



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**



Overview of TDEC's Food Waste Reduction, Recovery and Diversion Efforts

Overview of Presentation

- State of TN 2015-2025 Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan
- 2016 Stakeholder Event and post-event recommendations
- Whitepaper on food recovery in Southeast
- Evaluation of EPA Food Recovery Challenge as a platform for a state recognition program
- Development of Get Food Smart TN
- Overview of Program

2025 Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan

- Plan was adopted in April 2015
- Acts as TDEC's strategic roadmap containing broad objectives and ideas to reduce disposal and increase recycling in Tennessee.
 - The 2025 Plan itself does not change or modify Tennessee statutes or rules.
- Objective 4 of the Plan: Increase Diversion of Organics – encourage the reuse, composting, and beneficial use of organics, as well as implement source reduction efforts, to decrease the disposal of these materials.
- Initial tangible actions:
 - In 2016, TDEC awarded 5 composting grants totaling \$2,486,303.
 - TDEC identified several state parks where composting should be prioritized; Henry Horton and Natchez Trace State Parks.
 - TDEC's new composting regulations went into effect on July 7, 2016.

October 6 Stakeholder Event

- On October 6, 2016 TDEC held a roundtable discussion in Nashville, TN to engage;
 - Local governments
 - Private business and industry
 - Educational institutions
 - Non-profits
- Goal: Identify opportunities and obstacles to food waste reduction, recovery and diversion in middle Tennessee.
- ~40 participants representing an eclectic mix of organizations, which included;
 - Bridgestone Arena
 - Mayor's Office
 - TN Chamber of Commerce
 - Waste Management
 - State Hospitality Association
 - Whole Foods

October 6 – Nashville Public Outreach Event

- On the same day as the roundtable, TDEC also held an education and outreach event in cooperation:
 - Nashville Metro Government
 - Nashville Farmers Market
 - Mayor's Office
 - Second Harvest
 - The Nashville Food Project
 - NRDC
 - The Compost Company
- Event was held at the Nashville Farmers Market downtown and featured a screening of the film *Just Eat It*, local exhibitors, announcements, and food waste reduction demonstrations.



Recommendations from the TDEC-Sponsored Roundtable Meeting on Food Waste Reduction, Recovery, and Diversion

- Report is available on the TDEC website at:
 - <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/solid-waste/documents/sw-mm-organics-roundtable-recommendations.pdf>
- Areas of focus/recommendations
 - 1.) Infrastructure
 - 2.) Education
 - 3.) Reduce Cost
 - 4.) Develop a Directory of Opportunity
 - 5.) Create a Recognition Program
 - 6.) Be Residential/Consumer Focused
 - 7.) Target Schools
 - 8.) Develop a State Steering Committee

TDEC Policy Paper

“Southeastern State Efforts to Address Wasted Food and Food Waste Upstream of Composting”

- Early October 2016, TDEC authored overview of current efforts in Southeastern States regarding food waste reduction upstream of composting.
- Findings indicated majority of food waste reduction efforts in Southeastern States are being undertaken by non-governmental groups, such as local food banks and charitable organizations, as well as local businesses and institutions of higher education.
- Very few formal food waste efforts that are currently being led by state or local government agencies.
- Provided 9 recommendations for TDEC to consider to address food waste upstream of composting.

2017 Organics Management Grant

- Encouraged by Objective 4 of the 2025 Plan as well as the 2016 roundtable event, TDEC began developing an Organics Management Grant for early 2017.
 - First of its kind grant for TDEC's Division of Solid Waste Management – was open to both public and private.
 - Funding was available for everything from food waste awareness and education to recovery and diversion.
- Awarded nearly \$3.8 million in grants
 - Country Music Hall of Fame for food scrap collection
 - Several composting projects
 - Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle TN for new distribution center
 - Society of St. Andrew – statewide gleaning operation

Investigation of FRC for TN Recognition Program

A recommendation from 2016 roundtable was that the state should develop a recognition program:

- TDEC began investigating this in late 2016/early 2017.
- Initial thought was to piggyback EPA's FRC platform
 - Hope was TDEC could leverage FRC platform to administer a state program with it – such that TDEC also had access to data being reported, co-branding FRC with TDEC for state program, etc...
- After investigating FRC and discussing with EPA Region 4 and HQ staff, identified a number of barriers:
 - Convoluted process to provide data access to TDEC
 - No FRC logo, EPA logo is not allowed for co-branding purposes
 - Quantitative nature of FRC seemed exclusionary of some organizations

Investigation of FRC (Contd.)

