

- 1. Call to Order & Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of June 16, 2025 Minutes**
- 4. Communications**
- 5. Old Business**

Work Plan Update

Kalli Marshall, VBCD, Chair



Work Plan Update

Goal Review

S

Specific

Be specific about what you want to achieve

Ask yourself questions about your goals following the five W's - Who, What, When, Where, and Why



M

Measurable

Make sure that you can measure your success

You'll be able to track your progress by answering questions like how will you know when your goal is complete?



A

Achievable

Ensure your goal is realistic and achievable - don't set yourself a goal that's too easy or too difficult to complete

Look at your current situation and make sure you have what you need to achieve



R

Relevant

Set yourself a goal that's relevant to you

Is your goal worthwhile to you?
Are you the right person to achieve it?

Is your goal applicable to your current situation, or is it unrealistic?



T

Time-bound

Assign a start and end date to your goal to encourage yourself to reach it with a deadline

Think about what you can do today, tomorrow, months from now to achieve your goal



Goal 1: Prevent Food Waste Before it Starts

- **Objective 1.1: Encourage smart consumer behavior at the household level**
 - Promote planned purchasing for grocery shopping
 - Educate households on freezing, prepping, and storing food
- **Objective 1.2: Support food waste prevention in institutions, businesses, and producers**
 - Advocate for improved supply chain planning in schools and hospitals
 - Reuse leftover menu items creatively in food service
 - Provide more freezer and refrigeration capacity to preserve surplus food through reuse programs, grants, and partnerships.
 - Collaborate with food manufacturers and distributors to improve forecasting and inventory management
 - Incentivize secondary markets for imperfect or surplus produce
- **Objective 1.3: Integrate food waste reduction into school curriculum and student habits**
 - Develop programs to teach kids about food waste and the importance of reduction
 - Promote food waste competitions in schools
 - Let students choose which items they want to reduce waste
 - Provide food scrap recycling education in schools
 - Encourage participation in 10 Cents a Meal and Michigan Green Schools initiatives



**What other food waste prevention objectives are needed?
What is missing? What do you like or dislike about the goal
and objectives listed here?**

Goal 2: Divert Edible Food Waste and Organics from Landfills. Promote feeding livestock when possible

- **Objective 2.1: Strengthen food donation and redistribution systems**
 - Connect restaurants and grocery stores with food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens
 - Provide funding for businesses that redistribute edible food
 - Promote donation to schools, seniors, fire stations
 - Raise awareness of the Good Samaritan Law protections
- **Objective 2.2: Establish and expand organics infrastructure and programs**
 - Initiate and encourage the development of food scrap recycling sites, digesters or other food waste reduction sites
 - Develop food scrap recycling drop off programs for communities over 5,000 residents
 - Develop food scrap recycling curbside programs for communities that have demonstrated interest
- **Objective 2.3: Pilot and scale composting programs**
 - Support pilot programs that convert food waste into compost for community gardens
 - Engage FFA and 4H clubs in composting efforts
 - Provide residential backyard composting tools and resources



**What other food waste diversion objectives are needed?
What is missing? What do you like or dislike about the goal
and objectives listed here?**

Goal 3: Build Public Awareness and Education on Food Waste

- **Objective 3.1: Deliver consistent, empathetic, and transparent education**
 - Adopt a region-wide color/shape/signage food waste reduction scheme
 - Work with Conservation Districts, Parks Departments, institutions, businesses, etc. to increase education on food scrap diversion.
 - Promote transparency and correct misinformation
- **Objective 3.2: Foster a culture of responsibility and change social norms relating to food waste**
 - Add existing information, best practices & food waste reduction efforts to the County website
 - Create strategies to reduce waste and collect food scraps at County events and properties
 - Normalize food scrap recycling and food donation behavior in schools, restaurants, and households
 - Recognize and promote businesses who adopt food waste reduction practices



What other food waste specific public awareness and education objectives are needed? What is missing? What do you like or dislike about the goal and objectives listed here?

Goal 4: Develop and Align Infrastructure and Policy for Food Waste Solutions

- **Objective 4.1: Identify and promote food scrap recycling policies**
 - Provide and promote ordinances that ensure a reduction in food waste to the landfill.
 - Support policies for donation and food scrap recycling at public institutions
- **Objective 4.2: Track Organics Diversion Rates over time**
 - Create a method for reporting organics diversion
 - Track organics diversion year to year
- **Objective 4.3: Encourage entrepreneurial and public investment in food scrap recycling**
 - Fund startup and expanding food scrap recycling businesses
 - Support and encourage the Nextcycle program



What other food waste specific infrastructure and policy objectives are needed? What is missing? What do you like or dislike about the goal and objectives listed here?

Goal 5: Connect and Support Local and Regional Solutions

- **Objective 5.1: Map and promote existing local resources**
 - Create a comprehensive , interactive map of food and yard waste sites in Cass, Berrien, and Van Buren Counties
 - Provide details on what materials each location accepts
- **Objective 5.2: Encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing**
 - Support awareness campaigns for food pantries
 - Collaborate with other counties with similar goals and initiatives
 - Share best practices from other communities for municipalities looking to enhance food waste reduction efforts
 - Share resources from MSU Extension, Conservation



What other food waste specific objectives are needed relating to connecting and supporting solutions? What is missing? What do you like or dislike about the goal and objectives listed here?



**What other
goals/objectives/actions relating to
food waste are missing?**

6. Hearings

7. New Business

Public Survey Review

Bekah Schrag, DPA

8. Public Comment

9. Miscellaneous

Subcommittees

10. Adjournment