

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_**

[THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF CITY/COUNTY]  
[NAME], Mayor

### **SUBJECT: Food Waste Policies**

I, [Name], [Mayor of the Metropolitan Government of City/County], by virtue of the power and authority invested in me, do hereby find, direct and order as follows:

WHEREAS, it is estimated that as much as 40 percent of the food supply in the United States goes uneaten and almost 95 percent of wasted food is disposed in landfills and incinerators where it represents the largest component of disposed municipal solid waste; and

WHEREAS, food waste disposed of in landfills emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the natural resources used to produce food, such as energy, land, and water, also are wasted when food is thrown away; and

WHEREAS, [number of local] adults and children are food-insecure and, therefore, do not have a reliable source of food to support a healthy and active lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the average American family wastes an average of approximately \$1,800 worth of food per year; and

WHEREAS, [refer to any relevant metropolitan goals here, e.g. zero waste or diversion goals, climate goals, sustainability goals]; and

WHEREAS, reducing the amount of food going to waste and diverting it from disposal mitigates climate change, conserves natural resources, feeds hungry [city/county] citizens, saves money, and produces beneficial products such as soil amendment and energy, the [metropolitan government] hereby adopts the following measures:

- I. Food Waste Reduction Goal
  1. The [metropolitan government] hereby adopts a goal of reducing the amount of disposed food waste in [city/county] by 50 percent by 2030, consistent with the federal goal set in 2015.
  2. The food waste reduction goal shall be met through wasted food prevention including education initiatives, surplus food rescue efforts such as donating food to hungry people, and food scrap recycling initiatives such as composting.
  3. [Metropolitan government] [optional addition: “, in partnership with any relevant organizations or agencies,”] shall periodically report on progress toward achieving the food waste reduction goal.



## II. Community Programs

[Metropolitan government] shall start by conducting the following activities and programs to prevent wasting food, rescue surplus food, and recycle food scraps, which shall be reflected, as appropriate, in the strategies developed pursuant to Section III of this Executive Order [include strategies specific to your municipality below – examples follow]:

1. Mayor's Restaurant Challenge: Explore with private sector trade associations a program to encourage restaurants and other businesses to reduce the amount of food going to waste, donate surplus food, and recycle food scraps, and provide appropriate recognition to successful participants.
2. Food Waste Education: Disseminate educational materials on food waste, including the free materials available through the nationwide Save the Food Campaign, which may be distributed in a variety of ways, such as posting on social media and encouraging businesses, schools and others to participate as well.
3. Advisory Committees: Ensure that any outside advisory committee of experts established by [metropolitan government] to address environment and sustainability includes food waste in its portfolio.
4. Baseline Measurement: Develop [or "Support private efforts to develop"] baseline estimates of commercial and residential food waste generation, as well as estimates of surplus food that could potentially be donated.
5. Backyard Composter Promotion: Increase promotion and awareness of backyard composter units sold by the City.
6. Curbside Pickup Evaluation: Explore the long-range feasibility of residential and business curbside pickup and recycling of food waste in [municipality].

## III. [Metropolitan government] Department [or "Agency"] Strategies

[The Metropolitan Government Departments of General Services, Health, Planning, Public Works, Sheriff's Office, Social Services, etc. – replace with local departments as applicable] shall:

1. Develop a strategy for preventing food from going to waste, rescuing surplus food, and recycling food scraps by [date]; and
2. Report bi-annually to the Office of the Mayor on activities that address food waste.

ORDERED, EFFECTIVE and ISSUED:

[Signature]  
[Mayor Title]  
Date: [ ]

