

Wellness Council Webinar

March 2023



Encouraging and enabling state employees to lead healthier lives



Today's Agenda

- Guest Speaker:
 TDEC Office of Sustainable Practices
- Quarterly Activity List
- What's New from WFHTN
- Wellness Council Spotlights
- Upcoming Schedule



Guest Speaker



Kelsey Davis,
TDEC Environmental Consultant,
Office of Sustainable Practices





KELSEY DAVIS
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

WHAT IS ZERO WASTE?

- A PERCEPTION CHANGE
- RETHINKING THE VALUE OF ITEMS
- MORE CONSCIOUS PURCHASING
- MAXIMIZING MATERIALS
- ELIMINATING WASTE AT THE SOURCE
- DIVERTING WASTE FROM LANDFILLS

PRODUCING LESS WASTE





ZERO WASTE TN PROGRAM

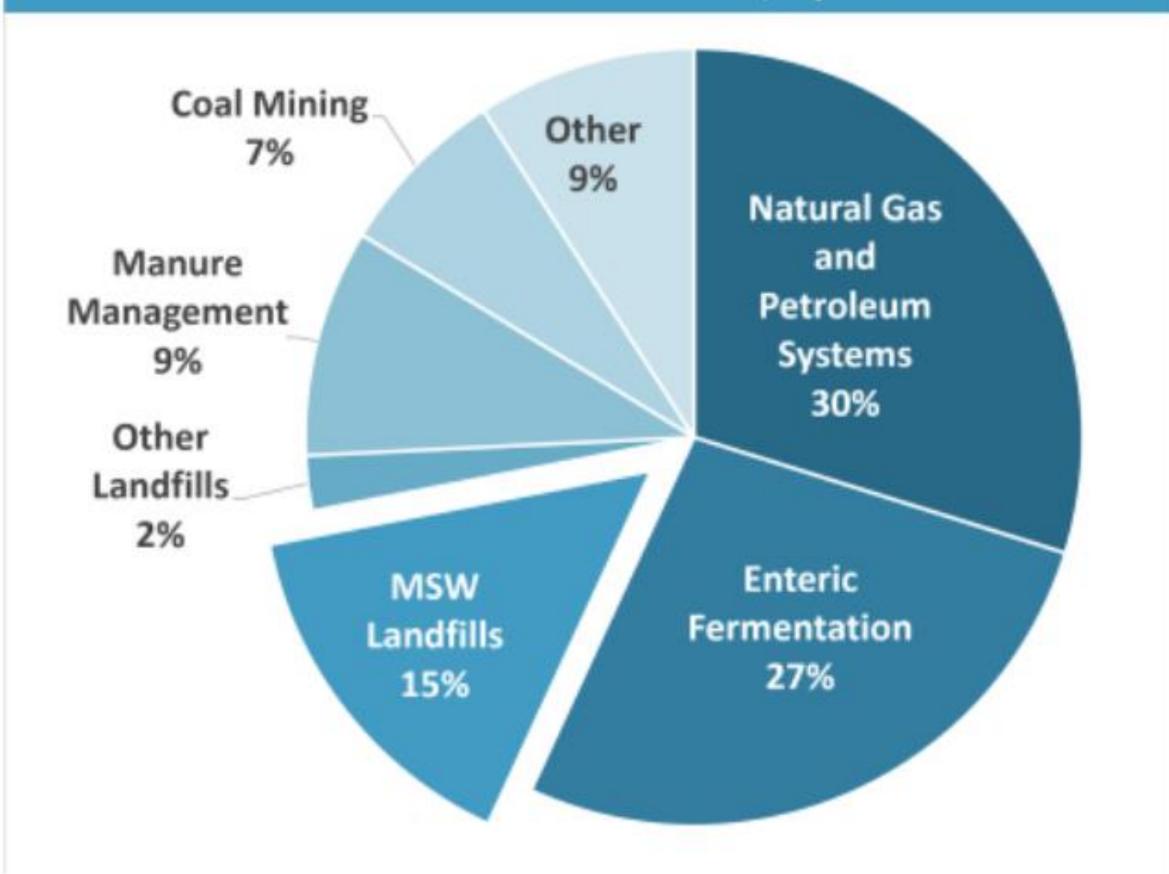
In response to increasing waste management challenges and the need for change, TDEC's Office of Policy and Sustainable Practices has developed the Zero Waste TN program. This program is designed to help inform businesses and citizens on how to make better choices and rethink the way we manage waste. TDEC is working to expand the Zero Waste TN Program to include Zero Waste Partners across the state, including manufacturers, businesses, institutions, and organizations, that take the initiative to consciously reduce their waste.



