



Let's Recycle Better, Together.

An event banner with a white border. The left side has a yellow-to-orange gradient background with the text "EXPANDING FOOD WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMS" in large white letters, and "IN COMMERCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS" in smaller white letters below it. A red horizontal band contains the text "WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 1:00PM ET" in white. The right side features an illustration of two chefs in a kitchen; one is wearing a red shirt and white apron, the other a yellow shirt and white apron. A green recycling bin is visible in the background.

**EXPANDING FOOD WASTE
REDUCTION PROGRAMS**
IN COMMERCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 11,
1:00PM ET**

Today's Panelists



Maggie Bain

Circular Innovation Council



Lesly Baesens

Denver Dept. of Public
Health & Environment



Amber Barbella

Diversion Designers

Stick Around For....



Product demo with:

Rae-Ann Dos Reis

Business Development Manager

Join the Discussion

From your toolbar:



Share your experience & opinions

Look for links to resources

Type direct questions for panelists

Maggie Bain

*Project Manager,
ICI Food Waste Diversion*

Circular Innovation Council



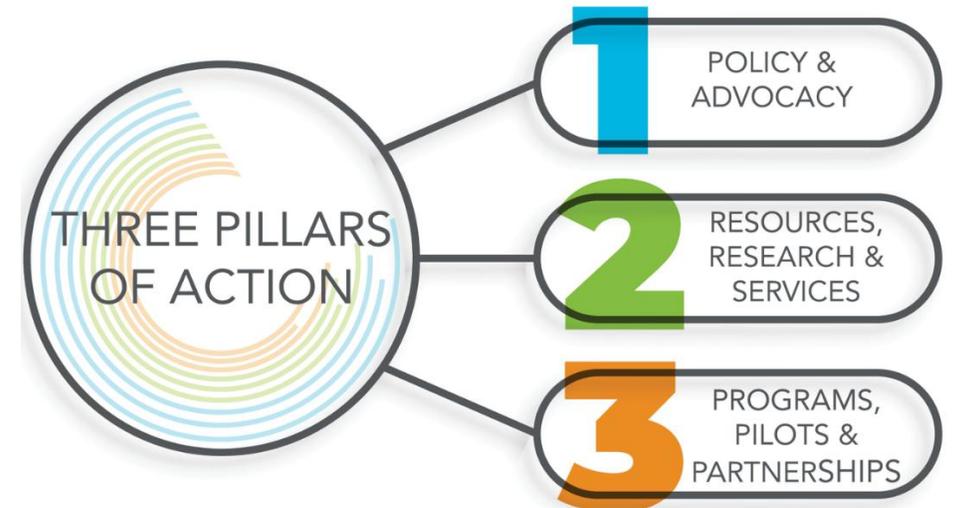


Pilot Program Model for Improving Food Waste Diversion in the ICI Sector

Systems solutions for circular end-management of food waste in Canada's Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Sector

ABOUT CIC

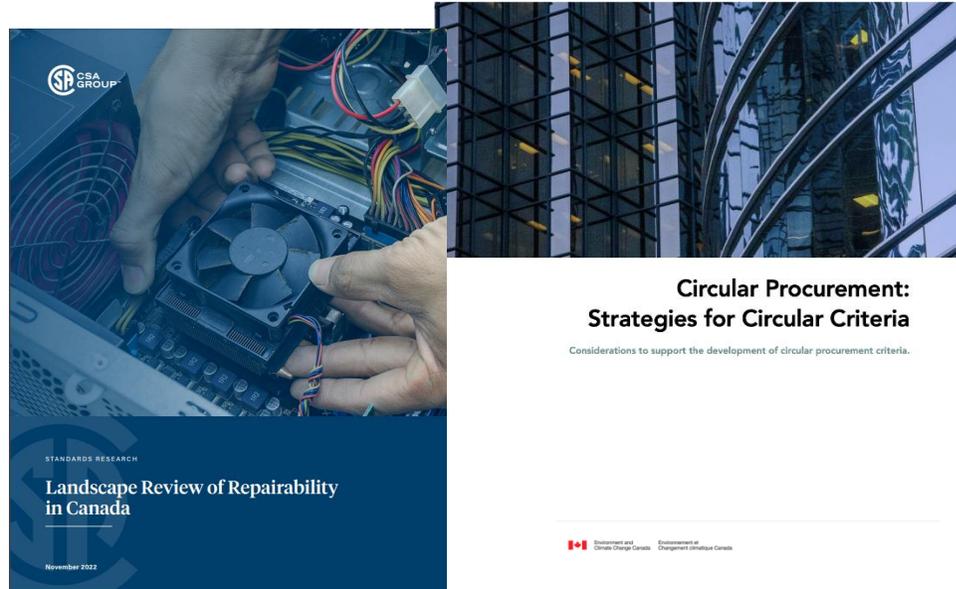
- Established as Recycling Council of Ontario in 1978
- Reimagined in 2020 as **Circular Innovation Council** with a broader mandate
- **Vision:** To be recognized as a global ambassador for the circular economy in Canada
- **Mission:** To put circular economy concepts into action
- Expanding membership reflecting a wide diversity of sectors and stakeholders within and outside of Canada



POLICY & ADVOCACY

RESOURCES & SERVICES

PROGRAMS & PILOTS



Circular Procurement: Strategies for Circular Criteria
Considerations to support the development of circular procurement criteria.

