

USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

Reducing Food Waste



In the United States, over one-third of food goes uneaten through loss or waste. When food is tossed aside, so too are opportunities for improved food security, economic growth, and environmental prosperity. USDA is uniquely positioned to help address the problem of food loss and waste through its programs, policies, and guidance.

Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Projects

The USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production awards cooperative agreements through an annual competitive process. The agreements assist local and municipal governments with projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. Implementation activities increase access to compost for agricultural producers, improve soil quality and encourages innovative, scalable waste management plans that reduce and divert food waste from landfills.

Who is Eligible?

Municipalities, counties, local governments, State and federally recognized tribes, or city planners in the United States are eligible.

Learn More

More information, including a webinar, Frequently Asked Questions, and news release, is available at farmers.gov/urban.



USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

was formed through the 2018 Farm Bill to improve USDA's support for urban and innovative farming operations.

The office manages competitive grants and cooperative agreements.

A new federal advisory committee on urban agriculture and innovative production and new Farm Service Agency urban and suburban county committees provide the public an opportunity to have input on USDA programs and services.



At left, Metro Atlanta Urban Farm (MAUF) CEO Bobby Wilson talks with USDA's Natural Resource Conversation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist Shemekia Mosley, State Public Affairs Officer Chris Groskreutz and Farm Service Agency (FSA) Beginning Farmer Regional Coordinator Rodney Brooks about future opportunities on his farm.

USDA Photo by Preston Keres prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.