

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM



DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 22 June 2022 11:54 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Partner-Led Convening on the Hunger and Public Health Implications of Food Loss and Waste, Food Donation and Food Recovery
CONVENED BY	Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic, NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council), ReFED, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Region/City Cambridge
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://goodfooddialogues.com/dialogue/52026/

The outcomes from the Dialogues will be of use in developing the pathway to a healthier and hunger-free America. Each Dialogue will contribute in three distinct ways:

- Direct submission to the White House in advance of the Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health (for events and feedback received prior to the July 15th deadline)
- Published as public facing and searchable documents on the Good Food Dialogues website
- Rolled into a final report that synthesizes the feedback, ideas, and challenges shared throughout all the Good Food Dialogues. This report will not only be submitted to the White House but will also be used to inform a movement for change well beyond the White House Conference.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

100

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18 1 19-30 0 31-50 0 51-65 0 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

0 Male 1 Female 0 Non-binary 0 Prefer not to say or Other

PARTICIPATION BY RACE

0 American Indian or Alaska Native 0 Asian
0 Black or African American 0 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
0 White

PARTICIPATION BY ETHNICITY

0 Hispanic or Latino 0 Not Hispanic or Latino

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

0 Academia/education 0 Agriculture 0 Economic empowerment
0 Environment and ecology 0 Finance 0 Food consumer
0 Food distributor 0 Food production 0 Food processing
0 Food retail 0 Government 0 Healthcare
0 Health insurance 0 Hunger 0 Livestock
0 Nutrition 0 Public Policy 1 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0 Academic/Expert 0 Advocate
0 Corporation 0 Community Organization
0 Direct Service Provider 0 Farmer/Food Producer
0 Financial Institution 0 Impacted Individual
0 Logistics provider 1 Non-Profit
0 Policy Maker (current/former) 0 Small business
0 Student 0 Supplier
0 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

On June 22, 2022, the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic, NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council), ReFED, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) hosted a listening session with over 100 participants for the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health discussing the hunger and public health implications of food loss and waste, food donation and food recovery. Up to 40% of food in America goes unsold or uneaten, meaning that annually 80 million tons of surplus food are not consumed, and a large proportion of this wasted food is safe and edible. Prioritizing reducing food loss and waste and improving food donation and food recovery can increase food access, including access to healthy foods, and can improve nutritional security for low-income Americans. The listening session brought together food recovery organizations and food banks, local and state government employees, private sector representatives, representatives of nonprofit organizations, and experts on food loss and waste. Through the listening session, participants addressed ways in which the federal government, state, local and Tribal governments, private companies, nonprofits, and community groups can address the hunger and public health implications of food loss and waste and to encourage food donation and food recovery.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE PILLARS

- ✓ 1. Improve food access and affordability
- ✓ 2. Integrate nutrition and health
- ✓ 3. Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices
- 4. Support physical activity for all
- ✓ 5. Enhance nutrition and food security research

KEYWORDS

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ✓ Nutrition | ✓ Food Security |
| Healthcare | ✓ Economic Empowerment |
| ✓ Technology | ✓ Data & Evidence |
| Environment and Climate | Finance |
| Human rights | ✓ Innovation |
| | ✓ Policy |

MAIN FINDINGS

Participants focused on the environmental and social benefits of increasing food donation and food recovery as well as the stress that community-led food recovery organizations are under and the need for greater support, a variety of policy and funding actions that the federal government could take, specifically around liability protection, tax incentives for food donation, infrastructure and resiliency planning, funding gaps, and data collection and education opportunities, variety of opportunities for school districts, state, local and Tribal governments, private companies, and nonprofit and community groups to address food loss and waste and increase food donation. These ideas included opportunities for new legislation, better planning and coordination, public education and awareness campaigns, and additional funding to support food donation and recovery and reduce food loss and waste.

Participants also highlight opportunities for public and private sector collaboration around sharing best practices, increasing collaboration and coordination, and developing and scaling technology.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE PILLARS

- ✓ 1. Improve food access and affordability
- ✓ 2. Integrate nutrition and health
- ✓ 3. Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices
- 4. Support physical activity for all
- ✓ 5. Enhance nutrition and food security research

KEYWORDS

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| ✓ | Nutrition | ✓ | Food Security |
| | Healthcare | ✓ | Economic Empowerment |
| | Technology | ✓ | Data & Evidence |
| ✓ | Environment and Climate | | Finance |
| | Human rights | ✓ | Innovation |
| | | ✓ | Policy |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

How has food loss and waste, food donation, and food recovery impacted you, your family or your community?

