

FOOD

connection

**Reducing Waste.
Easing Hunger.**

Food Connection was born in Asheville, NC in 2014



Food waste statistics in the US

In the United States, people waste 92 billion pounds of food annually, equal to 145 billion meals. They throw away over \$473 billion worth of food annually. Shockingly, they waste 38% of all the food in America.

92B

pounds of food go to
waste each year.

38%

of all food goes
unsold or uneaten.

145B

meals' worth of food
goes to landfills.

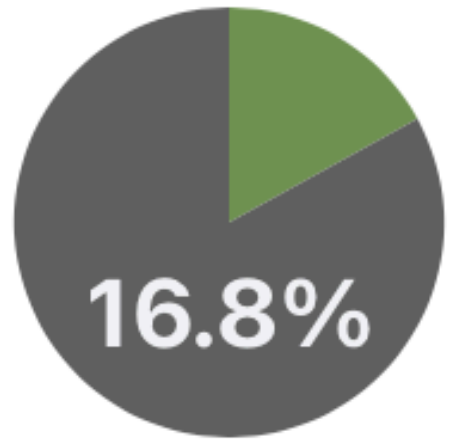
51.7%

of waste comes
from the food
industry.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

FOOD INSECURE POPULATION (CHILD): 8,120

FOOD INSECURITY RATE (CHILD)



ESTIMATED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE CHILD



12% Likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs (incomes above 185% of poverty)

88% Income eligible for federal nutrition programs (incomes at or below 185% of poverty)

AVERAGE MEAL COST
\$ 3.07

ADDITIONAL MONEY REQUIRED TO MEET FOOD NEEDS
\$ 16,460,000

[Click a County to view details](#)

Food Connection reduces food waste and eases hunger by rescuing surplus chef prepared food and distributing it to our neighbors in need!





Federal Protection for food donors

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act was passed in 1996 during the Clinton Administration.

Few people knew about it.

This law has never been contested in the courts.



Our Mobile Meals Truck delivers individually packaged, nutritionally balanced meals directly to communities who do not have enough to eat.







Comida fresca. Todo gratis.

FRESH

FOOD
connection.

ALL are welcome
Bienvenidos a todos

WPI Verver
Crispy
Hot

Frar

TODAY'S MENU

CHICKEN with
mashed potatoes + vegetables

CHOPPED STEAK
mashed potatoes + veggies

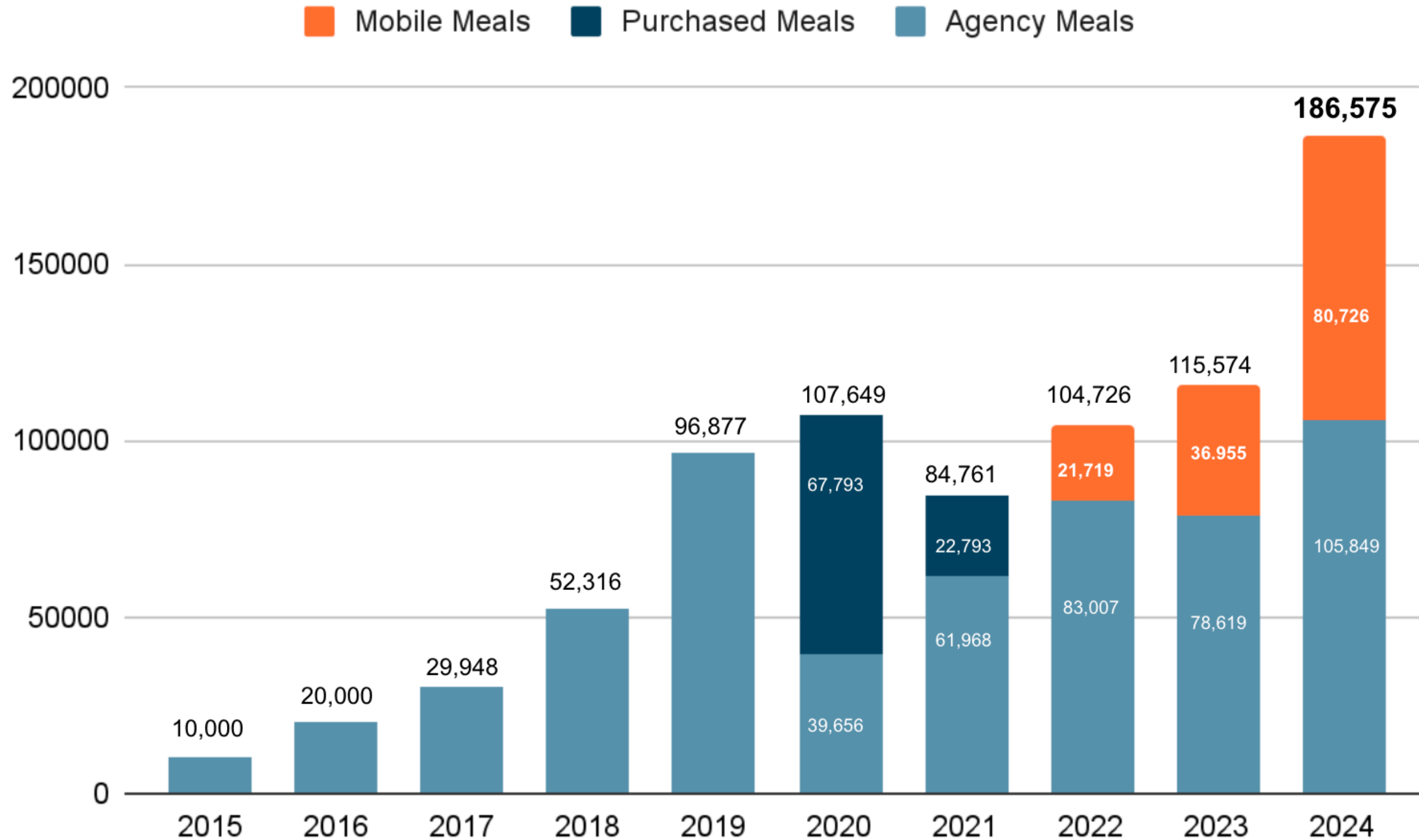
BLACK BEAN BURGERS
with mixed veggies + salad