CSA GROUP
STANDARDS RESEARCH
Landscape Review of Repairability in Canada
November 2022

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada



REGISTER NOW
Making the circular economy the standard:
How standards can help further circularity in the built environment, plastics, agriculture and agri-food
WEBINAR | January 30, 2024 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM (ET)

CSA GROUP
CIRCULAR INNOVATION COUNCIL

CIRCULAR INNOVATION COUNCIL
Driving the Circular Economy Through Public Procurement
CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ACTION KNOWLEDGE SERIES



COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE DIVERSION

CIRCULAR ECONOMY MONTH

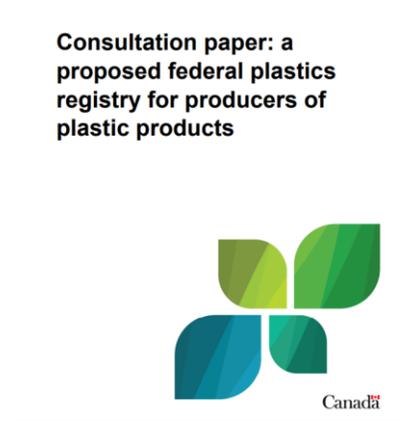
REUSE OTTAWA



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

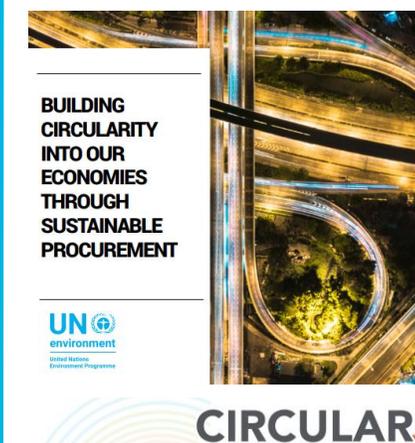
euonomia
CIRCULAR INNOVATION COUNCIL

Eunomia Research & Consulting with support from Circular Innovation Council
October 19, 2021



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

Canada

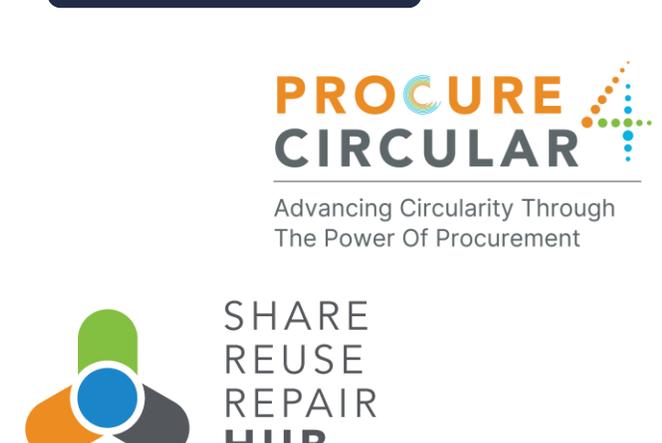


BUILDING CIRCULARITY INTO OUR ECONOMIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

UN environment
United Nations Environment Programme



CIRCULAR CHRONICLE



PROCURE CIRCULAR
Advancing Circularity Through The Power Of Procurement

SHARE REUSE REPAIR HUB



Circular & Fair ICT Pact



CIRCULAR NEWSHUB



PLASTIC ACTION CENTRE

Introduction to IC&I Food Waste Diversion Challenges

- **Canadian IC&I sector generates ~9-14 million tonnes** of food and organic waste annually
- **IC&I sector often lacks infrastructure, funding, data, and policy supports** for diversion practices – system very fragmented compared to residential, especially **challenging for SMEs** to access.
- **These gaps also challenge local governments and service providers**, limiting their ability to deliver ICI-focused diversion solutions.
- **These system barriers make circular end-management of food and organics diversion practices difficult** for food-generating businesses to adopt at scale.



Research Insights* – Municipal & ICI Perspectives on Organics Diversion Across Canada

Key Barriers in System that Limit IC&I Participation



Financial & Infrastructure Barriers

Businesses face high costs for implementing organics diversion practices, with few incentives to adopt costly practices.

Many regions lack processing infrastructure for composting or bioenergy - difficult for ICI to divert.



Regulation & Policy Gaps

Lack of consistent ICI diversion regulations or targets from municipal / provincial governments.

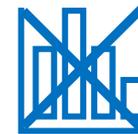
Hinders ICI sector progress in broad adoption circular end-management practices for organics.



Governance Fragmentation

Roles and responsibilities often unclear or misaligned between government and ICI/industry actors.

Lack of cross-sector collaboration for coordinated solutions to improve ICI food & organics diversion.



