



GET FOOD SMART TN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023 Edition



Hi friends,

It is officially summer and with that we are seeing many farmers markets opening. Visiting farmers markets support not only farmers in Tennessee, but also build the local economy and reduces the need for transportation of food from other parts of the U.S. You can visit the [Pick TN website](#) to find a farmers market near you!

In other news, we have exciting metrics from our 2nd annual Food Waste Awareness Week below and an important update for our Recognition Program!

Thanks,

Ashley Cabrera

UPCOMING EVENTS



Tennessee Local Food Summit

December 1-3, 2023

This event supports a healthy local food system for Middle Tennessee by hosting events that educate and connect.

[Learn More](#)

RESOURCE



Zero Food Waste



Tennessee's 2nd annual Food Waste Awareness Week was a success! The graphic above shows the metrics from the collective efforts of states across the nation. In Tennessee, we reached over half a million citizens, and collected over 17,000 pounds of food during our Statewide Food Drive. We could not have done it without our amazing partners! Next year, we will be changing the week's name to match the national week, "Food Waste Prevention Week", but with the same mission. Save the date (April 1-7), and keep an eye out for information in the fall.

Coalition: State Toolkit

This toolkit is a culmination of lessons learned from state leaders and local advocates who have led the charge in developing and implementing all the top food loss and waste policies. The toolkit highlights 15 different food waste policy opportunities and best practices that policymakers and advocates can draw upon to accelerate food waste policy in their own states. Each policy is accompanied by model legislation that could be adapted for each state's unique context.

[Download Here](#)

OPPORTUNITY



Community Composting 101 Course

This course provides an overview of the importance of and



In April 2018, TDEC announced Get Food Smart TN with the inaugural participants of the Recognition Program. Fast forward five years and the program has grown into more than we could have imagined. Over the past five years, our now 192 members have diverted nearly 252 million pounds of food from the landfill through various food waste reduction strategies.

Though our mission has stayed the same, the tactics we have used have shifted over the last year and a half. Now more than ever, education and outreach are the leading ways in which we are fighting food waste in Tennessee. After discussions and many considerations, we have decided to phase out the Recognition Program portion of Get Food Smart TN. Starting June 30, 2023, we will no longer accept Recognition Program applications and will be removing requirements from the website. We will send out one more request for metrics in January 2024 to include in the Annual Update.

We plan to continue to recognize businesses and organizations who are doing their part to reduce food waste and increase food recovery and diversion in Tennessee, but on a voluntary basis, without reporting requirements. We will continue to connect entities together and provide technical assistance.

Moving forward, we will continue to house a map of entities who have food waste reduction strategies

science behind composting, and recommended best practices for implementing community-based programs. It includes an introduction and seven video-based training modules.

[Learn More](#)

FOOD WASTE RECIPE



Broccoli Stem Hummus



Where you store your produce matters! Check out our newest resource: [Smart Food Storage Guide](#)

and add to it as we learn of more. There will be an opportunity each year for entities to voluntarily report metrics of food waste diverted and/or recovered if they decide to do so. This information will be added to the map.

We would like to thank each of our participants who have been in our program over the past five years, and we want you to know that we are still here to assist you and will continue to recognize the hard work and commitment that goes into fighting food waste in Tennessee.



Composting Made Easy

Residential

Commercial

Events

PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT

NewTerra Compost

"If you can eat it, we can compost it." That is the commitment that NewTerra Compost makes. So simple, yet so much goes into making this commitment possible, to keep organic material out of the landfill and making it accessible and convenient for residential and commercial members to compost.

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