Food choice is something that most of us have power over in our day-to-day lives and we can implement practices, such as rescuing food, to make a large social and environmental impact.

People working for food businesses want to reduce food loss and waste and increase food donation – many people say that they do not like to throw away food when others are hungry, as it goes against their principles and hurts morale.

It is important to make sure that we do not think of or imply in our communications that food donation is redistributing “waste” or use food recovery to dump low-quality food; rather it should be framed and communicated as redistributing food from an imbalanced system to improve availability of wholesome food for consumption.

Food donation initiatives do not solve hunger or food insecurity, only improve access. The federal government should be very clear about that in any plan, roadmap, or framework it develops. Those in the food rescue and recovery sector should aim to “work themselves out of a job” by addressing the root causes of hunger – including low and insufficient wages; high medical, housing and childcare costs; lack of transportation and access to quality, healthy, culturally-appropriate foods – and the government can take a larger role in addressing these root causes.

Preventing food from being wasted takes time and effort at both societal and personal levels.

Addressing food loss and waste through food donation, recovery, and strengthening regional food systems has the potential to impact historically marginalized communities by promoting economic development for the livelihood of women, BIPOC-owned businesses, farmers and growers.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE PILLARS

1. Improve food access and affordability
2. Integrate nutrition and health
3. Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices
4. Support physical activity for all
5. Enhance nutrition and food security research

KEYWORDS

Nutrition

Healthcare

Technology

Environment and Climate

Human rights

Food Security

Economic Empowerment

Data & Evidence

Finance

Innovation

Policy

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

What specific actions should the U.S. Federal government, including the Executive Branch and Congress, take to address the hunger and public health implications of food loss and waste and to encourage food donation and food recovery? What are the opportunities and barriers to achieving the actions? Actions should include specific policy and/or programmatic ideas and changes as well as funding needs.

Liability Protection for Food Donation

Make liability protection a priority, strengthen protections, and increase and improve communications to smaller establishments that these protections exist. Liability can be extended, for example, to food donated to organizations that charge a small fee for donated food, so that food rescue organizations can cover their operating costs and have more time and money to meet community needs.

Strengthen the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act by passing the Food Donation Improvement Act.

Expand liability protection to include coverage for gleaners who voluntarily harvest food.

Provide more guidance for potential food donors on liability protection and how food can be donated safely.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE PILLARS

1. Improve food access and affordability
2. Integrate nutrition and health
3. Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices
4. Support physical activity for all
5. Enhance nutrition and food security research

KEYWORDS

Nutrition

Healthcare

Technology

Environment and
Climate

Human rights

Food Security

Economic
Empowerment

Data & Evidence

Finance

Innovation

Policy

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

What specific actions should local, state, territory and Tribal governments; private companies; nonprofit and community groups; and others take to address the hunger and public health implications of food loss and waste and to encourage food donation and food recovery?

School Districts

Expand food system and food waste education in K-12 schools through state curriculum standards and emphasis of programs (e.g. Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program (FASLP)) that forge a connection to one's food and its origins so it is viewed as a valuable resource; this will allow people to take more ownership over their food and thus they will be less willing to let it go to waste.

Build food waste reduction into school routines by using Offer Versus Serve (OVS), which allows students to select options that they intend to eat and decline those they would not eat rather than serving all students options that they may not consume.

Increase the length of time for school lunches to ensure that children have enough time to wait in line to get their food and eat it.

Normalize and destigmatize schools donating surplus food, by making share tables, pop-up pantries and other food donation efforts a part of the school day that is supported by school district leadership as well as state and federal government (e.g., USDA).

KEYWORDS

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE PILLARS

1. Improve food access and affordability
2. Integrate nutrition and health
3. Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices
4. Support physical activity for all
5. Enhance nutrition and food security research

Nutrition

Healthcare

Technology

Environment and Climate

Human rights

Food Security

Economic Empowerment

Data & Evidence

Finance

Innovation

Policy

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

What are opportunities for public- and private-sector partners to work together to address the hunger and public health implications of food loss and waste and to encourage food donation and food recovery?