ALL are welcome

NO CHARGE 😊



Historical Meals Distributed by Type



Food Donor Partners

Institutional Donors

Asheville Academy
Asheville School
Behavioral Health Group
Belfor Property Restoration
Biltmore Church
Blue Ridge Assembly
Blue Ridge Power
Bounty & Soul
Caiyalynn Burrell Child Crisis Center
Care Partners
Cragmont Assembly
Deerfield
Enka High School
Evergreen Charter School
Game of Throwing Leicester
Givens Highland Farm
Grace Episcopal Church
Gwynn Valley
Haw Creek Commons
HCA Healthcare

Homegrown

MANNA FoodBank
Meals on Wheels
Mercy Chefs
Mission Hospital
Montreat Conference Center
Pinegate Renewables
Ridgecrest Conference Center
Taste of Asheville
The Cathedral of All Souls
The Farm
Thoughtful Pies
UNCA
Warren Wilson College
Whole Foods
World Central Kitchen

Gifted Food Donors

Explore Asheville
Feeding Charlotte
Fresh Point
Halal Food Truck
Jetti Rae's
Locals Seafood
Spanish for Fun

Restaurant Donors

Beradu
Bold Rock
Catering by Corey
Celine & Company
Chai Pani
Chipotle
Chop Shop
Cliffs at Walnut
Crest Center
Dining Innovations
Dogwood Health Trust
Everyday Gourmet
Filo
Fioreously Delicious
Good Wheel Farm
Harrah's Cherokee Center
Highland Brewing Company
Homegrown
LongHorn Steakhouse
Luella's BBQ

Mountain Madre
Old School Subs
Omni Grove Park Inn
Pack's Tavern
Pinegate Renewables
Posana
Rabbit Rabbit
Red Radish
Sage and Spice
Sierra Nevada
Smash Events
Starbucks
The Venue
United Way
Urban Orchard

Food Recipient Partners

12 Baskets
ABCCM Daily Meal
ABCCM Hominy Valley Crisis Ministry
ABCCM South Crisis Ministry
ABCCM Transformation Village
ABCCM Veterans Restoration Quarter
Asheville Terrace Apartments via Meals on Wheels
BEAR Closet in Marion
Behavioral Health Group
Bell Church UMC
Big Ivy Community Center
Black Mountain Helene Distribution Center
Black Mountain Home for Children
Black Mountain Open Table
Blue Ridge Apartments
Bounty and Soul
Bountiful Cities
Bread of Life
Collins Center
Community Pick-up (Squashgate)

