED COLLECTION COSTS

Pilot model effectively service various sized food generators in 9 IC&I sub-sectors at 1 day/week organics collection frequency

- Consolidated route **accommodates** most medium/large volume generators (ie. Grocery, long-term care) *and* small-volume food generators (ie. restaurants, hospitality, plazas, offices)



Current market structure: small & medium food waste generators may face **minimum # carts** to receive service

Pilot model: Consolidated route **improves** small and medium ICI access to organics diversion services – both through cost reductions and advisory services

Challenges

- Even optimized and consolidated routing did not achieve savings needed to match landfill disposal costs - **still 50+% greater than the cost of ON landfill disposal**
- **Low collection frequency** constrained participation of some very large generators needing multi-day service
- Need for **de-packaging services** for some large grocery retailers to capture most food waste for diversion

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

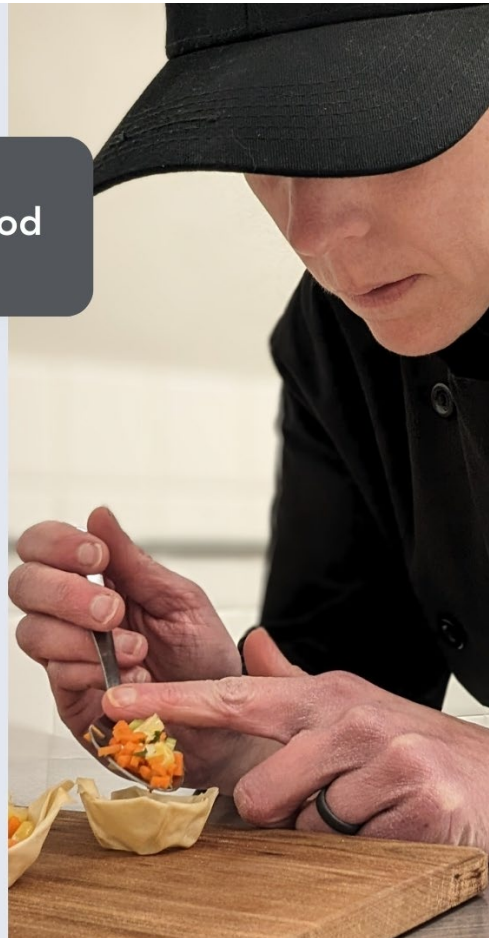
Championing sustainability and food waste reduction

"It was a no-brainer. Per bin, the cost to divert our waste is about half when compared to private haulers..."

Katherine Sowden, Owner & Operator
Bella Roma Foods



Guelph-Wellington's Commercial
Food Waste Diversion Collective



(Bella Roma Foods - Catering & Independent Grocer)



"Waste haulers were asking me to pay \$30-40/cart for organics collection, making it a challenge for us to divert food waste."

"The pilot has created a space for small businesses to access these collections for a price we can afford."

- ***Katherine Sowden,
Bella Roma Foods***



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Local Restaurant brands – Park Grocery

Serving up sustainable practices and food waste reduction

“Knowing the waste is being diverted from landfill and processed into premium compost... was what drew us.”

Fountain Santos, Managing Partner
Neighbourhood Group of Companies



Guelph-Wellington's Commercial
Food Waste Diversion Collective



Event Spaces & hospitality – Grand River Event Centre & Racetrack

Racing towards sustainability through circular food practices

“The environment is more important than any bottom line... I would absolutely recommend this program.”

Doug McCaig, Facilities Manager
Grand River Raceway and
GrandWay Events Centre



Guelph-Wellington's Commercial
Food Waste Diversion Collective



KEY LEARNINGS - POLICY

How do pilot learnings relate to policy?

In non-regulatory environments:

- Municipal, organizational, and industry **networks are vital** to recruiting businesses for organics collection and food rescue
- Participants reported **main motivations for joining** were environmental impact, staff engagement and retention, brand value, and the tailored advisory services we offer (prioritizing business's needs)
- Developing a collective option for small and medium sized food waste generators in advance of policy may set the market up for success (like Strathcona County) - enables cost savings from efficient routes to be passed onto businesses and institutions

Pilot data collected on food rescue and average organics diversion per business type and size

- Support policy makers and industry with detailed estimates of Canadian IC&I sectors

Increasing demand from municipalities looking to take action on ICI organics:

- **Need for more inter-jurisdictional dialogue** regarding IC&I organics and food rescue to support gaps in system that require further infrastructure, development, and support; clarifying roles of municipalities, provinces, feds

RESCUE. RECOVER. RENEW.



CONTACT

Maggie Bain

Project Manager

Circular Innovation Council

maggie@circularinnovation.ca

CircularInnovation.ca/FoodWastePilots