- TDEC staff reached out to additional state environmental agencies participating in program as endorsers (AZ DEQ, WA Dept. of Ecology, and Mass DEP).
 - All three agency officials that we spoke to had not requested FRC data and only promoted FRC as a component of larger presentations on food waste related issues.

Based on this assessment it was recommended that TDEC develop its own statewide recognition program.

Development of Recognition Program

- Throughout 2017 we worked internally within the state of TN:
 - Received branding exception to develop unique logo
 - Permission to develop dedicated website
 - Created program framework
 - Provided stakeholder input opportunity (roughly 1.5 months)
 - Comprised of 12 questions
 - Received 62 responses
 - Biggest takeaways:
 - Recommended 5-10 criteria as required for acceptance into program.
 - Recommended 4 categories of entities to recognize.
 - Criteria should be a mix of quantitative and qualitative actions.
 - Develop annual award – “Tennessee Food Smart Organization of the Year”.

Get Food Smart TN



Get Food Smart TN seeks to promote using food wisely and enhance the sustainability of Tennessee's food resources.

Get Food Smart TN Website

 GET FOOD SMART TN
REDUCE FOOD WASTE

ABOUT ACT RECOGNIZE DONATE TAKE THE PLEDGE

Promoting using food wisely

and enhancing the sustainability of Tennessee's food resources.

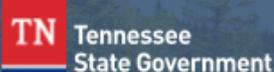
[LEARN MORE](#)

The Get Food Smart TN campaign is leading the charge of addressing food recovery in Tennessee. We want to Tennesseans to buy what you need, eat what you buy, and share what you don't. From farmers that grow our food to the way we prepare it, all Tennesseans benefit from reducing food waste.

Governor Haslam

getfoodsmarttn.com
getfoodsmarttn.org

Recognize: Apply

 Tennessee State Government

 GET FOOD SMART TN
REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Get Food Smart TN seeks to promote using food wisely and enhance the sustainability of Tennessee's food resources.

The Get Food Smart TN program is a statewide initiative, administered by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation - Office of Policy and Sustainable Practices. It will provide Tennesseans with resources to reduce food waste and increase food recovery.

One component of Get Food Smart TN is the Recognition Program. The Recognition Program will recognize entities in one of four categories who satisfy at least 5 of up to 20 criteria under their respective category. Criteria outlined in each category are intended to reflect actions that organizations can take to reduce food waste and use food wisely.

Recognition Program

- 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, Agriculture, and other Private Entities

