

# FOOD WASTE & RESCUE POTENTIAL IN JERSEY CITY

By tackling food waste, cities can rein in climate emissions, reduce municipal waste costs, and help relieve community food insecurity.

Through NRDC's Food Matters project, we have estimated a city-wide baseline level of food waste generation and assessed the potential for increased rescue of surplus food. This snapshot can help identify opportunities for policy, outreach, and interventions to achieve the city's goals.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION IN JERSEY CITY

NRDC encourages cities to address food waste based on the [EPA food recovery hierarchy](#), which identifies the preferred ways to prevent and divert wasted food. Below are some recommendations for future action targeted at specific sectors that cut across the hierarchy.



Food scraps collection from residences and consumer-facing businesses is a critical component of meeting waste reduction goals. Engaging residents in food waste reduction and recycling will be critical to improved waste strategies.



High visibility technical assistance could motivate restaurants in Jersey City to reduce food waste. Technical assistance in food waste prevention in this sector may prove to significantly curtail the amount of food going to waste in Jersey City.



Health inspectors can be invaluable assets in educating licensed food facilities on how to safely donate surplus food. Improved communication and education for food-service businesses will be necessary to fulfill the ambitious scenario predictions.



Coordination with local rescue organizations can help identify infrastructure needs in order to increase food donation and rescue levels.



DOWNLOAD THE FOOD  
MATTERS TOOLKIT

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JERSEY CITY  
EFFORTS TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE

[www.jcmakeitgreen.org/food-waste/](http://www.jcmakeitgreen.org/food-waste/)  
[makeitgreen@jcni.org](mailto:makeitgreen@jcni.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NRDC'S  
FOOD MATTERS INITIATIVE

[www.nrdc.org/food-matters](http://www.nrdc.org/food-matters)  
[foodmatters@nrdc.org](mailto:foodmatters@nrdc.org)

## KEY FACTS

**10.9%**

food insecurity  
in Jersey City

**40K**

tons of food waste  
in Jersey City

**40%**

of all food in the  
U.S. is wasted

**\$1,800**

lost by the average  
family each year

**8%**

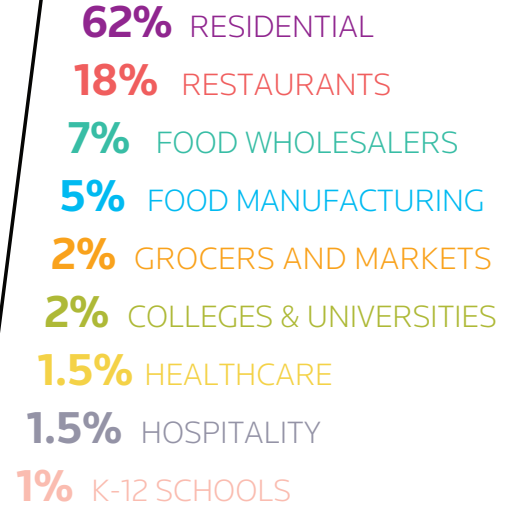
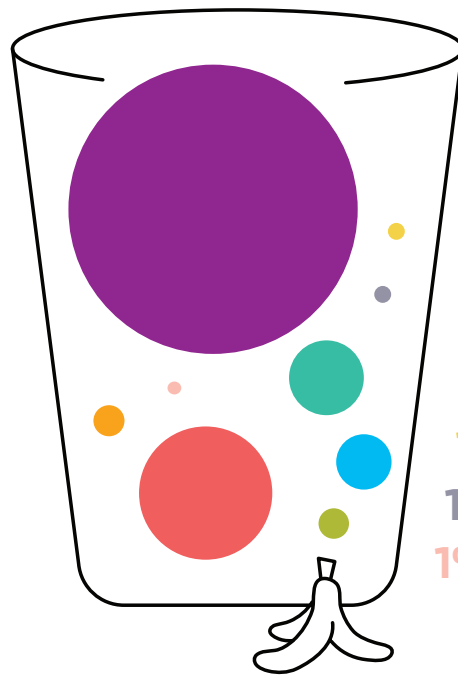
of global greenhouse  
gas emissions come  
from food waste



## FOOD WASTE IN JERSEY CITY

Though actual measurement of wasted food is optimal, waste audits can be costly, time-consuming, and sometimes impractical. The model for calculating these estimates using proxy metrics was identified from a range of national sources and NRDC's original research.

We estimate 40,500 tons of food waste are generated in Jersey City each year. Residential is the highest food waste producing sector at 25,000 tons of food waste per year, followed by the restaurant sector at 7,300 tons.



## FOOD RESCUE OPPORTUNITIES

Donation of surplus food serves an important role in meeting the immediate needs of those facing food insecurity. The maximum scenario used our most optimistic assumptions about the amount of surplus food potentially available for donation with full participation from businesses within each sector. Alternatively, the ambitious scenario used more realistic assumptions and existing donation patterns to estimate an ambitious but attainable expansion of food donation efforts.

While restaurants represent a larger portion of overall wasted food, much of that waste occurs after the food is served and is unsuitable for rescue.

