



MASSDEP ORGANICS SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENTATION

10/17/24



City of Boston
Food Justice

TODAY'S TOPICS

- Office of Food Justice (OFJ)
Background
- City of Boston Food
Recovery Initiatives
 - Timeline
 - Food Recovery Assessment
 - Collaborative Food
Distribution Hub & Network
 - Healthy Food Access
through Cold Storage Grant





OFJ BACKGROUND



City of Boston
Food Justice



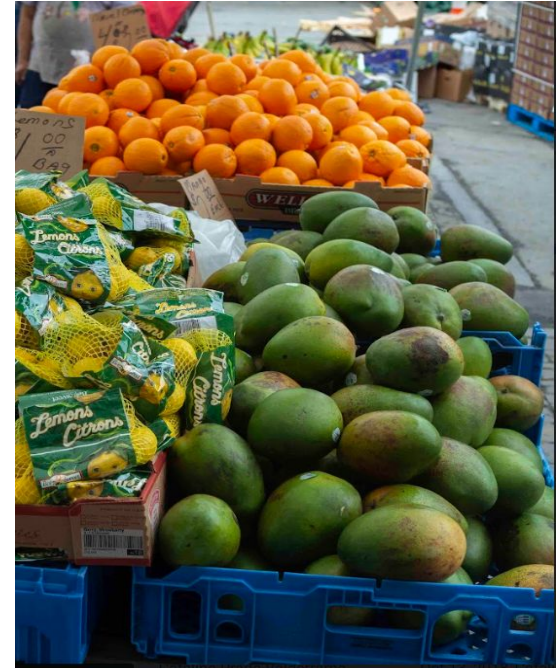
MISSION

The mission of the Mayor's Office of Food Justice is to build a food system that is equitable, resilient, sustainable, and just.

In pursuit of this mission, OFJ will work to expand equitable access to nutritious food with respect to affordability, physical accessibility, and cultural connectedness; support Boston's food economy; and promote environmentally sustainable and resilient food production.

GOALS

- Goal 1: Build equitable access and distribution systems for fresh, culturally relevant, and/or regionally grown food citywide for food insecure communities
- Goal 2: Leverage City food procurement to increase City department food purchases from regional producers and BIPOC producers
- **Goal 3: Increase food recovery from public and private institutions and strengthen pathways to connect food insecure residents with fresh, healthy recovered food**
- Goal 4: Increase food production in neighborhoods including in public spaces like parks, housing developments, schools, and community centers



GOAL 3 STRATEGIES

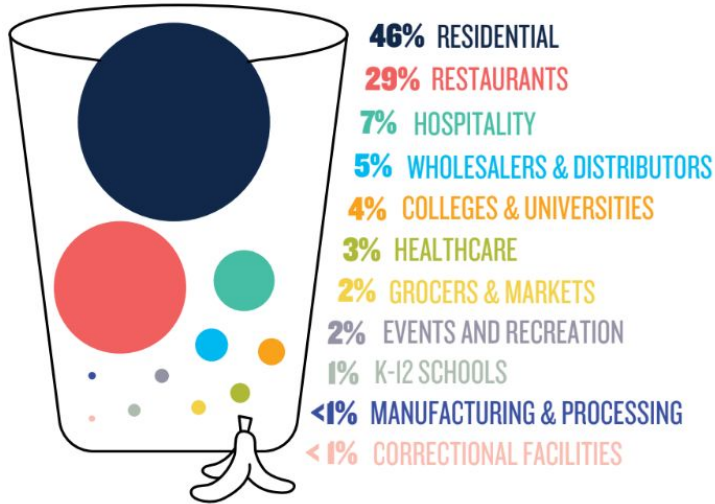


- Goal 3: Increase food recovery from public and private institutions and strengthen pathways to connect food insecure residents with fresh, healthy recovered food.
Strategies:
 - Reduce food waste generated by public and private institutions by increasing donations of recoverable food
 - Support improved coordination between emergency food organizations, food rescue entities and food waste generators across the city of Boston and regionally -- using approaches that destigmatize rescued food for all residents
 - Identify infrastructure gaps that are roadblocks to scaling distribution of recoverable food to food insecure communities



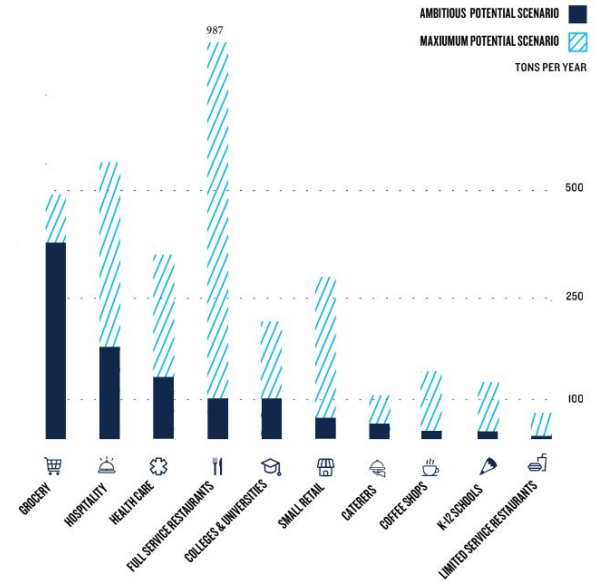
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL ESTIMATES