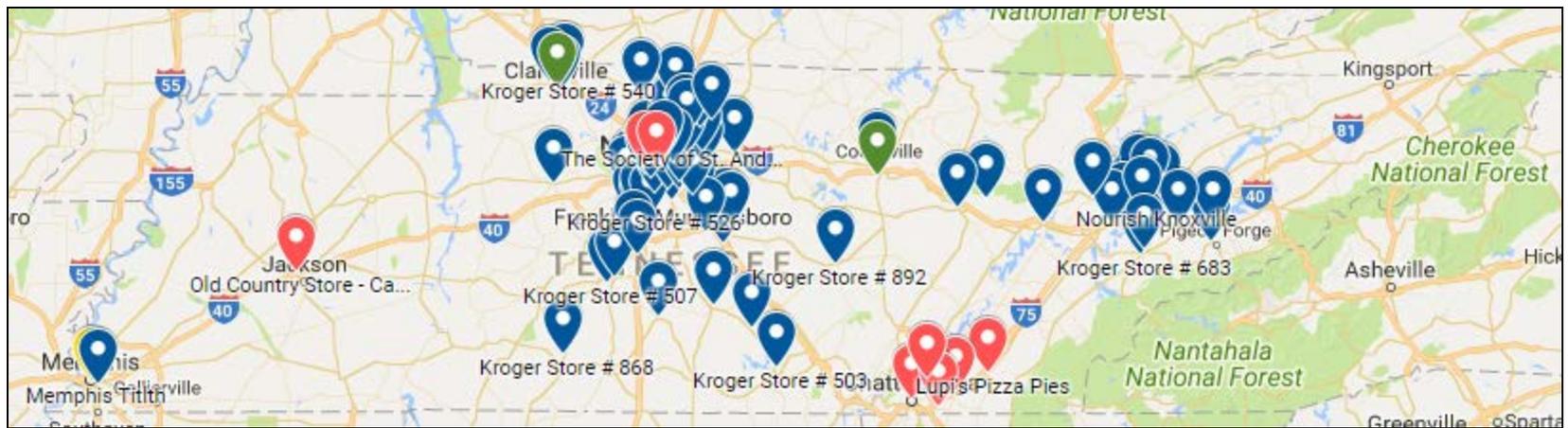


getfoodsmarttn.com

Benefits of Recognition Program

- A door placard, to place at your businesses to show others you participate in the program
- Press Releases and Company Highlights on the OPSP “Get Food Smart TN” News Portal
- Access to a peer network of organizations with a common interest in reducing food waste and the opportunity to share best practices
- Technical Assistance regarding food waste reduction strategies and technologies
- Featured on the Get Food Smart TN Recognition Program Webpage:
 - Program introduction
 - Link to website (optional)
 - Success stories
 - Contact information
- Eligibility for an end of the year award for Tennessee Food Smart Organization of the Year

Outlook for Program



- Now through October 2018
 - Promote recognition program and encourage enrollment and develop sector-specific resources
- November 2018
 - Host stakeholder workshop to seek tips for how to enhance Get Food Smart TN and its programming.
- February 2019
 - Award 2018 Tennessee Food Smart Organization of the Year

Tennessee Materials Marketplace

tennessee
materials
marketplace

THE CIRCULAR

Join the Circular Economy in Tennessee

Join the Tennessee Materials Marketplace and divert waste from landfills, generate significant cost savings, energy savings, and create new jobs and business opportunities.

GET INVOLVED

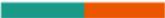


<https://tennessee.materialsmarketplace.org>

TN

Tennessee Materials Marketplace

tennessee
materials
marketplace



Overview

Launched in August 2017, the Tennessee Materials Marketplace is a platform allowing businesses and organizations to connect and find reuse and recycling solutions for waste and by-product materials. The program aims to create a closed-loop, collaborative network of businesses, organizations and entrepreneurs where one organization's hard-to-recycle waste and by-products becomes another organization's raw material. In addition to diverting waste from landfills, these recovery activities generate significant cost savings, energy savings, and create new jobs and business opportunities.

<https://tennessee.materialsmarketplace.org>

TN



By the Numbers

May 2018

companies

120

companies participating
in Tennessee

users

152

user accounts from those
participating companies

materials

107

listings for available and
wanted materials

conversations

149

conversations started in
Q1 2018

completed transactions

\$5000

disposal savings and value
creation

Materials on the Marketplace

Try to search the material name, zip code, city name, company name...



Grid view List view Map view

Available Materials

Wanted Materials



Lira 50

Monitors

Available
34040 Bayrampaşa/Istanbul

Electronics

Electronics (functional)

Quantity 500 Unit



Lira 250

Office desks

Available
34040 Bayrampaşa/Istanbul

Business Furniture, Fixture and Equipment

Business Furniture

Quantity 100 Unit



Bauxite residual (red mud)

Available
34040 Bayrampaşa/Istanbul

Filter Cake and Sludge

Sludge

Quantity 1000000 ton (t)



Waste paper

Available
34040 Bayrampaşa/Istanbul

Paper and Cardboard

Quantity 20000 ton (t)



Wanted Materials



Try to search the material name, zip code, city name, company name...

[Grid view](#) [List view](#) [Map view](#)

[Available Materials](#) [Wanted Materials](#)

Wanted
Aluminum Cans (wanted material)
Post-consumer aluminum cans that can be recycled to make new aluminum.
[Info](#)

Wanted
Waste paper (wanted material)
Post-consumer paper wastes that can be recycled to make new paper products
[Info](#)

Wanted
Waste oil (wanted material)
Waste oil that has a calorific value of over 6000 btu/lb to be reused as alternative fuel in the cement kiln
[Info](#)





**Join the Tennessee Materials Marketplace
and divert waste from landfills, generate
significant cost savings, energy savings, and
create new jobs and business opportunities.**

Contact Information

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