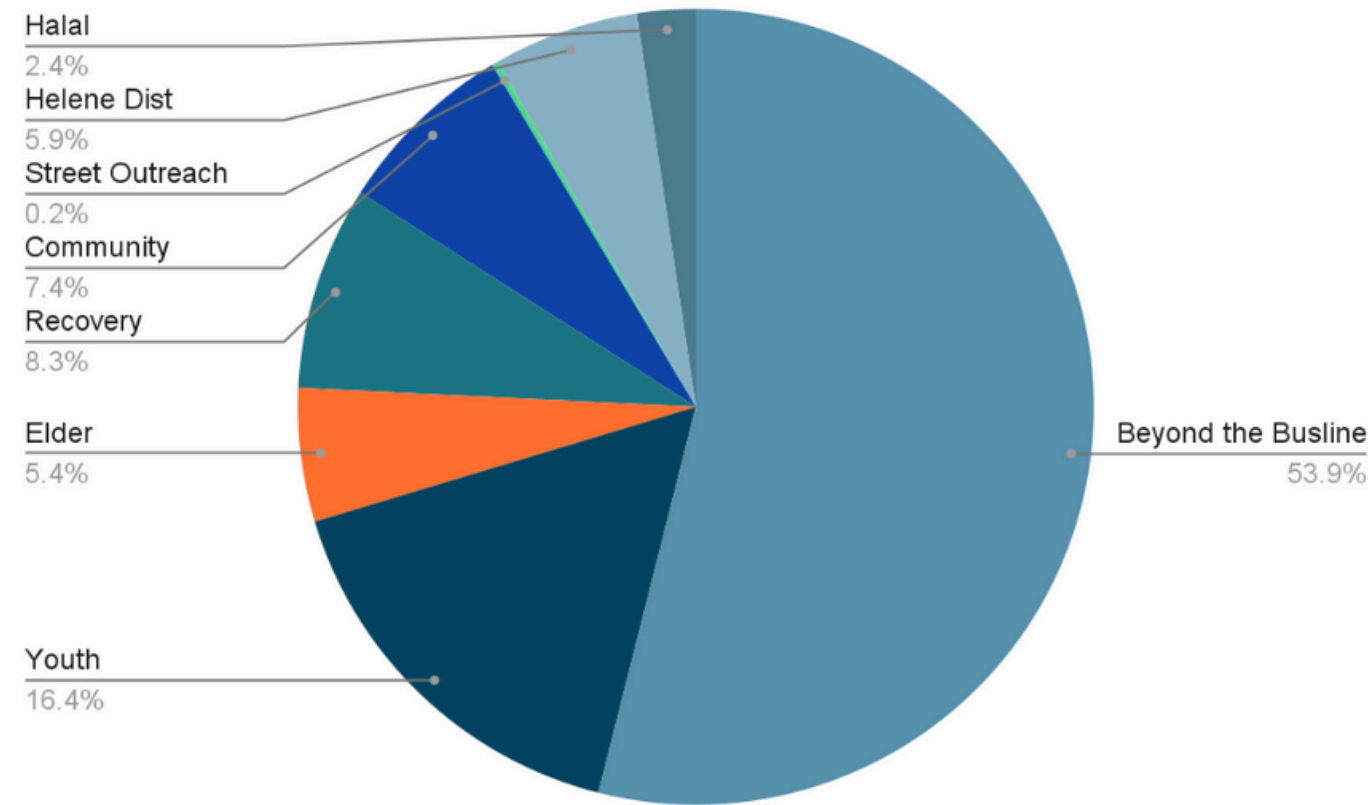
Compass Point
Chop Shop
Dream Center
East Asheville Welcome Table
Equal Plates Project
Food Waste Solutions
Foothills Food Hub
Francis Asbury United Methodist Church
Givens Gerber Park
Grass Roots
Haywood Respite
Homeward Bound's AHOPE Day Center
Hope for Tomorrow
Loving Food Resources
Lutheran Church
Mercy Chefs
Mi Kasa Criolla
Montessori Learning Community Of Asheville
PODS
Place Church

Regina's
Rosetta's
Taqueria Munoz
Unete's MANOS Program
Sage and Spice
Salvation Army
Search and Rescue
South French Broad Free Fridge
St. James Church Food Pantry
Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry
Sunrise Community Center
Sunrise Respite
Western Carolina Rescue Mission
YMI Cultural Center

Henderson County Agency Recipients:

Back on Track Addiction Ministries
Hope United Methodist Church
Lighthouse Foundation
Providence Baptist Church