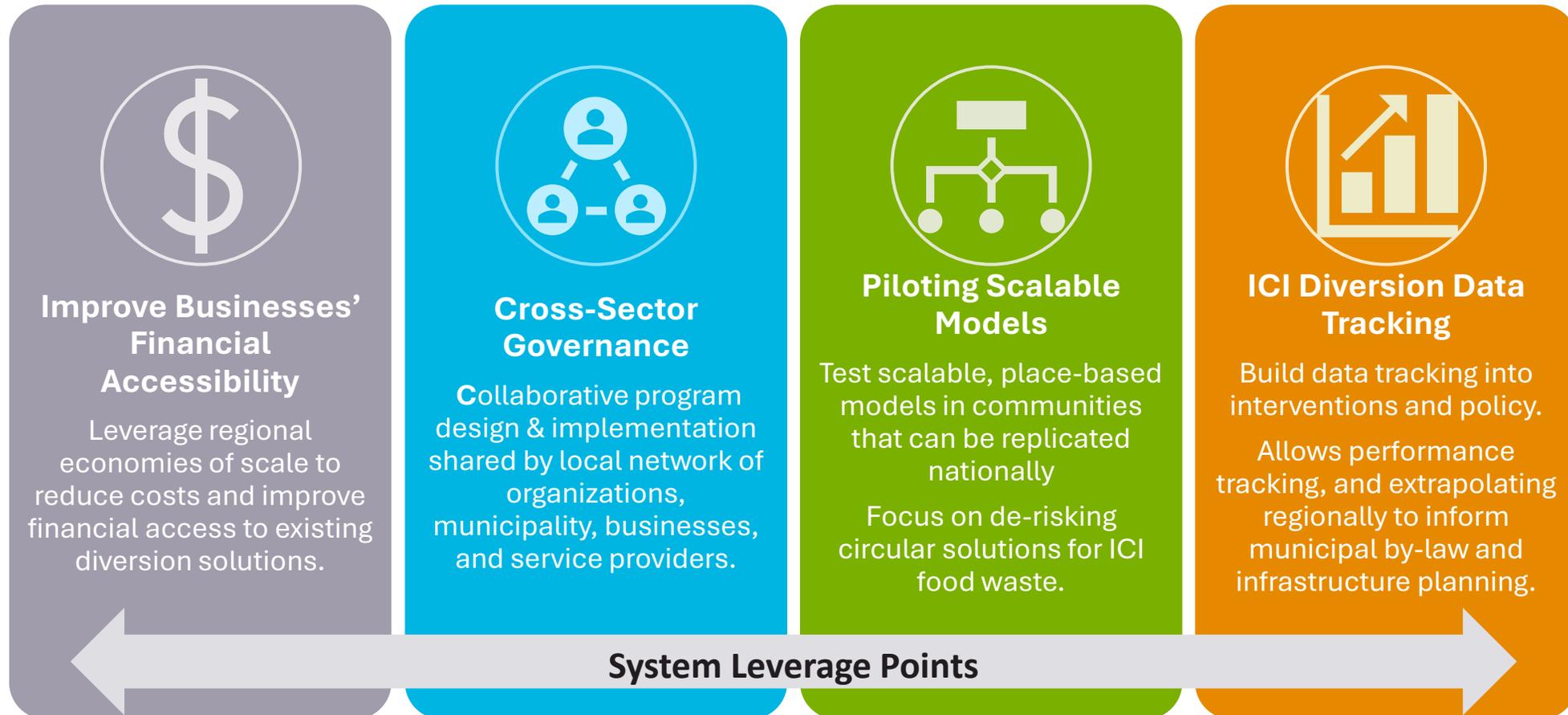
Data Measurement & Benchmarking Gaps

Businesses & service providers do not consistently track diversion data due to lack of access to tracking systems and reporting incentives.

Existing data is often siloed or aggregated & rarely shared with municipalities for benchmarking.

Research Insights* – Municipal & ICI Perspectives on Organics Diversion Across Canada

Key Opportunities to Advance IC&I Diversion



Opportunity for Intervention

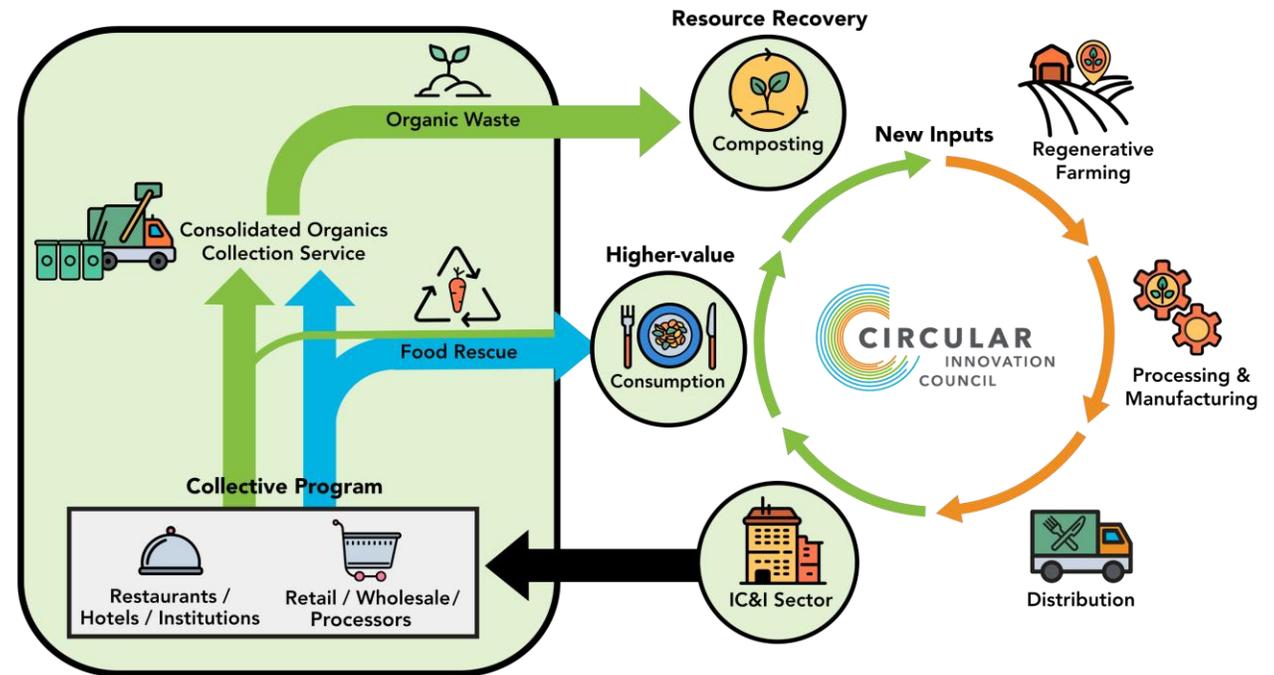
CIC's Place-Based Pilot Models: Commercial Food Waste Diversion Program



COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE DIVERSION

What is the Pilot Model?

CIC partners with municipalities, haulers, organic material processors, and surplus food recovery organizations – creates strong, regional partner network to implement place-based pilot programs.



