

<p>Area of Focus Food waste</p>	
<p>Current Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food waste constitutes 25%–30% of landfills, the largest single category of materials. ● There is no residential pickup of food or green waste, with the exception of Brush & Bulky. ● Businesses can participate in the city’s FoodCycle program for a fee. ● Homeowners can either turn food scraps into compost on their own or participate in a program such as Compost Cats. ● Landscapers can drop off green waste at various locations for a fee. 	
<p>What is the ideal scenario, and what are the limiters?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ideally, food waste would be minimized by smart shopping for food, properly storing it, and repurposing leftovers. ● Food scraps and other green waste would be collected in separate containers and picked up in municipal collections alongside trash and recyclables. ● Food and green waste would be composted at the landfill or digested anaerobically to produce biogas. ● There is little political will to spend money on programs that will increase taxes or fees. 	
<p>Our Club’s Public Message on this Area of Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conserve energy and resources, and prevent pollution involved in the growing and transportation of food, by shopping wisely to minimize food waste. ● Recycling food waste is the single easiest and fastest thing that every single person can do to affect climate change by reducing the amount of methane produced in landfills. ● Over a 100-year period the comparative impact of methane is 25–28 times greater than that of carbon dioxide. ● Methane is responsible for ~30% of global warming since the preindustrial era. 	
<p>Actions Our Club Can Take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lobby the city council to start a mandatory residential food waste recycling program, such as exists in several states, by outlining the economic and environmental benefits of doing so. ● Promote composting individually or through participation in Compost Cats or any similar programs. ● Support local farms and volunteer our services wherever possible. 	
<p>Resources</p> <p>Compost Cats: https://sustainability.arizona.edu/projects/compost-cats</p> <p>FoodCycle: https://www.tucsonaz.gov/es/foodcycle-compost-program</p> <p>Tucson Community Supported Agriculture: https://tucsoncsa.org/</p> <p>Tucson Village Farm: https://tucsonvillagefarm.arizona.edu/</p> <p>Tank’s Green Stuff: https://tanksgreenstuff.com/why-tanks/</p>	

Other

“Composting is an easy and manageable way to make a huge difference in the environmental, economic, and social issues we face today. ... [It] can go a long way in lowering greenhouse gas emissions, regenerating the soil, revitalizing water sources, and fostering food security into the future.”

—*growensemble.com*