2024 Mobile Meals Distributions by Program



Helene Distributions: 4,050 meals

- AB Tech: 240
- Biltmore Iron and Metal: 20
- Blue Ridge Terrace Apartments: 45
- Burnsville Helene Distribution: 200
- Clearmont Fire Department: 40
- Crossroads Church: 83
- Eddington Center: 790
- Emergency Buncombe: 25
- Grace Church: 106
- Green Mountain Helene Distribution: 61
- Johnston Middle School: 50
- Place Fellowship Church: 150
- Reuter Family YMCA: 454
- Rose's: 100
- UNETE: 1363
- Wellcare: 75
- West Yancey Fire Department: 125
- Woodfin Apts: 48
- Woodfin Helene Distribution: 75

Halal: 1,630 meals

- Beloved Asheville: 250
- Biltmore Village: 90
- Fairview: 300
- Reflection Point Village: 150
- Rock Hill Baptist Church: 295
- *UNETE: 545

Youth: 11,215 meals

- AmeriCorps: 15
- Asheville Youth Collective: 25
- Bear Closet: 132
- Collins Early Learning Center: 420
- Hope for Tomorrow: 760
- In Real Life (AVL Middle): 1018
- Montessori Learning Community: 184
- PEAK Academy: 328
- PODS: 2370
- Verner Center for Early Learning: 3872
- Youth Transformed for Life: 2412

Recovery: 5,665 meals

- Asheville Survival: 56
- Behavioral Health Group: 1614
- Compass Point: 20
- Dream Center: 92
- DSS: 78
- Haywood St Respite: 20
- Helpmate: 225
- Homeward Bound AHOPE: 290
- Lighthouse Collective Foundation: 1406
- Sunrise Community Center: 1343
- Sunrise Respite: 471

Elder: 3,708 meals

- Asheville Terrace Apartments: 2100
- Blue Ridge Apartments: 1471

Street Outreach: 166 meals

Community Connectors: 5,064 meals

- Brandee East Asheville: 50
- Brenda: 393
- Craig: 80
- East Asheville Community Connector: 112
- Ellie: 1739
- Equal Plates Project: 50
- Jess: 66
- Loving Food Resources: 104
- Maggie: 24
- Mary Benson: 25
- Nancy: 684
- Nicanda: 55
- South French Broad Fridge: 946
- Stefanie: 88
- Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries: 610
- Vaudie: 16

Beyond The Bus Line: 36,885 meals

- *Big Ivy: 543
- Candler: 3702
- *Fairview: 4446
- Leicester Drive Thru: 12702
- Ridgeview: 4665
- Swannanoa Drive Thru: 9964
- Veterans Restoration Quarters: 1163



