

Open Source Circular Economy Days - Challenge Brief Template

No food wasted:

How can we maximize the amount of nutritious & edible food that is recovered from grocery stores to businesses or community organizations that can use it?

Challenge Description:

As part of the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN has pledged to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels by 2030. Countries around the world have already begun taking steps to minimize this waste stream, such as banning supermarkets from throwing out unsold food and requiring these stores to donate it to charities or to composting companies to ensure it has another use. Our challenge is to develop strategies to maximize the amount of nutritious and edible food that is donated from grocery stores to community organizations. One major problem is that large quantities of perishable food items, such as bread and milk, are often donated but can be difficult to utilize prior to expiration. Another issue is that community organizations sometimes receive excess levels of sugary drinks or treats that lack the nutritional value needed for food insecure households. New strategies and programs to help channel healthy foods from grocery stores for efficient use by community organizations could help reduce food waste and improve the health of those living without food security. In Berlin there are online platforms to coordinate volunteers to pick up food from cooperative retailers for community organizations. Could something similar be done in Vancouver? What other strategies could be used?

What aspect(s) of this challenge needs help?

The challenge needs help developing strategies or programs to reduce food waste, specifically to maximize the amount of unused health food moving from grocery stores to community organizations or secondary markets. This may be helped by individuals with experience in program development and coordination or an interest in food security and waste management. It could be helped by individuals with ideas on how to make a new strategy open source or how to create a useful online platform. It may be helped by creative individuals with ideas for ways to prolong the life of perishable food items (i.e. turning milk into yogurt).

Challenge sector(s):

bio based, business, food, sharing

Where on the circular economy would this challenge be placed?

distribution, waste reduction, reuse/recovery

Who to contact for additional information on this challenge:

Name		Phone	
Email		Website	

Please feel free to attach a photograph or diagram to further explain the challenge.