Boston Food Waste Generation



130K tons of food waste in Boston

Boston Food Rescue Potential



44% of Bostonians experienced food insecurity in 2023



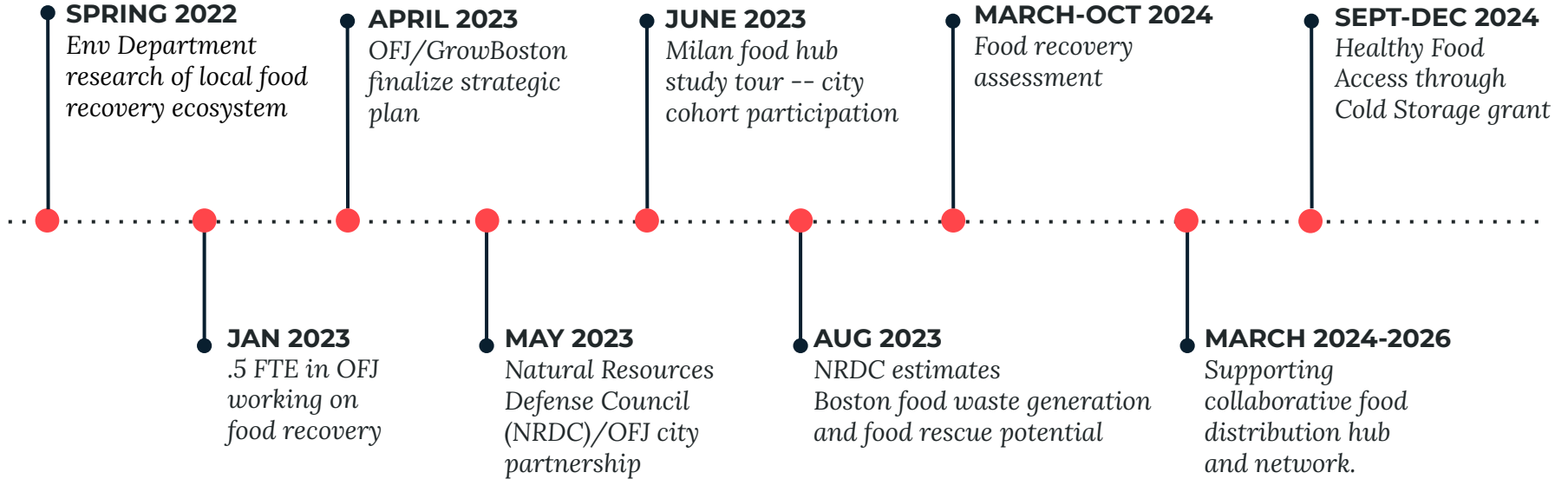


CITY OF BOSTON FOOD RECOVERY INITIATIVES



City of Boston
Food Justice

TIMELINE



Note: October 2023 Mayor Michelle Wu signs Milan Urban Food Policy Pact; March 2024 Boston City Council shifts American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds from composting to collaborative food distribution hub and network.



FOOD RECOVERY ASSESSMENT

OBJECTIVE

- Evaluate the food rescue landscape in Boston and help identify interventions by the City to the City's food rescue ecosystem to improve effectiveness, responsiveness to community needs and reduce wastage of surplus food.

GOALS

- Reveal and quantify
 - physical or virtual infrastructure, policies or systems that are needed to capture more rescued food
 - preferences and needs of Boston residents
- Identify
 - barriers to increasing access to rescued food and providing fresh, healthy and nutritious foods
 - innovative models that might allow the entire system to overcome challenges faced by current models and discover ways to transform the system towards more dignity and choice and less stigma



FOOD RECOVERY ASSESSMENT



FOOD RECOVERY ASSESSMENT



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Fell into five categories:
 - Incentives
 - Education and Awareness
 - Permitting and Policy Change
 - Funding, Resources and Infrastructure
 - Convening and Value Chain Coordination

NEXT STEPS

- Publication & distribution of report
- Prioritizing recommendations
- Implementation of recommendations



