

# WASHINGTON FOOD WASTE REDUCTION PLAN

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## Hunger Relief Subject Matter Expert Presentation & Discussion

Tuesday 9/24/19 1PM – 2:30PM

### SUMMARY MINUTES

#### Participants:

- Aaron Czyzewski – Food Lifeline
- Alan Hamilton – Clark County Food Bank
- Amanda Reeves – Food Lifeline
- Anita Sailor – Rural Resources Community Action
- Benji Astrachan – WSU Clallam County Extension
- Brent Derocher – Clark County Food Bank
- Connie Spitz – Northwest Harvest
- David Bobanick – Harvest Against Hunger
- Emily Kaleel – Clark County Food Bank
- Emily Scott – Vashon Food Bank
- Gabriela Pardun – NEW Hunger Coalition
- Jeff Mathias – Blue Mountain Action Council
- Katie Rains – WSDA
- Ken Trainor – Sunrise Outreach Center
- Kendra Tyler – Environmental Protection Agency
- Leticia Brito – The Auburn Food Bank
- Lizann Powers-Hammond – WSU Extension
- Mary Harrington – Department of Ecology
- Michael Wubbenhorst – Lifelong CSB
- Michelle Douglas – Emergency Food Network
- Owen Esparas – 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest
- Paul Saelee – Food Lifeline
- Roberta Brauner – Ocean Shores Food Bank

#### Meeting Summary

- **Overview of Stakeholder Engagement**
  - The plan process is to meet with the 5 Subject Matter Expert groups, then write, then meet, then write – to write the plan as we go, not have a big write-up session after the meetings are done. The goal is to have draft plan done by May so there is time for ample feedback from stakeholders. Presented statistics on hunger, greenhouse gas emissions due to wasted food, resources, and that the list of stakeholders will be added to the planning webpage (reminded people to let us know if they don't want their name on the webpage, though all minutes will include a list of attendees and all participants' names will be disclosed if asked since these are public meetings.)

- **Overview of Food Waste Reduction Plan Format**
  - Shared proposed plan format (hard copy example provided) with recommendations grouped in phases 'easy, harder, and hardest.'
  - We are following the Food Waste and Recovery hierarchy: (Prevention) Source Reduction, (Rescue) Feed People, and (Recovery) Feed animals, composters, anaerobic digesters.
  - HB 1114 requires recommendations on:
    - Stable Funding
    - Avoiding adding burdens to Hunger Relief organizations
    - Providing technical support
    - Developing K-12 education
    - Best Management Practices (BMP's) for local solid waste management plans
    - Provide recommendations for legislative changes by Dec 2020
- **Initial Questions/Concerns/Comments from Participants**
  - Clallam County- working with Sodexo and schools and food service distributors is prohibitive; when the plan is creating a regulatory environment how is it going to work with food distribution companies and how is having multiple sets of regulations going to create a cohesive set of regulations (clarifying the regulator body)?
  - One of the things needed to advance rescue in schools is that there has to be more capacity and funding; food pantries don't have enough refrigeration and frozen space, and there is a core capacity need that is so deep. Additional refrigerators in every school requires cash to make this implementable, but without huge grant projects.
  - Recommendation: attractive concept, but if it's going to work it's going to have to be durable, efficient, cost effective, heavy logistics are going to be necessary. Hope it doesn't become disillusioning because we create different problems. The lens is food waste, but it has to make sense from a hunger relief and sustainability perspective, too.
  - To follow up on logistics, Second Harvest picked up lots of grocery rescue in the past 2.5 years, and have transitioned 98% of pickups out to the region/areas that the donation originated. Logistic lift has been offloaded on partner agencies that are in the area already, now picking up only 2% for the logistical piece.
  - At times it becomes a capacity issue at a local food pantry, some weeks picking up 1500 lbs, and then an additional 1000 lbs a week, which requires volunteers to move that amount of food, need to have a staff person, there is a larger burden on the small organizations for food rescue
  - Lots written in for potential funding and infrastructure- is there anything on the other end- once there is food that can't move anymore (connection to compost facilities and farmers), we also don't want to be in the position of wasting food, and it's a resource to be managed.
  - Beyond food waste, what about other waste; packaging recycling has been expensive. Are we looking behind the other costs that come to it

around waste? Also as the plan comes into place, the more efficient the system becomes, how much less food they will see in the system?

- Pay attention to the anaerobic digestion, if it gets a little better, companies are pushing into the grocery store recovery, and if they can turn it into fuel, they think they will like that better.
- Opportunities This Food Waste Reduction Plan Can Address:
  - More food for hungry people
  - Higher visibility for hunger relief
  - Food that is ideal to give to the homeless population – good, prepared food products that are easy to handout to people without kitchens
  - Upstream food waste prevention; hunger relief already works in rescue

Send questions or corrections to Katie Rains, [krains@agr.wa.gov](mailto:krains@agr.wa.gov), 360-688-4549

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3PM-5PM

WSDA 1111 Washington St NE, Olympia, WA 98504

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/791662581> **OR**

Call in: (571) 317-3112, Access Code: 791-662-581

**Department of Ecology Food Waste Reduction Plan Website:**

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Organic-materials/Food-waste-prevention/Food-waste-plan>