Opportunity for Intervention

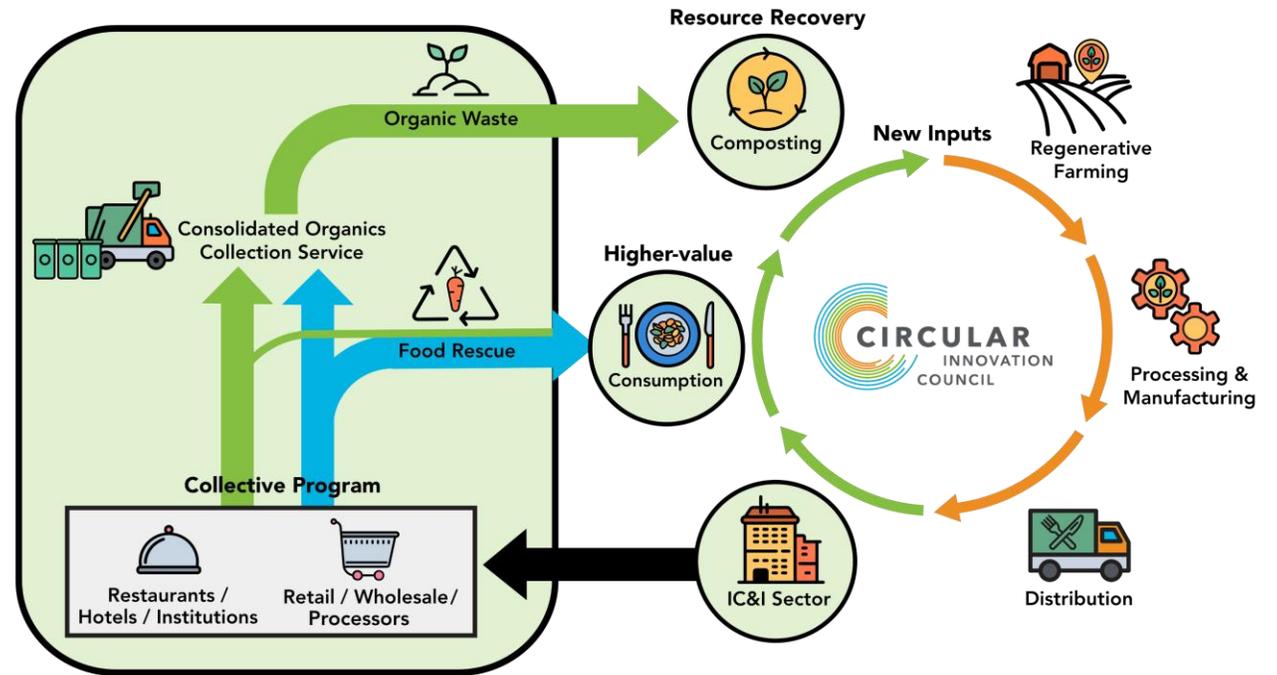
CIC's Place-Based Pilot Models: Commercial Food Waste Diversion Program



What is the Pilot Model?

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Since 2021, across multiple provinces in 6 communities:



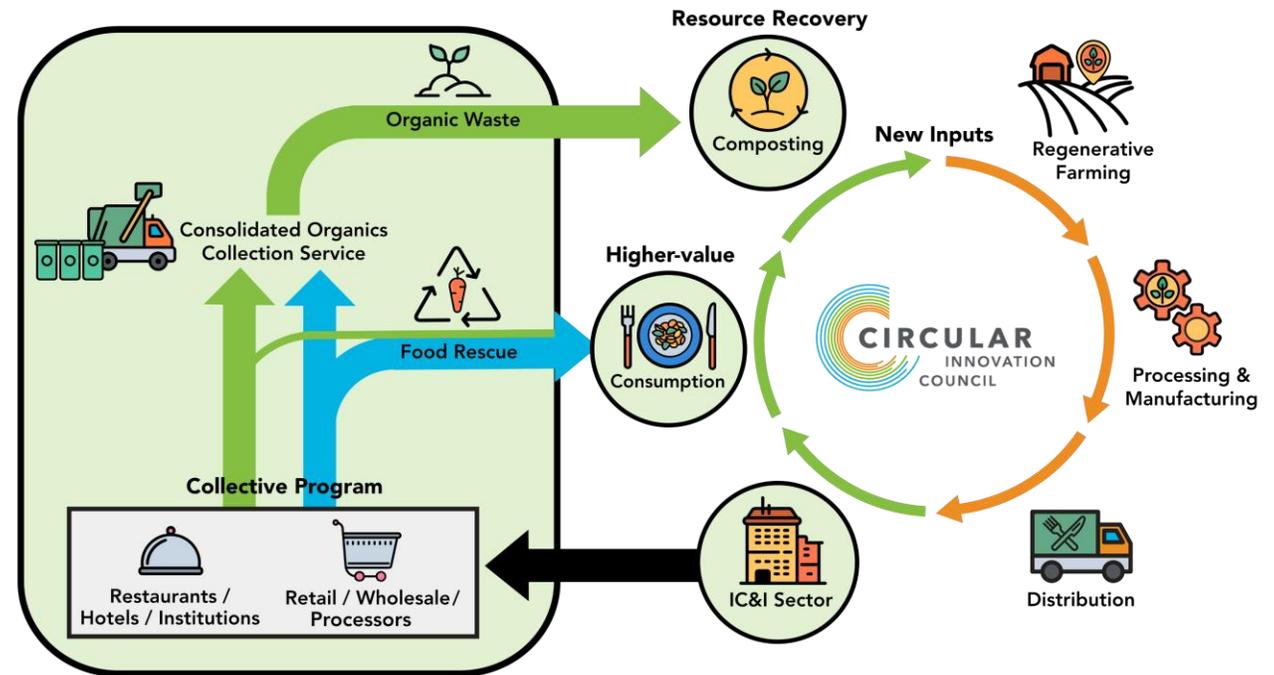
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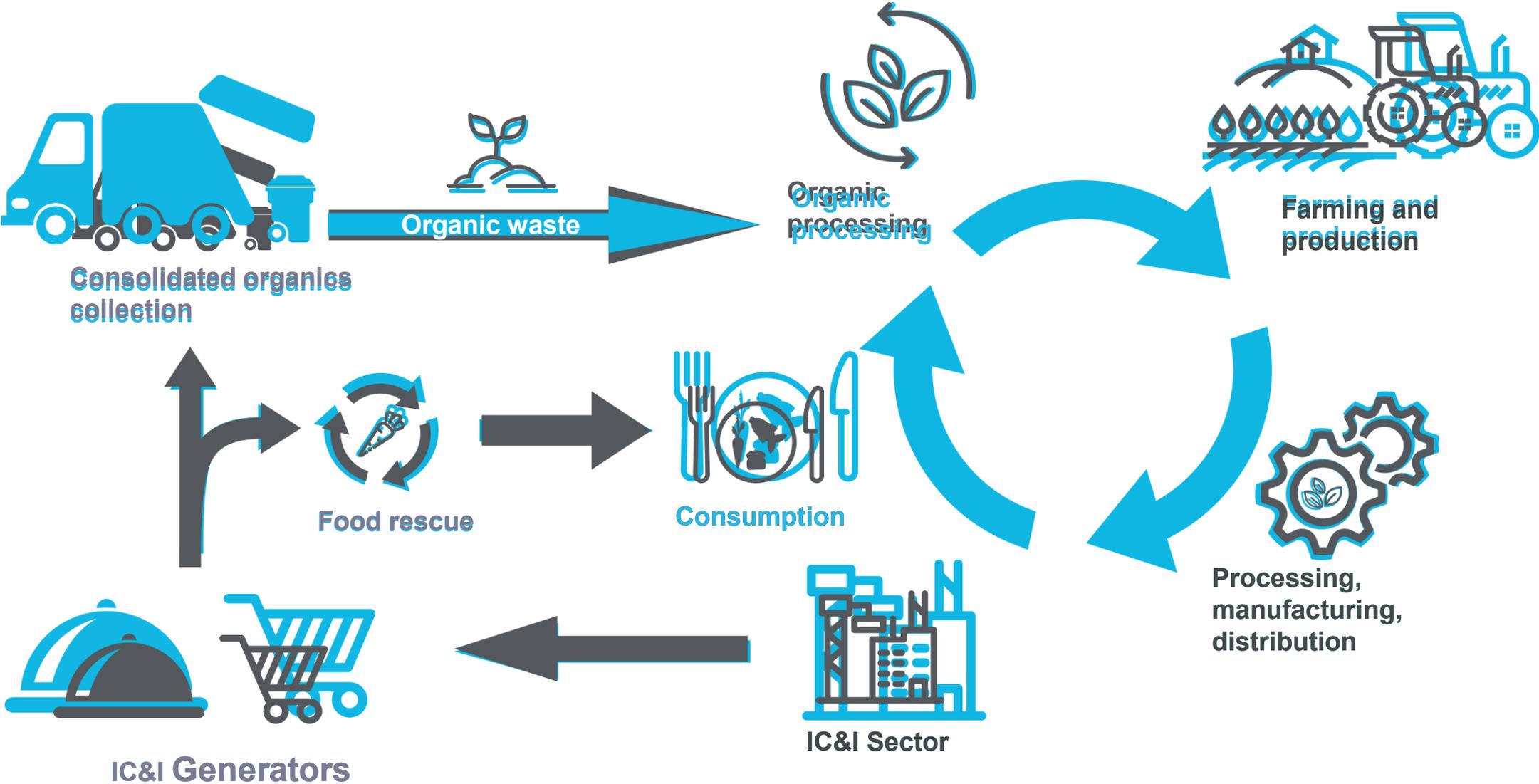
What is the Pilot Model?

CIC partners with municipalities, haulers, organic material processors, and surplus food recovery organizations – creates strong, regional partner network to implement place-based pilot programs.

Improve IC&I establishments' access to food waste diversion services by leveraging regional economies of scale - grouping businesses together on 'cooperative' group-service collection routes improves diversion system fragmentation.



How Pilot Model Works



Opportunity for Intervention

CIC's Place-Based Pilot Models: Commercial Food Waste Diversion Program



How Pilot Model Works

Evaluate local landscape to tailor pilot model to community and partner needs:



Opportunity for Intervention

CIC's Place-Based Pilot Models: Commercial Food Waste Diversion Program



How Pilot Model Works

Evaluate local landscape to tailor pilot model to community and partner needs:

- Existing or upcoming municipal by-laws / programs for IC&I food waste diversion



Opportunity for Intervention

CIC's Place-Based Pilot Models: Commercial Food Waste Diversion Program



How Pilot Model Works

Evaluate local landscape to tailor pilot model to community and partner needs:

- Existing or upcoming municipal by-laws / programs for IC&I food waste diversion
- Regional infrastructure and service access for composting, curbside collection, and food recovery



CIC's Place-Based Pilot Models: Commercial Food Waste Diversion Program



How Pilot Model Works

Evaluate local landscape to tailor pilot model to community and partner needs:

- Existing or upcoming municipal by-laws / programs for IC&I food waste diversion
- Regional infrastructure and service access for composting, curbside collection, and food recovery
- Composition of IC&I food-generating establishments to understand key service needs and target pilot area



Case Study

Pilot Program in Strathcona County, Alberta

6-month Pilot program (June-December 2024)

