



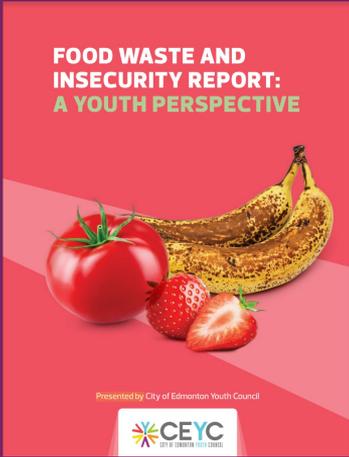
# Food Waste and Insecurity: A Youth Perspective

**August 25, 2021 | EXT00696**



## **Mission:**

To study gaps in the food system that allow for food insecurity and food waste to persist



**2. We recommend that the City of Edmonton provides local businesses with resources and incentives to develop their individual food waste reduction plans.**

Advanced technology, such as Lean PAII® and WinWin Solutions, allows food industry truck & business's food waste and provide solutions using AI, scales, and apps. Large corporations like Sysco have incorporated these programs. Grants to purchase this technology should be made available to help the awareness and financial ability to implement them.

Additionally, we recommend the City adopt a strategy similar to the UK Foodifier project.

assistance for smaller businesses to reduce and divert food waste. Through this initiative, businesses can be supported in learning how to do their own commercial waste audits & commercial waste audit measures. The business's food waste systems to discover where savings come from, the associated costs and reduction strategies.

**Schools**

Youth represent a world of potential in ensuring change happens. However, their voices are still underrepresented in City decisions. Here, we zoom in on some recommendations involving youth in schools.

**1. Student-led initiatives:** Youth can become directly involved in their schools to reduce food waste by conducting weekly audits, making a compost bin, creating knowledge campaigns, conducting research, and more.

Whereas only 36% of respondents in our youth survey were taught about food waste primarily through lessons, 83% of respondents were in favor of expanding food waste educator activities in school. All respondents were in favor of some form of food waste programming within schools.

To provide resources to pursue such activities, we recommend that the City of Edmonton provide grants and similar incentives that encourage youth-led food waste initiatives.

**2. City:** Encourages the use of the **Food Matters Action Kit**™ by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation in North America. It includes educational resources and activities for youth 10-20 years old. Children as young as three benefit from awareness to re-purpose food scraps, while teens can gain community composting or equity and/or economy relations from food banks. City of Edmonton youth and leaders of changing the dialogue surrounding food waste culture. To provide youth with the support to do beyond the course of food waste, we recommend that the City of Edmonton works with the Edmonton School Board of Trustees to adopt the Action Kit in various classrooms or any alternative programming.

Food Waste and Insecurity Report: A Youth Perspective

**How to promote these food options:**

- The City of Vancouver's website hosts the <http://www.vancouver.ca/how-to-join-a-food-bank/> page. These reports, the community & supporting youth, other, innovation & insights can be used by CFCs and CAs, as well. Promotion of these materials on the City of Vancouver website would raise the subject matter of ensuring concerns from cities of CFCs who are worried about safe food handling and safety.
- Reducing challenges associated with housing:** Vancouver helped streamline the CA application process by enabling it to be a permitted use and charging only \$50 for their business licenses.
- Ensuring awareness of food options:** The City of Vancouver's website offers a rapid flow and low-cost food resources. An encouraging the help responsible with varying levels of food insecurity explore their options and provides a platform to explore food initiatives.

**Community Organizations**

Edmontonians believe in social well-established charities and nonprofits with experienced workers, some of whom have dedicated decades to their advocacy for food security. Unfortunately, these workers are personally affected by the cuts they face and reduced emergency support through our care levels in the affected areas and the measures they take part in.

When asked if there is one key message that WGCN's Chair, Sandra McFadyen, would like to pass on to her nonprofit government, the report:

**"We are so proud of what we are doing. We make wholesome food available at such a reasonable price for families of all means. How can this be a part of that and be proud of what we do?"**

However, despite their passion and continued willingness to serve, our community organizations face unique challenges throughout the pandemic:

- **Reduced or no donor:**
  - New demand from people who could no longer get food from other public services due to COVID.
  - New demand from people who had no other option for COVID-19 and food loss. Unable to access food.
  - Lack of space due to physical distancing rules.
- **Lack of access funds:**
  - Unable to plan to make purchases for mobile carters decrease, etc. because of the increased food prices.
  - Less funding and difficulty obtaining grants.
  - Decrease of supplies of programs due to COVID regulations, while demand rose.
- **Cancelled or partial fundraisers:**
  - Many events were held.
  - Less funding and difficulty obtaining grants.
  - Decrease of supplies of programs due to COVID regulations, while demand rose.

Food Waste and Insecurity Report: A Youth Perspective



# Our Message

Build a culture of respect around food. This involves recognizing and mitigating the effects of food waste, while affirming people's right and ability to obtain healthy and culturally relevant food.



# Why care?

In 2018, 12.5% of Canadian households but 13.8% of Edmontonians experienced food insecurity

An interviewed charity experienced a four-fold increase in its clients for its food provision program.

Canada's food waste creates 56.5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions.

58% of food is lost in Canada. 32% of this could be rescued for food insecure Canadians.

Alberta spends \$500 million on food waste disposal annually.

# Topics



1. Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
2. Commercial Food Waste and Opportunities
3. Schools
4. Diversifying Food Options
5. Community Organizations



## #2 -Commercial Food Waste and Opportunities

B. Pursues actions that educate and train businesses in donating/diverting excess food to local organizations.

C. Provides local businesses with resources and incentives to develop their individual food waste reduction plans.

## #3 - Schools

Collaborate with the Edmonton School Board of Trustees to:

E. Adopt the Food Matters Action Kit in classes, clubs, or any alternative programming and

F. Building a pathway for food donation between restaurants and schools, where businesses can support initiatives such as free breakfast programs for students.

## #4 - Diversifying Food Options

G. Community Food Centers:  
community members  
come together and cook  
for others in their  
neighbourhood.

Community Fridges:  
households donate  
excess food to fridges in  
community leagues and  
centers.

Community Food Markets:  
smaller-scale farmer's  
market meant primarily to  
tackle food inequity in low  
SES neighbourhoods rather  
than to profit.

## #5 - Community Organizations

**We have spoken with** Edmonton Food Bank, Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op, Food4Good, Leftovers, WECAN, and more.

**Short term:** Continue to support the “band-aids” (charities, food banks, etc.)

**Long-term:** incorporate the voices of nonprofit workers in long-term systematic changes to the causes of food insecurity (poverty, unemployment, and inequity) as opposed to continuing to only alleviate its symptoms.

# Recommendations



CEYC recommends that the City of Edmonton:

A. joins the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, as a commitment to meaningfully work towards developing quality food systems and achieving food justice.

B. pursues actions that educate and train businesses in donating/diverting excess food to local organizations.

C. provides local businesses with resources and incentives to develop their individual food waste reduction plans.

D. provides grants and similar incentives that encourage youth-led food waste initiatives.

E. works with the Edmonton School Board of Trustees to adopt the Food Matters Action Kit

F. works with the Edmonton School Board of Trustees to determine the feasibility of building a pathway for food donation between restaurants and schools, where businesses can support initiatives such as free breakfast programs

G. investigates the feasibility of supporting Community Food Centres, Community Food Markets, and Community Fridges

H. develops a support strategy that meaningfully addresses the needs of local nonprofits, for them to expand their reach and sustainably address food waste and food insecurity. The intended support for these models is short-term. Long-term systemic change is needed simultaneously.