



Food and Beverage Industry Sustainability Pilot: Providing Pollution Prevention and Food Waste Prevention Support To Processors, Manufacturers and Community Stakeholders in Western Michigan

The [Michigan Food System Waste Reduction Roadmap Initiative](#) created a plan for the state to reduce food loss and waste by half by 2030 through, the goal recommended in the MI Healthy Climate Plan. Approximately a billion dollars of economic value is lost each year to Michigan's farms and food manufacturers as unharvested food, shrinkage, or other inefficiencies in the supply chain. Food processors and manufacturers are missing opportunities to optimize production or create new revenue streams through process efficiency, pollution prevention, byproduct utilization, packaging design and acceleration of entrepreneurial ideas.

Central Michigan University and Michigan Sustainable Business Forum are collaborating on a **technical assistance program to address** the Roadmap's pollution prevention recommendations **for food and beverage manufacturers**, with a targeted focus on underserved communities in West Michigan. This includes the following objectives:

- Provide onsite technical assistance to food businesses, including training on pollution prevention tools and best practices, and food waste audits.
- Train business and community stakeholders on food loss and waste reduction actions to create public awareness and build capacity in three target communities.
- Host a workshop for food businesses in Michigan to increase their awareness on the potential for technology applications and infrastructure improvements to reduce food loss and waste at source.
- Develop an online knowledge transfer platform for disseminating the project outcomes and training food businesses and other stakeholders.
- Facilitate a roundtable between manufacturers and community organizations to identify shared priorities for pollution prevention and food waste prevention.

The initiative is seeking food and beverage companies with operations in Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon and Oceana counties for complimentary onsite technical assistance from university experts, and other support. We are also seeking community organizations with an interest in advancing food loss and waste reduction in West Michigan.

Learn more at misbf.org or by contacting MiSBF Executive Director Daniel Schoonmaker at dschoonmaker@misbf.org or 616.308.4761.

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