Municipal Partners



Operational Partners and Funders



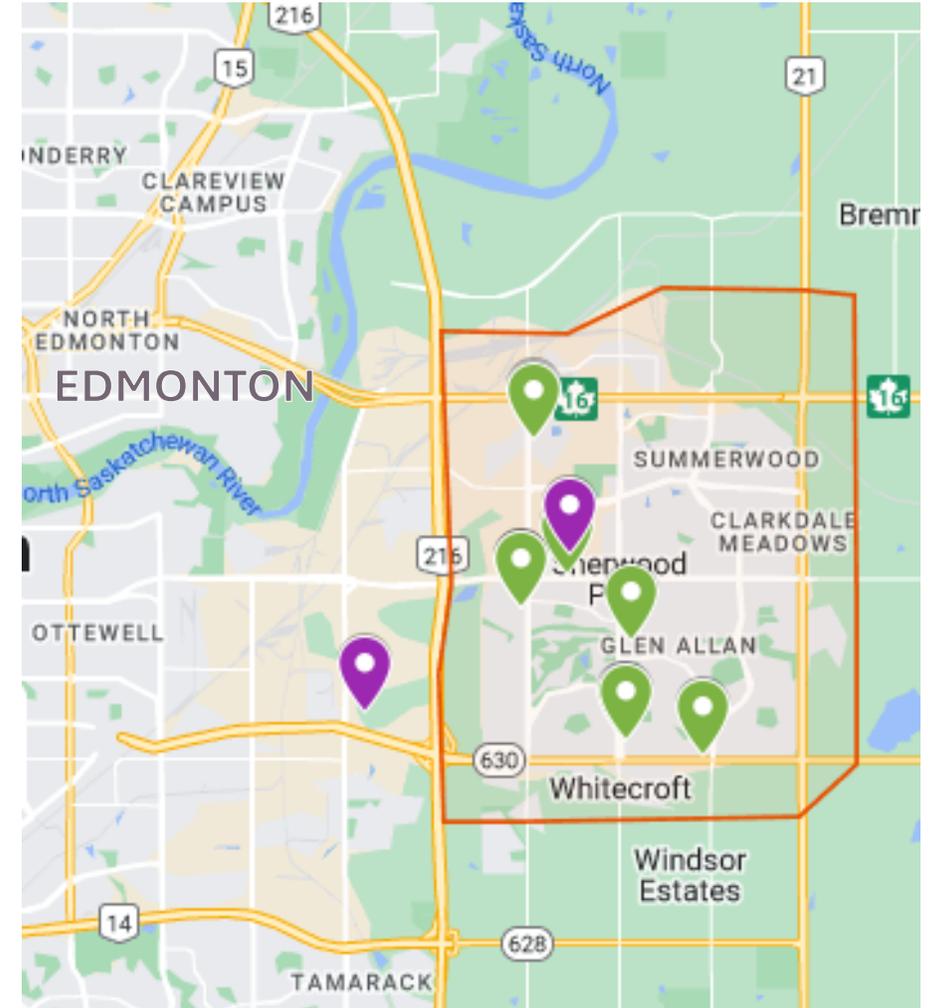
Organics
Collection



Organics
Processing



Program Coordination &
Food Rescue

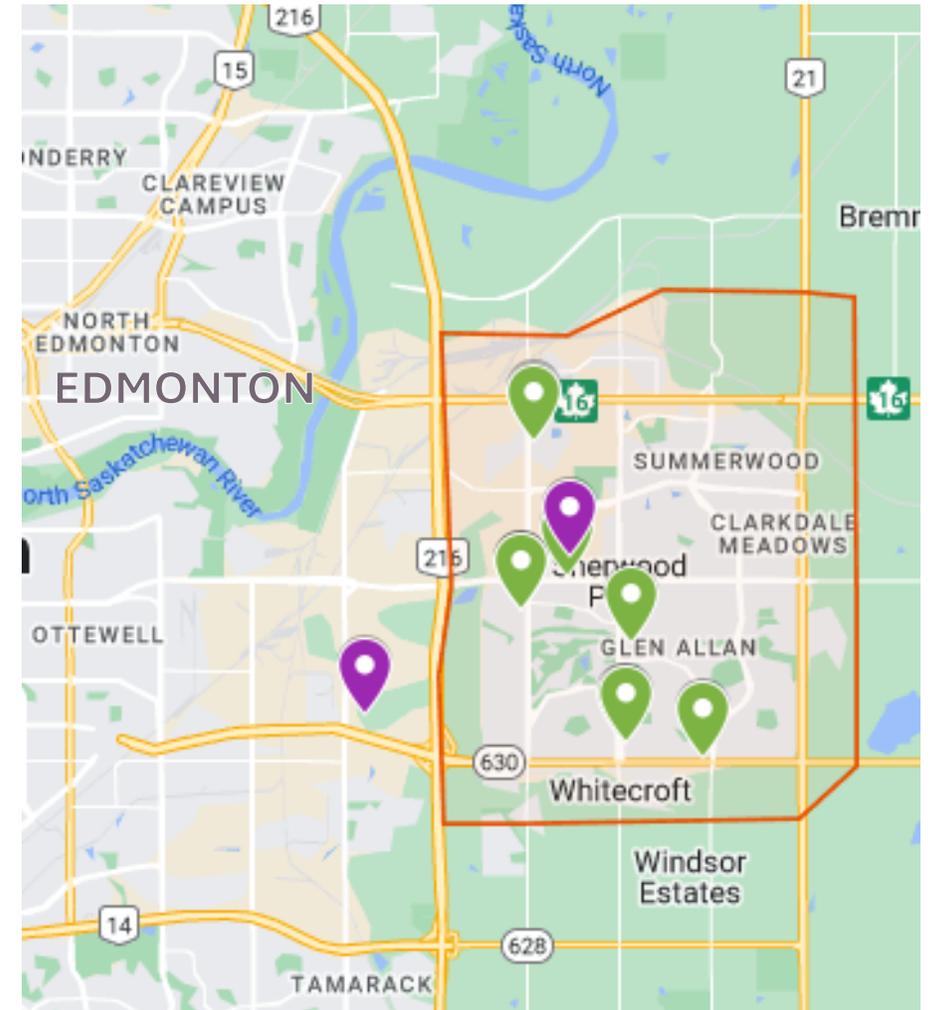


Pilot Program in Strathcona County, Alberta

Purpose: To build a foundation for advancing regional IC&I food waste diversion solutions in these communities