COLLABORATIVE FOOD DISTRIBUTION HUB AND NETWORK

ELEMENTS

- Warehouse for public good opportunity:
 - Refrigerator and freezer space
 - Space for receiving, storing, packing, staging, distributing food
- Collaborative opportunity:
 - community-based food access partners come together to share the storage space
- Increase fresh, perishable food opportunity:
 - through citywide distribution by community-based food access partners and connecting to a “choose your own food” style space



HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS THROUGH COLD STORAGE GRANT



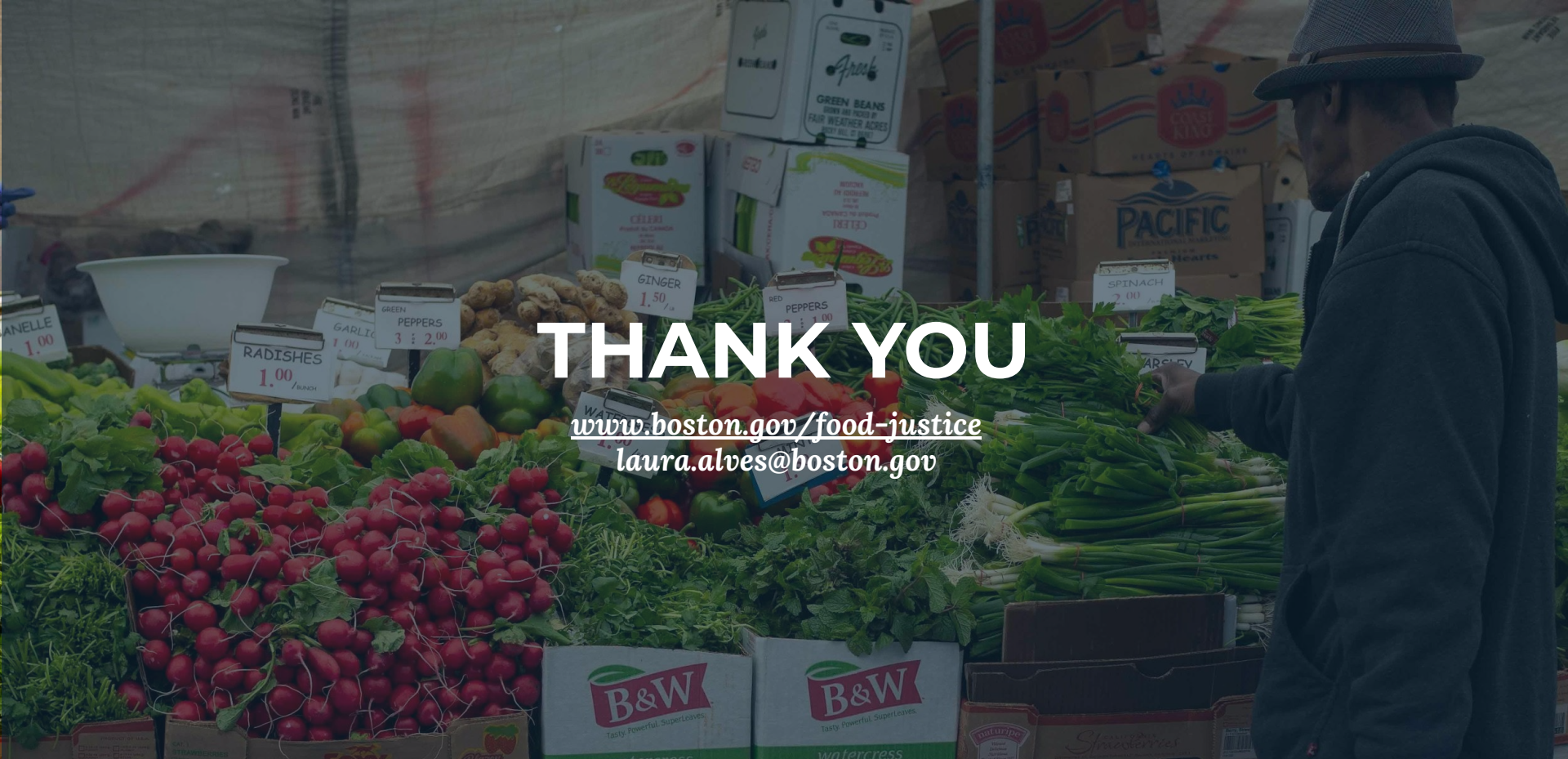
PURPOSE

- Funding strategies that expand refrigeration and freezer space to ensure food is fresh, safe and available to Boston residents
- Enable the storage and distribution of perishable food, including recovered and donated food

DETAILS

- Funds
 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
 - Total amount available: \$500,000
 - Awards: \$5,000 - \$95,000 per grant
- Eligibility
 - Nonprofits that grow, collect, transport, store, process, distribute, and/or prepare food or feed people; serve one or more neighborhoods in Boston





THANK YOU

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