

A top-down view of a compost bin. In the center is a carved jack-o'-lantern with a face. The bin is filled with green food scraps, likely lettuce. The bin has a grey rim and a white interior. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly asphalt.

Food Scraps Composting

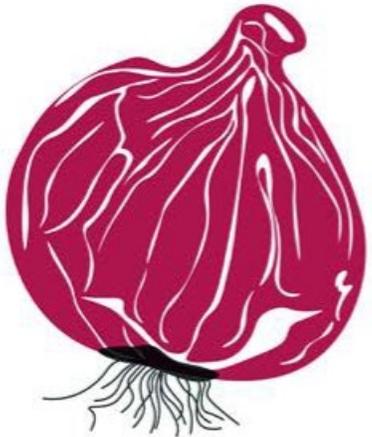
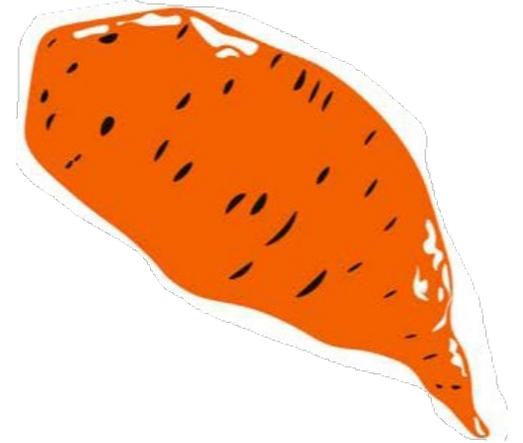
March 2026 – Common Council



WISCONSIN Food Waste Evaluation



Approximately 4,500,700 tons of in-state waste were disposed of in Wisconsin's landfills based on DNR data in 2024, and of that total, an estimated 652,000 tons of wasted food (previously edible) and 270,000 tons of food scraps (peels, bones, shells, etc.) were disposed of. The estimated total of more than 900,000 tons of food waste represents 20% of all waste in Wisconsin landfills.



FOOD WASTE GENERATION:

ReFED estimates the percentage of food waste sent to landfills by sector. In Wisconsin, 88 percent of the food waste going to landfills is from residential and food service sources, with residential contributing the largest share at 47 percent.

Using the 20% of all landfill waste is food estimate...

In 2025, Streets collected **44,423.61 tons** from the tan trash carts.

Minimum **8,884.72 tons of food** landfilled by the City of Madison in 2025.



We've been working at food scraps since 2011...



- Contamination concerns
- Lack of available processors for post-consumer food scraps