Pilot supported Strathcona County to:

- **Test solutions** for overcoming common financial and logistical barriers in IC&I organics diversion systems before introducing municipal programs or mandates
- **Engage stakeholders early** (IC&I sector, waste haulers, and processors) to build future readiness
- **Generate data** on IC&I feedstock diversion volumes, GHG emission reductions, resource recovery, and program feedback



Pilot Program in Strathcona County, Alberta

Pilot supported regional IC&I food generators through:

- **Cost Savings:** Lower costs of collection service by accessing local 'group-buying' cooperative model
- **Customized Support:** Advisory start-up services, tools, and ongoing support from CIC team
- **Climate & Social Impact Reporting:** Volume of food waste diverted from landfill and greenhouse gas emissions avoided
- **Minimize Risk:** Test and refine food waste diversion solutions before regulations or before signing long-term hauling contract
- **Space and Net-New Savings through Right-Sizing:** If diverting high volumes of organics, can reduce garbage dumpster sizes / collection frequency
- **Brand Appeal:** Attractive to customers and staff valuing sustainability



TIPS FOR SUCCESS!

- ✓ Only fill the 64-gallon green roll carts ¾ full - otherwise they get too heavy to roll!
- ✓ If using liner bags, tie bags from kitchen bins before placing in cart - this helps minimize odour and pests!
- ✓ Choose a 'Food Waste Champion' to take the lead during the pilot. This person can help keep food diversion on track and help other staff members stay engaged!

For collection inquiries please email us directly (previous page) OR contact GFL by phone at 780.444.8805.

Pilot Program in Strathcona County, Alberta



Design and Partnerships:

Collaboratively designed and implemented program with all municipal, industry, and non-profit partners, acknowledging different roles to play:

- **CIC provided pilot model** blueprints and led program management,
- **Leftovers Foundation and Strathcona County staff** - coordination, and municipal advisory support
- **GFL (hauler), AltRoot (processor), Ecosafe (supplies), and WavSmart (technology)** – local service and technology providers, suppliers, and industry advisors
- **Decisions were made collaboratively and iteratively:** ie. Design of geographic scale, service structure, data tracking, IC&I outreach strategies, and post-pilot expansion plans

Pilot Program in Strathcona County, Alberta

Participation and Operations:

15 IC&I establishments participated in Sherwood Park (eg. restaurants, grocery, cafes, food manufacturers)

Outreach focused on SME inclusion as target IC&I group – majority in area and benefit most from group-service model

- All participants signed up for pilot's organics collection; only two used food rescue app

Partner hauler (GFL) integrated participants into existing service institutional route to reduce transportation costs

- **CIC provided additional small subsidies** for collection costs for each participant; each participant paid ~\$10 per 240L cart/week (similar to disposal costs)
- **Participants received advisory services and supplies** as support to start diverting food waste
- **Tracked organics diversion for each participant** including tonnage diverted, GHG reductions, and resources recovered



Pilot Program Impacts & Learnings



34 tonnes of food waste
diverted from landfill



16 tonnes of healthy soil amendment
created for regenerative agriculture



1 150 tonnes of CO₂e avoided
from entering atmosphere

Pilot Program Impacts and Learnings

Key Learnings:

- **Success factors:** municipal leadership, stakeholder collaboration, providing IC&I participants with tools and lower costs
- **Common barriers:** cost of organics collection, low bin space, low SME voluntary participation
- **KPIs and Evaluation were essential:** Weight-based data and IC&I feedback diversion and GHG reduction evidence to inform policy, investment, and programming



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Pilot Program Impacts and Learnings

Post-Pilot Program Impacts:

- **Strathcona County** took over program management and expanded into ‘early adopters program’ for their IC&I sector
- **Findings informing upcoming IC&I organics by-law** development, ICI and service provider performance tracking, and cost-effective and transparent service models in the region
- **Evidence of municipality de-risking** policy transitions through pilots
- **Replicable template** for municipalities advancing circular economy systems



34 tonnes of food waste diverted from landfill



16 tonnes of healthy soil amendment created for regenerative agriculture



1 150 tonnes of CO₂e avoided from entering atmosphere

Driving Systemic Change

Pilot programs can enable regional circularity of food & resource economies

- ✓ Downstream resource recovery through circular end-management, and
- ✓ Data-enabled decision-making by local stakeholders.

This model shows how improved IC&I access through shared regional services, coordinated cross-sector governance, and access to data:

- ✓ Reduces diversion barriers for ICI sector adoption
- ✓ Enables system efficiencies and market opportunities for service providers
- ✓ Informs broader waste & climate policies, regional infrastructure planning, and advancing circular markets.



COMMERCIAL FOOD WASTE DIVERSION



RESCUE. RECOVER. RENEW.



