GET FOOD SMART TN

ANNUAL REPORT
2020
2020 was definitely one for the books as we experienced and faced many storms and unprecedented times. Our plans to coordinate and host food waste related workshops around the state, quickly came to a halt in the spring. Despite these roadblocks, we found other avenues and opportunities to engage with Tennesseans and continued our education and outreach efforts virtually.

During 2020, we developed resources for businesses and organizations to further their food waste reduction efforts, worked with Tennessee legislature to expand food donor liability protections in the state, collaborated with First Lady Lee to encourage Tennesseans to donate food, and hosted a webinar series focused on the different levels of the EPA’s Food Recovery Hierarchy.

We are amazed at the impact that Tennesseans were able to make in their communities, and the resiliency of the food service businesses and non-profits that overcame many challenges during 2020. We are looking forward to continuing to work together in 2021 to create even more opportunities to reduce food waste and increase food recovery and diversion in Tennessee.

Ashley Cabrera

Get Food Smart TN Program Administrator

40,000 Tennesseans reached through education and outreach efforts!
Participants diverted over *121,176,093 pounds* of food from the landfill through composting and donations.

**Participant Actions**

- 131 participants composting on-site or with a service
- 130 participants donated excess food
- All participants shared education on food waste with employees and/or customers

*Metrics included in this annual report are reflective of those actions self-reported by Get Food Smart TN Program Participants and Partners.*
OUR PARTNERS

We are so thankful to have incredible partners who are always striving to be better stewards of their environment through more sustainable management of food.

A Get Food Smart TN Partner is any group, organization or initiative that does not generate food waste or directly deal with food waste in a hands on manner, but work to promote, support and implement food waste conscious practices and policies across the state of Tennessee. Our Partners collaborate to promote the Get Food Smart TN recognition program, develop resources to address food waste related issues, provide technical assistance, conduct trainings and workshops, affect local policy, and take other actions to help reduce food waste.

Thank you to our Partners and all the work you do to combat food waste in Tennessee!

Want to become a Partner?

We are excited to partner with your group, organization or initiative to help raise awareness around food waste! To join us as a Get Food Smart TN Partner, please contact us at getfood.smart@tn.gov.
Education is key to changing habits that contribute to food waste. In 2020 we took our education virtual and seized opportunities for collaboration and policy change.

We collaborated with First Lady Lee’s office to educate Tennesseans about how they can help fight food insecurity through donating food, time, and other resources. We developed this one-page guide, and awareness video in this effort. During the 111th General Assembly food donor liability protections were expanded. Under the new law a food donor of apparently wholesome food, including items bearing a past best-by date, will not be held liable for any suits that arise from the conditions of the food, unless in the case of gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional conduct. Donors can also donate food directly to an individual.

We developed several infographics on various food waste related topics, including, source reduction, upcycled food, date labels, food donations, and more. Check out these resources on our website. We also began a four-part webinar series, Navigating the Hierarchy of Food Recovery, which focused on different strategies to reduce food waste outlined in U.S. EPA’s Food Recovery Hierarchy.