In answering this question, participants highlight opportunities for public and private sector collaboration around sharing best practices, increasing collaboration and coordination, and developing and scaling technology.

Sharing Best Practices

Share and amplify success stories of partnerships between retailers and food recovery organizations to model best practices for industry.

Conduct industry trainings on how to effectively draft contract agreements that allow for more flexibility in food donation, such as allowing for supplementary partnerships with smaller food recovery organizations instead of exclusive agreements with larger ones. For example, such contracts should at the least allow for other organizations to step in if food will be wasted due to a temporary failure of either party (many big box retailers have exclusive MOUs with only one organization that will not cover all storage or transportation needs, or does not have capacity to fill in the gaps for all donation types).

As part of federal grant application process, require large waste producers or big box retailers to demonstrate partnerships with a food donation organization. Require that such partnership include multiple organizations (small, large, and in-between) so that producers/retailers can mix and match their recovery and transportation needs with the organization that best fits the donation size/type.

Educate retailers on additional financial and environmental benefits of having food donated as quickly as possible (for example, less storage space needed and reduction in energy costs).

Share best practices, like information on frequency of pickups required to maximize surplus recovery.

KEYWORDS

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE PILLARS

1. Improve food access and affordability
2. Integrate nutrition and health
3. Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices
4. Support physical activity for all
5. Enhance nutrition and food security research

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Nutrition | Food Security |
| Healthcare | Economic Empowerment |
| Technology | Data & Evidence |
| Environment and Climate | Finance |
| Human rights | Innovation |
| | Policy |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

What are innovative, successful activities already happening at the local, state, territory, and Tribal levels that could inform actions at the Federal level?

State legislation that requires large food generators to donate surplus food: Alongside SB 1383 in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, and New York have requirements on the generators of food waste to keep any food out of landfills and instead donate edible food or recycle food scraps. These laws have increased the amount of food rescued.

Co-ops and Social Supermarkets increase food access: The National Cooperative Grocer's Association and Georgetown Law are working on establishing some in D.C., and another example is the National Black Food Justice Alliance.

Pair food distribution with wrap-around services: A best practice to help connect people to more services is to have a social worker at the food pantry who can help enroll people on SNAP and WIC right there. There are examples in the San Francisco Bay Area, and across the country, of this.

Remove barriers to food access: Many food banks and nonprofits across the country do not require anyone to show ID or proof of citizenship to receive food and they also make resources available in multiple languages.

Utilize shipping containers and empty lots: An organization in California converted a refrigerated shipping container into a storage location in West Long Beach in food desert area for partners in the area to store donated food.

KEYWORDS

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE PILLARS

1. Improve food access and affordability
2. Integrate nutrition and health
3. Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices
4. Support physical activity for all
5. Enhance nutrition and food security research

Nutrition

Healthcare

Technology

Environment and Climate

Human rights

Food Security

Economic Empowerment

Data & Evidence

Finance

Innovation

Policy

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE PILLARS

- 1. Improve food access and affordability
- 2. Integrate nutrition and health
- 3. Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices
- 4. Support physical activity for all
- 5. Enhance nutrition and food security research

KEYWORDS

- Nutrition
- Healthcare
- Technology
- Environment and Climate
- Human rights
- Food Security
- Economic Empowerment
- Data & Evidence
- Finance
- Innovation
- Policy

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Summary of FLPC-ReFED-WWF Listening Session**

https://goodfooddialogues.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/FLPC-NRDC-ReFED-WWF_WH-Listening-Session-Write-Up_FINAL.pdf

RELEVANT LINKS

- <https://chlpi.org/>
- **Technology to Prevent Food Waste in Baltimore School Kitchens**
<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/technology-food-waste-baltimore-schools-cs.pdf>
- **City-Based Food Sourcer Advances Food Rescue in Baltimore**
<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/food-sourcer-baltimore-cs.pdf>
- **Increasing Capacity for Food Rescue in Denver**
<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/we-dont-waste-food-recovery-denver-cs.pdf>
- **Metro Caring Food Waste Recovery Pilot in Denver**
<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/metro-caring-food-waste-recovery-denver-cs.pdf>
- **Boosting Prepared Food Rescue in Nashville**
<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/prepared-food-rescue-nashville-cs.pdf>
- **Equitable and Inclusive Food Waste Grant-Making in Denver and Baltimore**
<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/food-waste-grant-making-cs.pdf>