



Toward Zero Waste is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting waste-conscious living in North Carolina through inspiration, education, and action.

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TZW's Food Waste Reduction and Composting Requests and Recommendations

1. **The adoption of a food waste reduction goal to highlight the urgency related to food waste reduction and diversion, and to spur multifaceted initiatives to this end.** Example: "Reduce food waste by 50% by 2030."
 - a. Promoting source reduction through public awareness campaigns with prevention messaging to impact behavior change in households and businesses
 - i. Partnering with local food waste reduction experts and influencers, like Cary resident Mei Li of [Food Waste Feast](#) and Raleigh author of [Cook For Good](#), Linda Watson
 - b. Strengthening and creating partnerships with local and national organizations to increase capture of edible foods for diversion to people or animals, and to increase visibility and equity of community food waste reduction efforts
 - i. Examples: Food banks, churches, Dorcas, the [Capital Area Food Network](#), new organizations like [Goodr](#) (additional information provided below), local farms
 - ii. Enhance awareness through social/print media campaign and increase access to donation opportunities
 - c. Adding additional food waste drop-off locations and/or educational opportunities
 - i. Farmers Markets
 - ii. Community and school gardens
 - iii. Libraries
 - iv. Town-owned facilities
 1. Downtown Park
 - v. Apartments/Condos
 - d. Expanding opportunities for backyard/community composting
 - i. A review and update of backyard composting ordinances
 - ii. Enhanced educational opportunities
 - iii. Extending compost bin sales program to year-round
 - iv. Support for neighborhood composting programs to allow persons with little or no backyard to compost communally
 - e. Requiring public event permits to include composting
 - f. Incentivizing residents to throw away less
 - i. Tiered payment structure for waste
 1. See Raleigh business [WasteZero](#) for details
 - g. Initiating a food waste reduction campaign for Cary businesses
 - i. Educating businesses through food waste reduction awareness

- ii. [Waste Reduction Partners](#), a local non-profit, offers free waste audits to businesses that include organics
 - iii. Supporting businesses by fostering relationships between area businesses and food recovery organizations
 - iv. Incentivizing businesses to modify their behavior through business challenge awards/accolades for steps taken
 - 1. The [NC Green Business Directory](#), a collaborative project between [Greenish Neighbor](#) and TZW, is one tool for promoting sustainable business practices that could be expanded upon with partnership from the Town
 - 2. Recognized businesses could receive a visible symbol of their journey to sustainability and their commitment to being an excellent corporate citizen (ex. window stickers)
2. **The creation and implementation of a pilot curbside composting program.**
 - a. Contracting for a specific Organic Waste Strategy Report for Cary to expand on [Wake County's 2015 Organic Waste Strategy Report](#). This 4 part organics report includes an evaluation of residential food waste and yard waste collection programs, processing options in our region, and identifies an implementation plan for a pilot curbside composting program in Cary.
 - b. Contracting for a feasibility study for the development of Cary's own composting facility.
 3. **The implementation of compost use, the finished product, for all Town of Cary buildings, parks and landscaping projects.**
 - a. This action will ultimately close the loop for a community composting model.
 4. **The addition of manpower, either permanent staff or hired contractors, to facilitate the research and planning required to meet the Town's new food waste reduction goal, in an expedited manner.**
 - a. New positions and/or the hiring of contracted staff will show a commitment to the timely implementation of newly adopted initiatives

Wake County Reports referenced

2019 Waste Characterization Study

https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wakegov.com.if-us-west-2/prod/documents/2020-10/2019%20Wake%20WCS%20Final%20Report_Final.pdf

2020 Wake County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

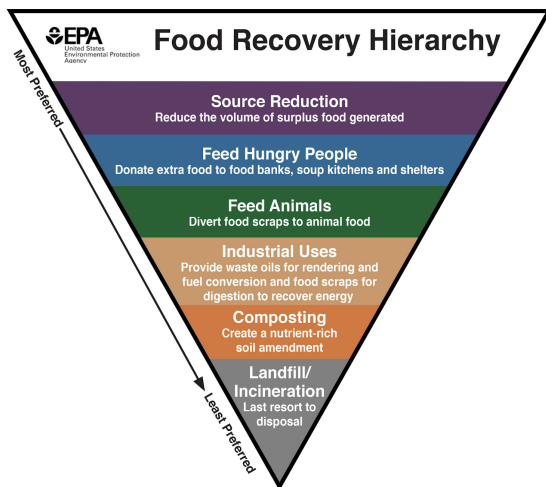
https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wakegov.com-if-us-west-2/prod/documents/2020-10/Wake%202020%20CSWMP_0.pdf

2015 Organic Waste Strategy Report

https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wakegov.com-if-us-west-2/prod/documents/2020-10/HDR_Organics_Report_web.pdf

EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-hierarchy>



Capital Area Food Network (CAFN) - "Working to support the efficient use, distribution and composting of available food resources in Wake County."

<https://www.capitalareafoodnetwork.org/>

Goodr - "Feed more. Waste Less."

<https://goodr.co/>

April 5, 2022

Short segment by Goodr founder and CEO - “Jasmine Crowe: What can we do to tackle food waste and hunger?” Part 3 of *Ted Radio Hour* Episode: **The Food Connection**

<https://www.npr.org/2021/09/03/1033869498/jasmine-crowe-what-can-we-do-to-tackle-food-waste-and-hunger>

Other composting resources

1. The US Composting Council - <https://www.compostingcouncil.org/>
2. The NC Composting Council - <https://carolinacompost.com/>
3. NCDEQ - Wendy Worley, Section Chief Recycling and Materials Management, DEACS wendy.worley@ncdenr.gov and <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/environmental-assistance-and-customer-service/deacs-contacts>
4. NCSU Compost Facility & Research Cooperative - <https://recycling.ncsu.edu/compost-facility/>
5. Cutting the Trash in Half in America’s Cities and Towns, John Cambell, board chair of WasteZero located in Raleigh, NC. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qoF7RD7zcls>
6. Kiss the Ground – a non-profit committed to inspiring participation in soil regeneration. <https://kisstheground.com/about-us/>.
7. “Racing to Zero” - a documentary about San Francisco’s waste stream diversion planning. <https://www.amazon.com/Racing-Zero-Christopher-Beaver/dp/B06W2K8M8W>