METHANE AND LANDFILLS

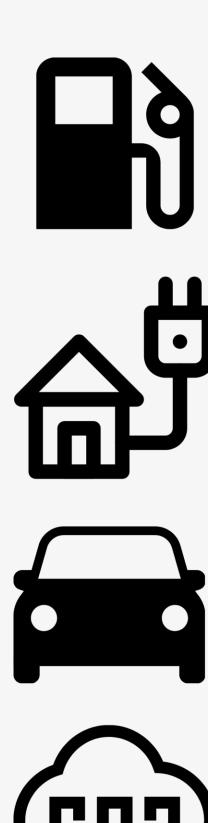
- Methane is <u>25 times</u> more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere
- The largest sources
 of methane emissions in the
 United States are oil and gas
 systems, livestock enteric
 fermentation, and landfills.
- Municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills are the third-largest source of methane emissions in the United States, accounting for approximately 15.1 percent.

2019 U.S. Methane Emissions, By Source



Tennessee's annual waste tonnage is the equivalent of:

2,524 tons of CO2 daily



284,010

gallons of gasoline consumed

427

homes' electricity powered for one year



536

passenger vehicles on the road for one year



94%

of landfill emissions in the U.S. are emitted by MSW landfills

HOW TO GO ZERO WASTE

ZERO WASTE HIERARCHY

THE HIGHEST AND BEST USE OF MATERIALS

most preferred

RETHINK

IMPLEMENT CONSCIOUS PURCHASING

2. REDUCE

LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF WASTE PRODUCED

3. REUSE

USE MATERIALS REPEATEDLY

+. RECYCLE

MAKE NEW PRODUCTS FROM OLD

5. RE-EARTH

COMPOST

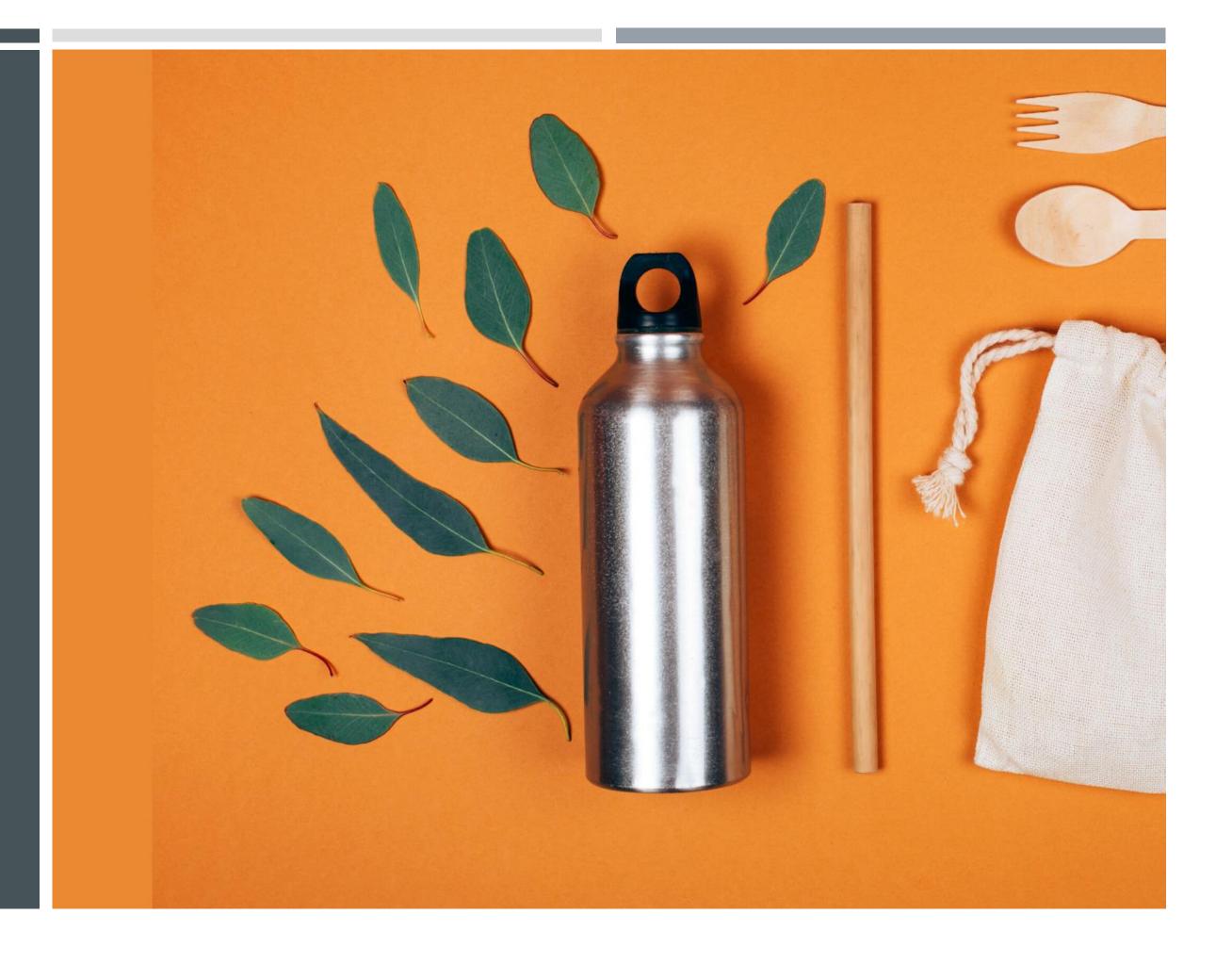
least preferred



RETHINK

The first and most important step towards zero waste is to "re-think" purchasing behaviors and implement conscious purchasing.

The key notion consists of purchasing only what is truly needed, choosing local products, items with no or minimal packaging when possible, and choosing durable, recycled, and recyclable materials. As a consumer, every purchase made is an opportunity to vote for zero waste.



REDUCE

