

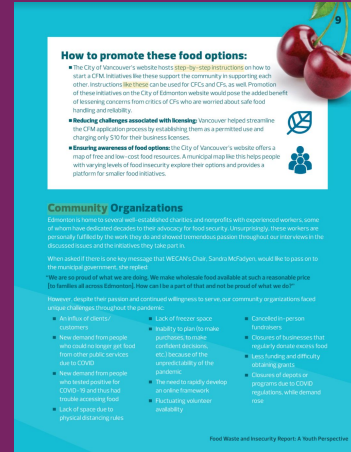
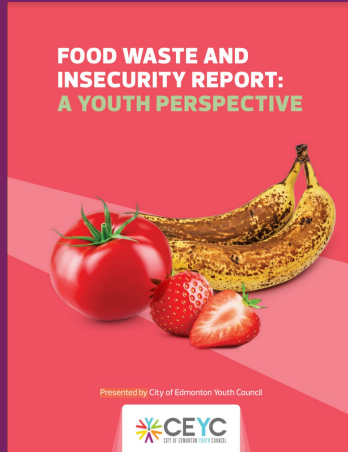
Food Waste and Insecurity: A Youth Perspective

August 25, 2021 | EXT00696



Mission:

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



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 CO₂ 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

#1 - Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

A. Joins the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

An international agreement that works towards developing quality food systems and achieving food justice



#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.