



TOGETHER NORTH JERSEY

**Food Security & Food
Recovery in New Jersey:
Recent State and Local
Progress**

REGULATORY UPDATE

GARY SONDERMEYER

BAYSHORE RECYCLING

DECEMBER 8, 2022

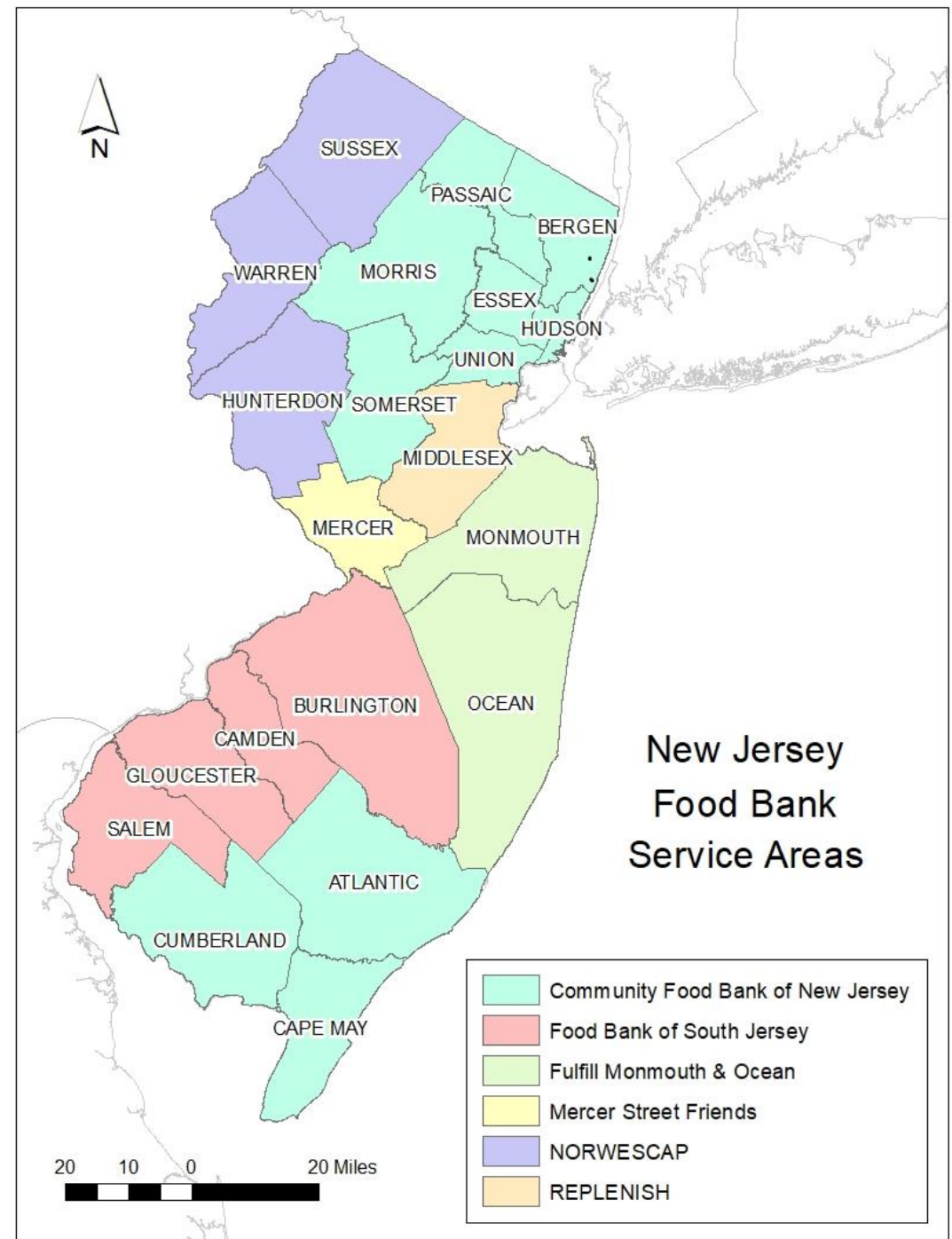
FOOD PROBLEM STATEMENT

- The NRDC estimates that 40% of all food grown in the USA is wasted;
- New Jersey is the 2nd most affluent State in the US which is the most affluent industrialized nation on earth;
- Four New Jersey Counties are in the “Top 20” most affluent in the United States:
 - #10 Morris
 - #11 Hunterdon
 - #15 Somerset
 - #20 Bergen
- Despite our relative affluence, 11% of New Jersey’s population and 15% of kids 18 years of age and younger are food insecure;
- Wasted food is landfilled. Landfills are the 3rd largest source of human-related methane emissions in the US - some 15.1% of these emissions;
- Our goals are to dramatically advance food recovery systems while driving food waste away from landfills and to small and large-scale composting facilities.

