

Our environmental impact

Reducing methane emissions by addressing food waste



In 2018, Food Forward diverted 23.1 million pounds of food waste from landfills, an increase of 25.8% from the previous year. We prevented over 8,763 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent, commensurate to removing 1,852 passenger vehicles from the road for a year. Estimates indicate that if food recovery organizations work together, annual food waste (13.2 million tons) can be reduced by 20% in the next decade. Our accomplishments will help the United States meet the first-ever national goal to reduce food waste—a 50% reduction by 2030.

The environmental cost of food waste is extreme. According to the EPA, food waste sent to landfills produces methane, a harmful greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than CO₂. Globally, food waste contributes over 8% of total greenhouse gas emissions, making it a significant contributor to climate change. Food is the largest source of waste in California, comprising 18% of California's landfills.

Rescuing food can help individuals and families that do not always have access to fresh and nutritious produce. Through our food recovery model, Food Forward helps to protect the environment from harmful toxins caused by food waste decomposition. Our programs are interconnected with our surroundings, environment, and the power of communities to create change.

