

Reducing Waste and Feeding the Masses

America's Need for Food Recovery Programs

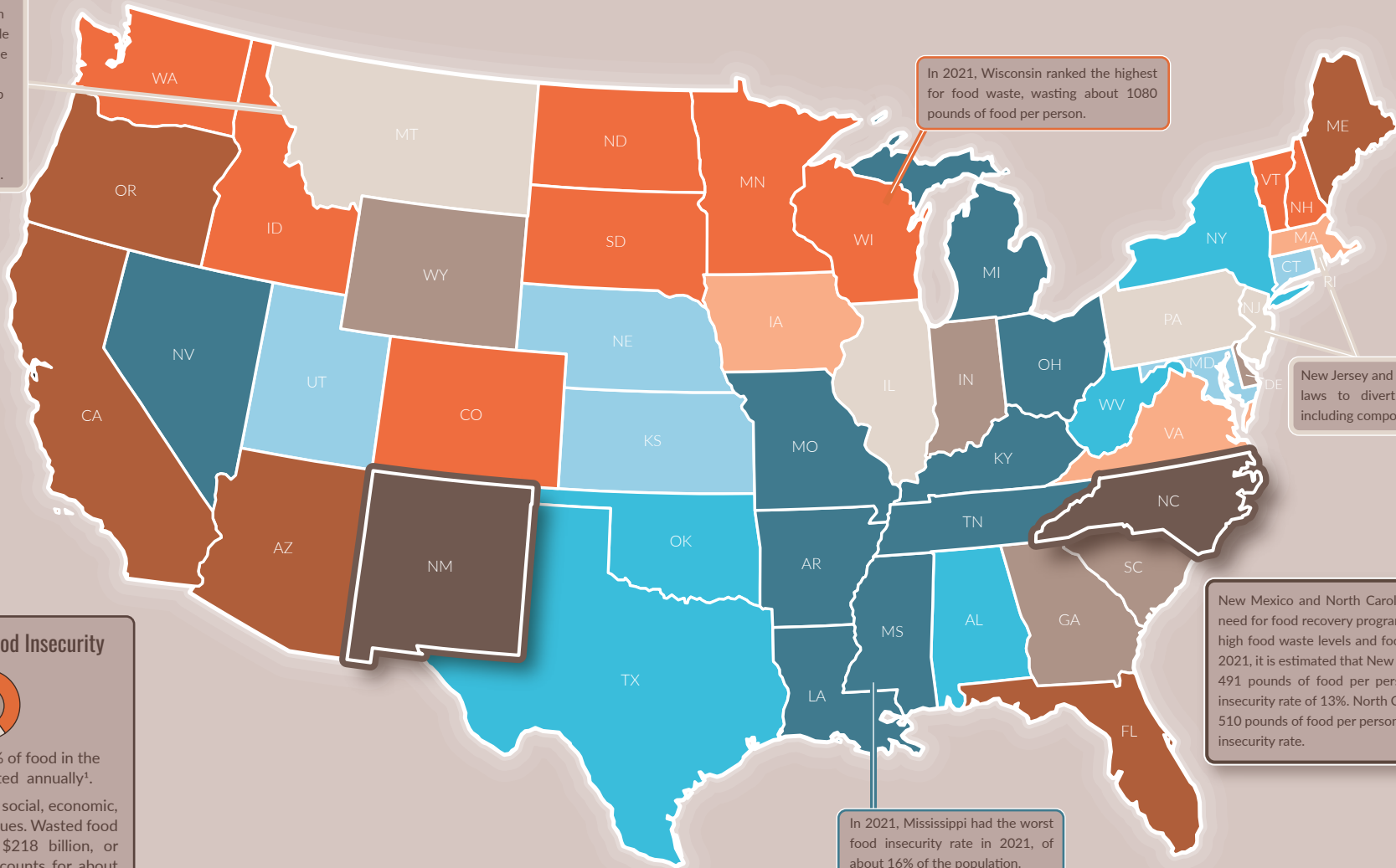
Montana has the lowest levels of food waste in conjunction with food insecurity. Multiple organizations are responsible for this accomplishment, including Ecotrust Food Hub and Grow Montana, which connect producers with buyers, improving access to healthy, locally-grown food³.

In 2021, Wisconsin ranked the highest for food waste, wasting about 1080 pounds of food per person.

New Jersey and Rhode Island have state laws to divert waste from landfills, including composting requirements.

New Mexico and North Carolina both have a high need for food recovery programs, as they both have high food waste levels and food insecurity rates. In 2021, it is estimated that New Mexico wasted about 491 pounds of food per person, and had a food insecurity rate of 13%. North Carolina wasted about 510 pounds of food per person, and had a 12% food insecurity rate.

In 2021, Mississippi had the worst food insecurity rate in 2021, of about 16% of the population.



Food Waste & Food Insecurity



Approximately 40% of food in the U.S. is lost or wasted annually¹.

This poses significant social, economic, and environmental issues. Wasted food costs an estimated \$218 billion, or 1.3% of GDP and accounts for about 24% of solid waste to landfills, resulting in a large source of human-related methane emissions¹. Additionally, 1 in 6 Americans are food insecure².



Distribution and logistics challenges result in food relief agencies receiving mostly processed, shelf-stable items, leaving them to need to purchase fruits, vegetables, and other perishables².

Benefits of Food Recovery Programs

Food recovery programs rescue food that would have been wasted, helping to feed hungry people and reduce food insecurity. Reducing food waste can provide financial incentives for farmers, businesses, and households alike. ReFED estimates that by following their food waste reduction program, which aims to cut food waste by 50% by 2030, there would be yearly benefits of 2.6 million tons of food waste diverted, 4.3 billion meal equivalents saved, 2.7 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent reduction, and \$11.3 billion net financial benefit².

To Find Your Local Food Bank, Scan Here:



Food Insecurity Rate & Tons Food Waste, per person

High Waste, High Food Insecurity

High Waste, Low Food Insecurity

Low Waste, High Food Insecurity



Low Waste, Low Food Insecurity