



# Overview of Tennessee's Food Waste Reduction Efforts



Presented By  
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# Office of Sustainable Practices Programs

## State Government and Institution Team

Tennessee Higher Education Initiative

Sustainable State Government

Tennessee Environmental Education Initiative

Tennessee Radon Program

Unwanted Household Pharmaceutical Program

Tire Environmental Act Program

## Business Team

Get Food Smart TN

Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards

Tennessee Green Star Partnership

Tennessee Materials Marketplace

Clean Tennessee Energy Grants

Tennessee Sustainable Spirits

# TDEC's History Pertaining to Food Waste

- 2025 Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan
  - 2016 - 5 composting grants (\$2.5 million)
  - 2017 Organics Management Grant (\$3.8 million)
- Stakeholder Meeting - October 6, 2016
  - Recommendations
  - TDEC Policy Paper: Southeastern State Efforts to Address Wasted Food and Food Waste Upstream of Composting
- Development of Recognition Program



# Get Food Smart TN

Formally launched in April 2018

- Education and outreach
- Recognition
- Technical assistance

Outside of these functions, staff working in the food waste space are also working to advance capacity of the state to address food waste, through legislation, partnerships, and granting programs.



# Education and Outreach

## WEBSITE

The Get Food Smart TN website house tips and resources for consumers, businesses, and organizations, a news portal, and additional information on food waste assistance

## RESOURCES

Including:

- Food Waste Posters and brochures
- Meal Planning Notepad
- Infographics on various food sustainability topics

## WEBINARS

Our focus for webinars is to educate and provide assistance to industry leaders.

## EVENTS

Participate in events hosted by other organizations.

Food waste and sustainability events hosted by our office.

# Recognition Program



[getfoodsmarttn.com](http://getfoodsmarttn.com)

- Organization must satisfy at least 5 of up to 30 criteria under their category.
- The four categories are:
  - Schools
  - Restaurants
  - Government Entities and Non-Profit Organizations
  - Grocers, Industry, and Agriculture
- Access to a peer network of organizations with a common interest in reducing food waste and the opportunity to share best practices
- Currently 191 Participants

# Technical Assistance

- Our technical assistance offerings are made to assist entities with food waste reduction strategies and technologies
- Open to any sector, and at any level, whether there are initiatives in place that need improvement or if they are starting from scratch.
- Workshops and events:
  - January 2019
  - Memphis
  - Chattanooga



**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
OPPORTUNITIES**



**DO YOU NEED  
HELP ADDRESSING  
FOOD WASTE?**

**CONTACT US:**  
GETFOOD.SMART@TN.GOV  
WWW.GETFOODSMARTTN.COM

**OUR OFFERINGS:**

- EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP/ROUNDTABLE
- LOCAL PLANNING SUPPORT AND STAKEHOLDER MEETING
- SEMINARS/LUNCH AND LEARNS
- FOOD WASTE AUDIT PLANNING
- FOOD WASTE REDUCTION STRATEGY ASSISTANCE
- DEVELOPING A STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
- ON-SITE COMPOSTING TRAINING



# Program Wins

- Passed Bill expanding FoodDonor Liability Protections in Tennessee. Future possible work on:
  - Food Donation Tax Incentive
  - Animal Feed Regulations
- Received funding from EPA for a project with The Society of St. Andrew, Row by Row

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYH3goJj7bk>

- Funded food waste drop-off pilot at Knoxville Convenience Center
- Hosted a successful inaugural Food Waste Awareness Week





# Tennessee's Inaugural Food Waste Awareness Week



## Food Waste Awareness Week



Join us for a week full of virtual engagement and educational opportunities, state-wide food drives, and regional events featuring food waste awareness activities such as locally-made upcycled bread beer, live food waste cooking demos, local resources and representatives, and more!

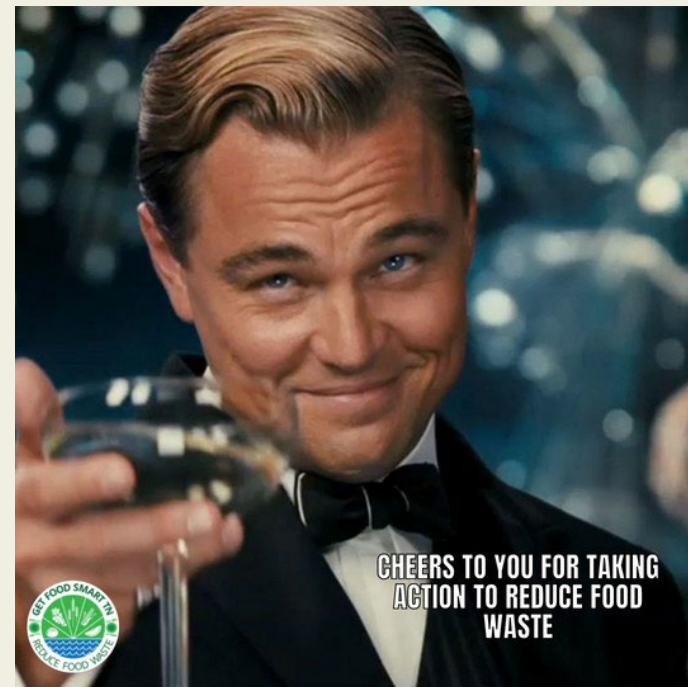
# Tennessee's inaugural Food Waste Awareness Week

This was a week full of virtual engagement and educational opportunities, state-wide food drives, and regional events featuring food waste awareness activities such as locally-made upcycled bread beer, live food waste cooking demos, and local resources and representatives.

- Daily Themes
- Videos featuring best practices of businesses and organizations, with a call to action
- Food Hero Photo Challenges
- Food Waste Memes
- Statewide Food Drive
- Saturday events at local breweries



# Food Waste Memes





# Bread to Tap Events



# Food Waste Awareness Week Engagement

617,000

People reached via education and outreach efforts

12,065

Pounds of food donated during the week for the Statewide Food drive

46

Pounds of bread rescued and used in a specialty bread beer

600

Tennesseans attended Bread to Tap events



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# Questions?

Find more information on  
our website

**[getfoodsmarttn.com](http://getfoodsmarttn.com)**