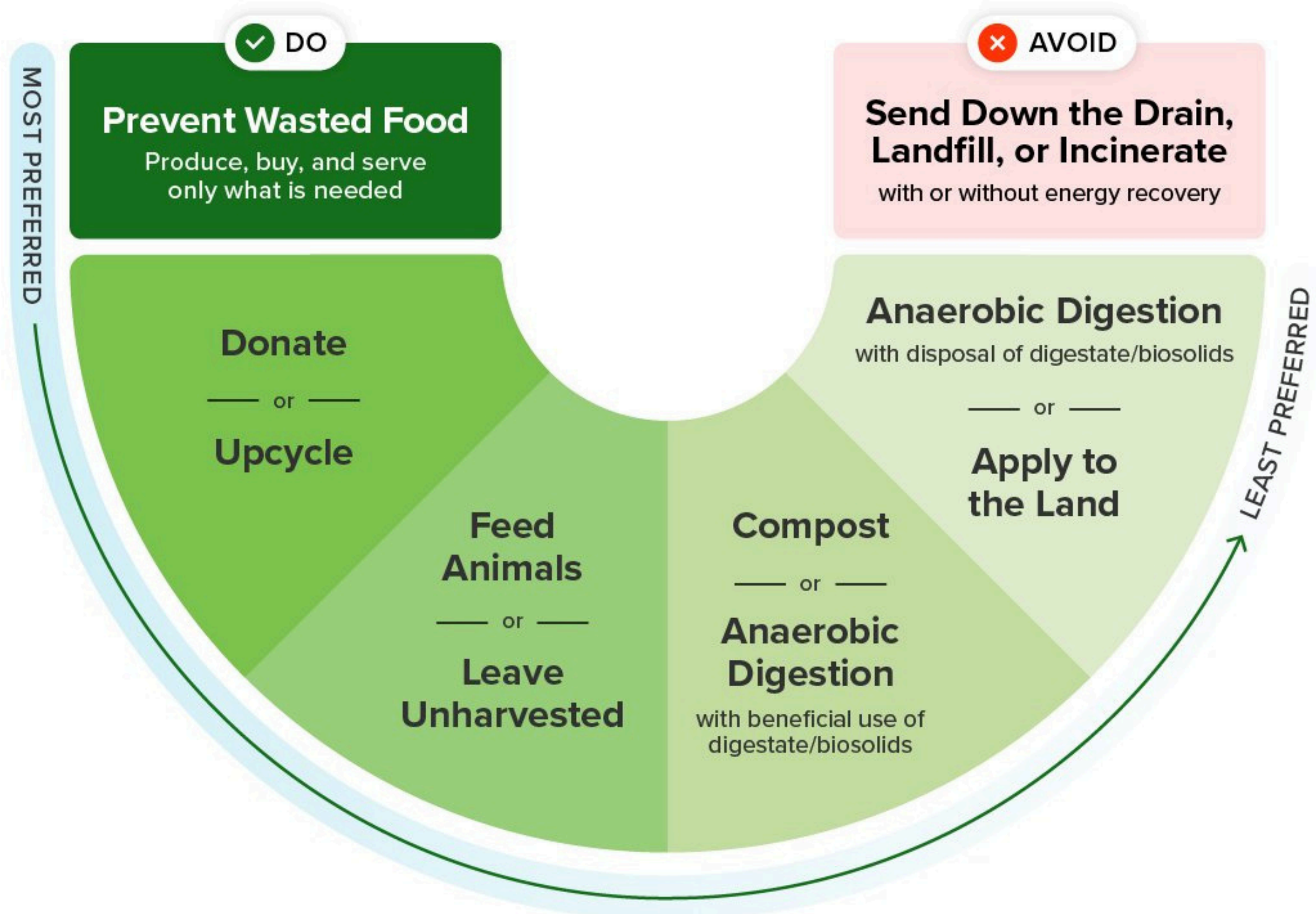
Reducing Food Waste.
Easing Hunger.

- **70 Donor Partners:**
- **56 Nonprofit/Faith Group Food Recipient Partners**
- **Mobile Meals Distributions: 26**
 - * Youth 8
 - * Beyond the Bus Line 6
 - * Community Connectors 15
 - * Recovery 10
 - * Elder 2



Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



Environmental Partners & Initiatives



Recycling Initiatives

- Pan recycling - now a measurable miscellaneous income
- Recycling plastic cutlery and togo boxes from restaurant partners
- Paper/plastic recycling on site for meal packing shifts

Compost Partners

- Compost NOW
- Warren Wilson
- 12 Baskets

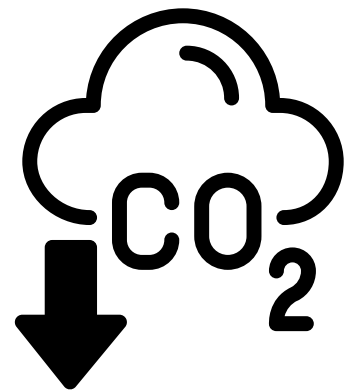


2024 Environmental Numbers

2024 --> 160,232 lbs diverted from the Buncombe County Landfill

That converts to:

- 416,603 lbs CO₂ avoided
- 608,881.6 lbs Methane avoided
**25 times more potent than CO₂*
- 481,218 miles driven







Hendersonville soft launch

Current Food Donors:

- Gwen Valley Summer Camp

Food Prospect Donors:

- Kanuga Conference Center
- Fallen Creek
- Eagle's Nest Camp
- Bonclarken Center
- Kenmore Country Club
- Hendersonville Country Club
- Lake Pointe Landing Retirement Center
- Carolina Village Retirement Center

Location for Trailer: St. James Episcopal

(Food Connection Board Member donated money for the Hendersonvill Trailer!)

Hendersonville Volunteers Committed: 10+

Current Food Recipients:

- Back on Track Addiction Ministries
- Hope United Methodist Church
- Lighthouse Foundation
- Providence Baptist Church



Reducing Food Waste.
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Food Connection stats:

Total Chef prepared meals served to our neighbors in need:

808,000+

Total amount kept out of the landfill:

350+ TONS