Food Scraps 2022 to Today

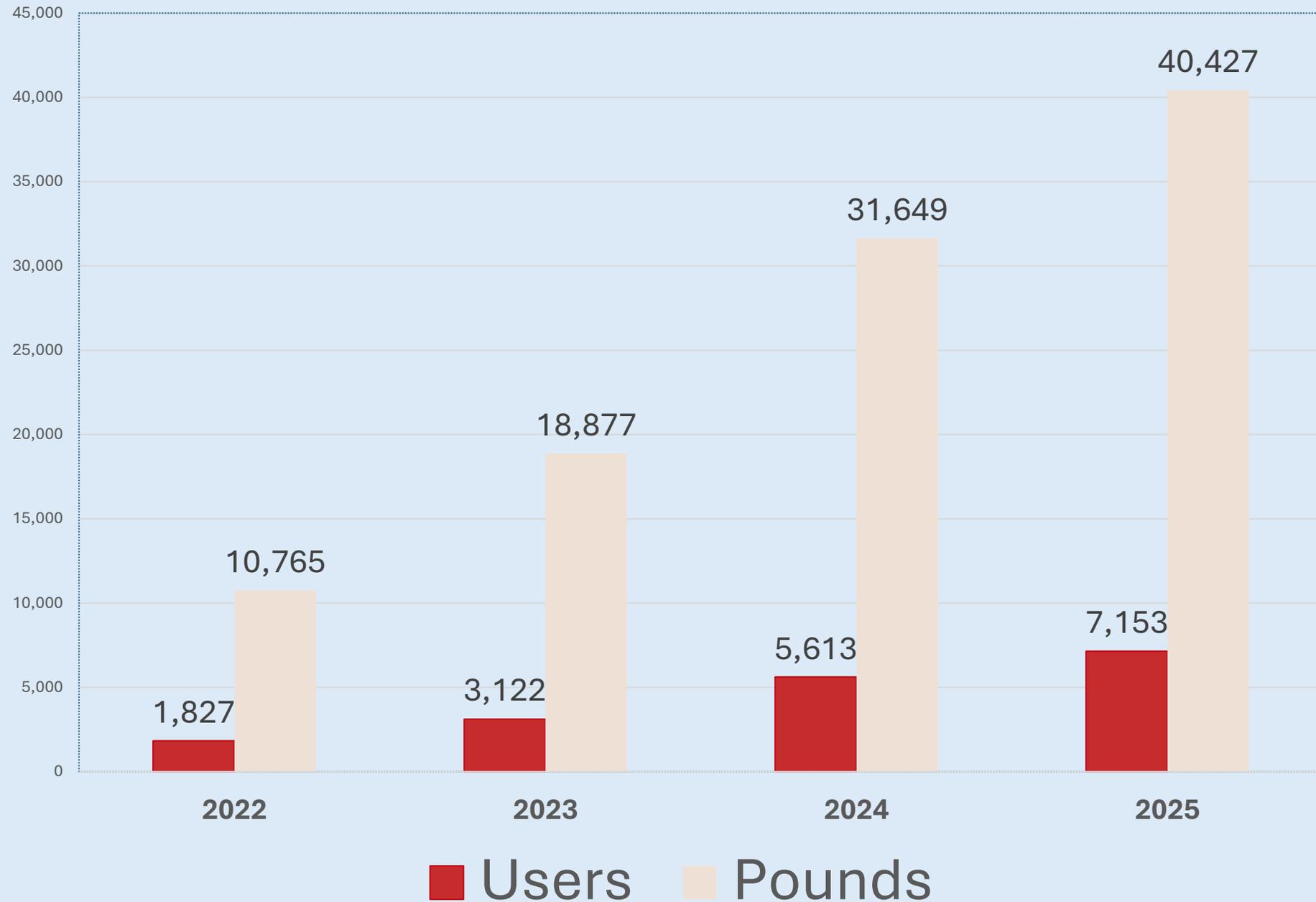


Farmers' Market Food Scraps Drop-off

- Drop off at selected neighborhood farmer's markets
- Sites are staffed to monitor for contamination, provide information, increase program visibility, etc
- Material accepted at the sites are controlled
- Scraps go to local farm for composting



Food Scraps Drop-off Progress



40,000 pounds (20 tons) is the weight of roughly 20 bison, which is a small herd

Dane County Scraps Stops

- 3 Locations in Madison
- Scraps taken to local composter contracted to take post-consumer food scraps

Scrap Stops Data (6/2025 thru 12/2025)