594

Tonnes of organic waste diverted from landfill



92,480

Meals recovered from surplus food donations



6,910

Tonnes of CO2e emissions avoided from entering the atmosphere



295

Tonnes of nutrient-rich soil created for farmers and gardeners



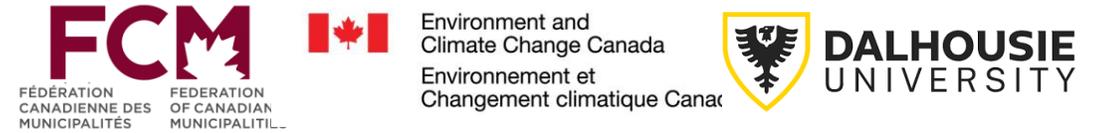
CONTACT

Maggie Bain

Project Manager, ICI Circular Food Systems

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OUR FUNDERS & PARTNERS:



Live Poll #1

What food diversion / recovery services are widely offered in your community? *(Check all that apply)*

- Commercial food scrap collection service
- Food recovery / donation to crisis centers, etc.
- Surplus food apps –connect users to unsold food
- Other *(Share details in the Chat)*

Lesly Baesens

*Food Resiliency & Waste
Program Administrator*

**Denver Dept. of Public
Health & Environment**



Amber Barbella

Founder

Diversion Designers



Denver Food Matters Restaurant Challenge



Amber Barbella

Founder
Diversion Designers

Lesly Baesens

Food Waste Program Coordinator
Denver Department of Public Health & Environment

Why A Restaurant Challenge?

- Restaurants are the highest food wasters in Denver, after the residential sector
- Upcoming Composting Ordinance
- DDPHE focuses on prevention
- Denver Food Vision 2030 -> Food waste reduction target



Challenge Logistics

- 12 week duration, two cohorts
- Support from experts in food waste reduction
- Points-based competition
- Focus on **food waste prevention & reduction**
- Clear and manageable steps to progress
- Behavior change component
- Flexible approach: Meet participants where they are at.



Partners

Diversion Designers
Participant Support

CET
Technical Assistance

Drexel Food Labs
Food Upcycling

We Don't Waste
Food Donation Partner

DDPHE
Project Management

Strategies

Participants choose which wasted food reduction strategies are right for them, points are awarded for progress not tonnage.

- Audit and track wasted food at the start, middle, and end of the Challenge
- Upcycle surplus ingredients into new menu items (soups, sauces, grain bowls, and more)
- Donate surplus food through a local food rescue partner
- Compost and recycle in both front- and back-of-house
- Train staff at all levels on new wasted food reduction practices
- Earn points for progress and celebrate results at the closing event

Restaurant Olivia

- Pursued recipe modification to reduce waste
- Started matching food prep quantity to demand
- Combined savings of **\$16,000+** per year
- **18,700+ eggs** saved
- Repeated media appearances



Successes

- Encouraging results
- Media coverage
- Lots of perspective shifts: participants open to changes
- Diverse set of participants and skill sets



Challenges

- Recruitment is challenging, consider offering perks or emphasize media opportunity
- Recruited restaurants will sometimes drop off/involvement is uneven.
- Difficulty in seeing monetary value
- Most successful establishment already had someone focused on sustainability



What's Next

- Denver Zero Waste Food Tour
- Engaging influencer
- Cohort one lessons learned applied to cohort two



Any Questions?



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Lesly Baesens

DDPHE

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Live Poll #2

Is there a technical assistance program in your community to support businesses adopting food waste diversion/ reduction?

(Check only one)

- Yes, ongoing technical assistance program with food waste focus
- Limited / pilot-stage assistance program
- Active planning to launch assistance
- No formal assistance programs

Q & A



Maggie Bain

Circular Innovation Council



Lesly Baesens

Denver Dept. of Public
Health & Environment



Amber Barbella

Diversion Designers



Today's Program Online



- Recording
- Presentation slides
- Resources

Link will be emailed in coming days

Archive of Past Programs



October 2024

- Restaurant –waste reduction practices
- Reusable container



January 2022

- Office settings
- University dining

Full Archive:

buschsystems.com/category/webinar



Next Month



Stacy Savage

Founder & CEO

Zero Waste Strategies



Sydney Rogers Lemke

Senior Manager,

National Sustainability

SBM



Upcoming Conferences



March 24
Boxborough, MA



April 2
Mystic Lake, MN

Thank You to Our Panelists!



Maggie Bain

Circular Innovation Council

Maggie@CircularInnovation.ca



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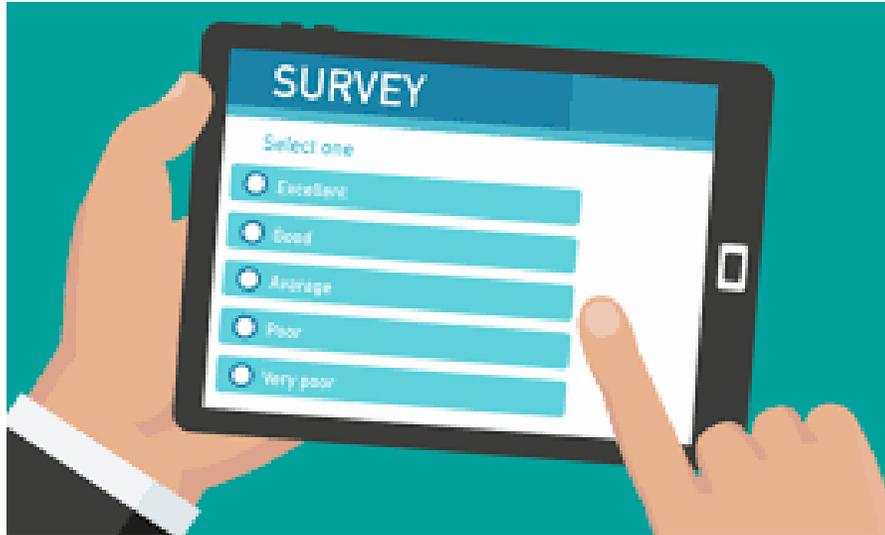


Amber Barbella

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Share Feedback with Presenters



Post-Webinar Survey:

- Prompt at end of program, or
- Look for Email tomorrow

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Stick Around For....



Product demo with:

Rae-Ann Dos Reis

Business Development Manager