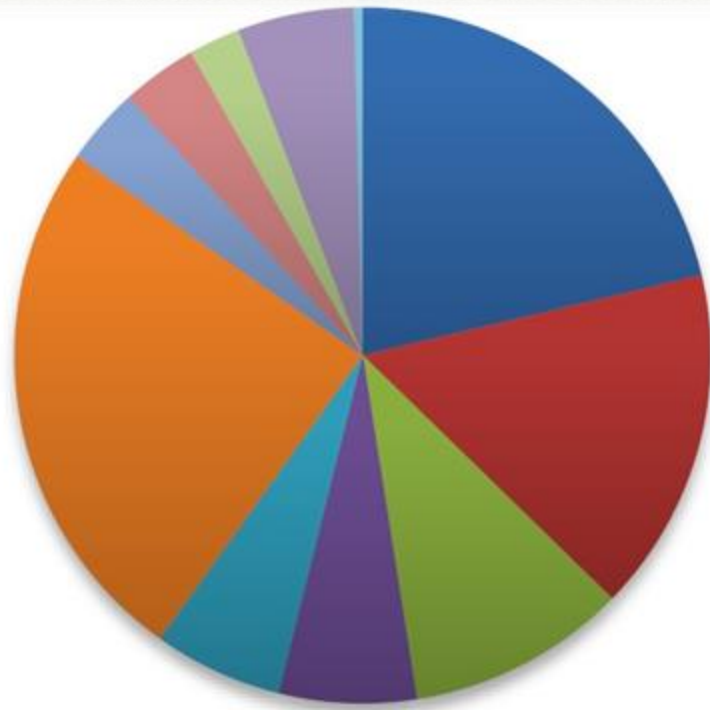


NEW JERSEY FOOD ASSET RECOVERY SYSTEM

- National Oversight Organization – “Feeding America”
- Recognized “Food Banks” in New Jersey:
 - Community Food Bank of New Jersey
 - Food Bank of South Jersey
 - Fulfill Monmouth & Ocean
 - Mercer Street Friends
 - NORWESCAP
 - REPLENISH
- 1,400 Food Pantries Statewide (rough estimate)
- 150 Soup Kitchens Statewide (rough estimate)



What's Left in the Can After 35 Years of Mandatory Recycling?



- Paper - 21.3%
- Plastics - 16.0%
- Textiles, Rubber, Leather - 10.2%
- Wood - 6.4%
- Yard Waste - 6.0%
- Food Waste - 24.8%
- Other Organics - 3.6%
- Metals - 3.5%
- Glass - 2.4%
- Inorganics - 5.4%
- Hazard Materials/Other - 0.4%

Who Generates the Food?

- **Composition Estimate From NRDC:**
 - 43% Residential
 - 26% Restaurants
 - 14% Retail Supermarkets
 - 9% Institutions (Hospitals, Prisons, Schools)
 - 8% Food Manufacturers & Processors



<i>FWG Sector</i>	<i>Inventory Total</i>
Food and Beverage Manufacturers	1,872
Wholesalers and Distributors	977
Supermarkets and Supercenters	6,047 (Supermarkets) 67 (Supercenters)
Hospitality	1,596 (Hotels) 110 (Casinos)
Restaurants and Food Service	18,321 (Full Service) 2,449 (Limited Service)
Colleges and Universities	165
Elementary and Secondary Schools	2,558 (Public Schools) 716 (Private Schools)
Correctional Facilities	13
Healthcare Facilities	110 (Hospitals) 858 (Long-term Care Facilities)
Major Private Employers (>500 employees)	743
Event Venues	1,005
Farms	688
Farmers Markets	131
Food Banks	9



KEY SHORT TERM ISSUES

- **Office of Food Security Advocate** (A5884/S3945) – Mark Dinglasan
- DEP publication of the final **“Food Waste Reduction Plan”** for the State
- Implementing the **Food Recycling Act A2371/S865**, effective 10/14/21
- County Food Waste Reduction Planning Act: (pending as **A1439**)
- Advancing a **“Community Food Recovery & Composting”** campaign
- Coordinating climate education – **Organics Education Committee**



WHAT'S NEEDED TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE FOOD MANAGEMENT

- **Effective education** to dispel misconceptions: date labels, food donor liability, health & safety, share tables.
- **Small grants assistance** to help Food Pantries: refrigerators, freezers, 220 electrical connections, small trucks, hydraulic lift gates, etc.
- Removal of barriers to developing **composting infrastructure**: only 2 commercial facilities now!
- **Removal of regulatory barriers** to community gardens, regional school management, backyard composting.
- **Better planning tools**: Food System mapping, “apps” for real-time recovery, models of success.
- **Coordinated leadership** to bridge the “Food Recovery & Food Waste” communities!

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

- Community Gardens Exemption Bill: A4547
- Community Garden “Buy-A-Lot” Bill: Under Development
- Regional School Composting Bill: A4548
- Backyard Composting Exemption Bill: Being Written
- Share Table Liability Limitation Bill: Under Development
- Food Bank/Pantry/Kitchen Small Grants Assistance Bill
- Tiered Compost Facility Regulation Bill



OTHER IMPORTANT WORK UNDERWAY

- **\$172,000** Stockton/Rutgers REA Grant: *“Food Asset Recovery Statewide GIS Mapping Project”*
- **\$335,261** Rutgers REA Grant: Food waste/climate change curriculum development: *“New Jersey Leaves No Bite Behind”*
- **\$18,000** NJ State Policy Lab Grant : *“Comparative analysis of State Food Recovery/Reduction Policies”*
- **\$25,000** Center For EcoTechnology: US EPA *“Municipal, Business, Institution Education Grant”*
- **\$235,000** REA Grant to Sustainable Jersey: *In-vessel compost units in George Catrambone in Long Branch, Delran and Newton Elementary Schools and Sustainable Food Management Tool Kit Development*
- **Sustainable Jersey Actions:** *Community Food Pantry/Bank and Soup Kitchen under “Food” Action Area*
- **Bergen White Paper:** *County Template for Food System Assessments & Outreach Coordination*
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension: *1-Hour **Health Inspector Training Module***

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

GSONDERMEYER@BAYSHORERECYCLING.COM