- 1,555 registered users
- Collected an estimated 22,317.80 pounds



Food Scraps in 2026

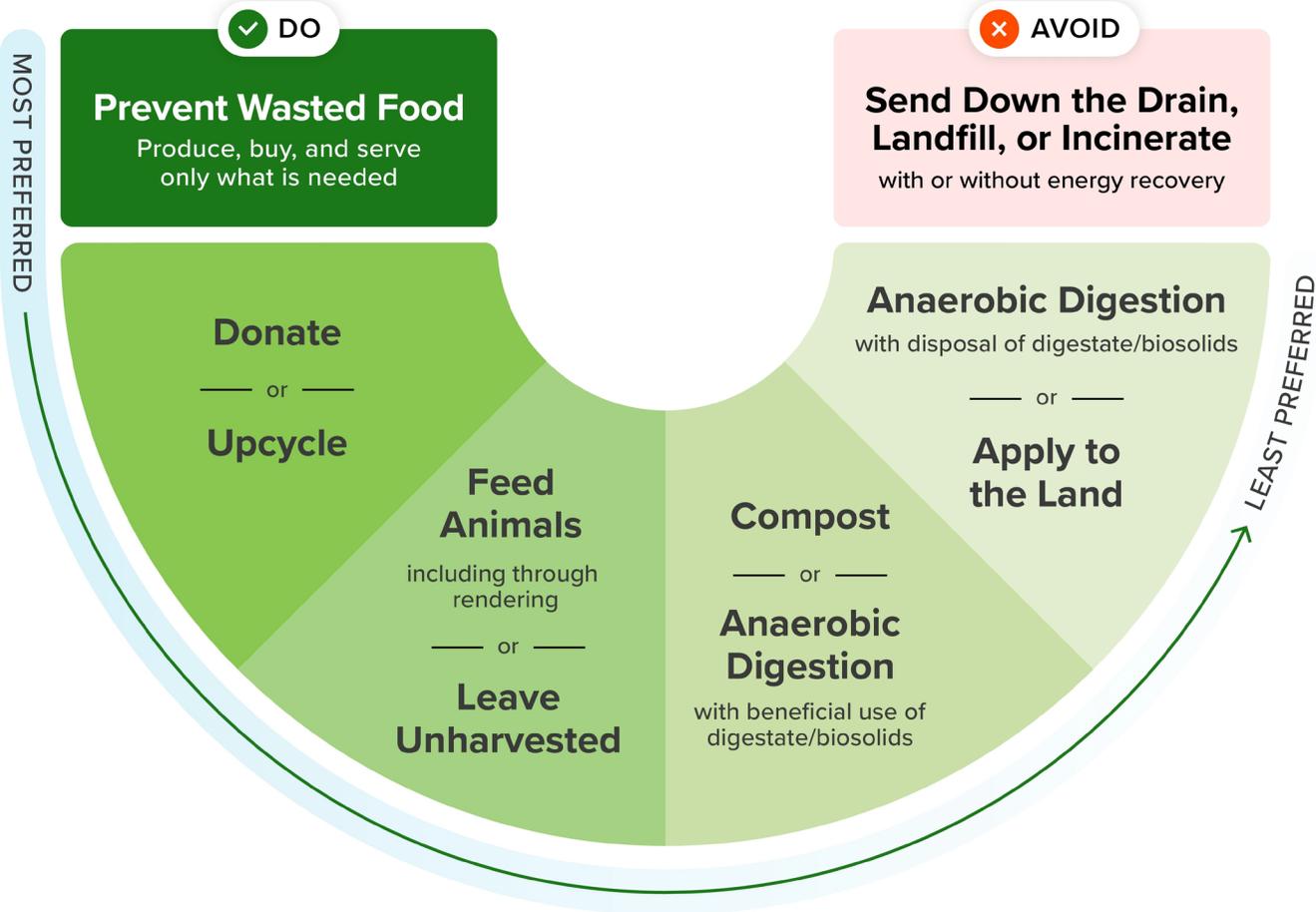


- **Farmer's Market Drop-offs at *four* Locations**
 - Eastside Farmer's Madison
 - West Community
 - South Madison
 - Capitol View (new for 2026!)
 - New weight goal of 48,000 pounds (*or the weight of 24 giraffes*)
- **Dane County scrap stop grant ends**
 - Finalizing details on how the drop-off will continue once the county grants ends in June
- **Continuing to explore ways to keep expanding more food scraps composting opportunities**



Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



December 2025

Composting isn't the first step

Links to resources on City of Madison's Food Scraps website to help prevent scraps & donate what you can.

[CityofMadison.com/FoodScraps](https://www.cityofmadison.com/FoodScraps)