Be mindful of unnecessary wasteful items in our every-day lives and learn to do without them. Eliminating or finding alternatives to items such as disposable straws and plastic shopping bags can prevent large amounts of waste. Also, consider switching to online magazine subscriptions and unsubscribing from junk mail. These simple acts can prevent large amounts of waste by simply avoiding it in the first place.



REUSE

Reuse can mean physically modifying an item, or simply using the item again or in a new way. Use a glass condiment jar as a storage container, make art out of discarded items, or transform old t-shirts into shopping bags. Take care of belongings and use them to their fullest potential, and repair everything possible to extend its useful life. Shop at thrift stores and other used product stores to save money and donate any items you may no longer need so that others may reuse them.



RECYCLE

Recycling items such as paper, plastic and aluminum is typically available through curbside services and county convenience centers. To recycle right and avoid contamination, properly clean items and only dispose of accepted materials. You can recycle miscellaneous items like light bulbs or batteries by finding a vendor locally or online and partner with friends, neighbors, and coworkers to share costs and collection effort.



RE-EARTH

Composting is one of the most important steps in the zero waste hierarchy because it addresses 22% of waste that ends up in landfills unnecessarily – food waste.

Composting food waste is a more environmentally friendly option to landfilling because it avoids greenhouse gases and produces a beneficial soil amendment.

Residential composting options are available in larger cities, and backyard composting is a viable option for those who live in rural or suburban areas.



Zero Waste Resources

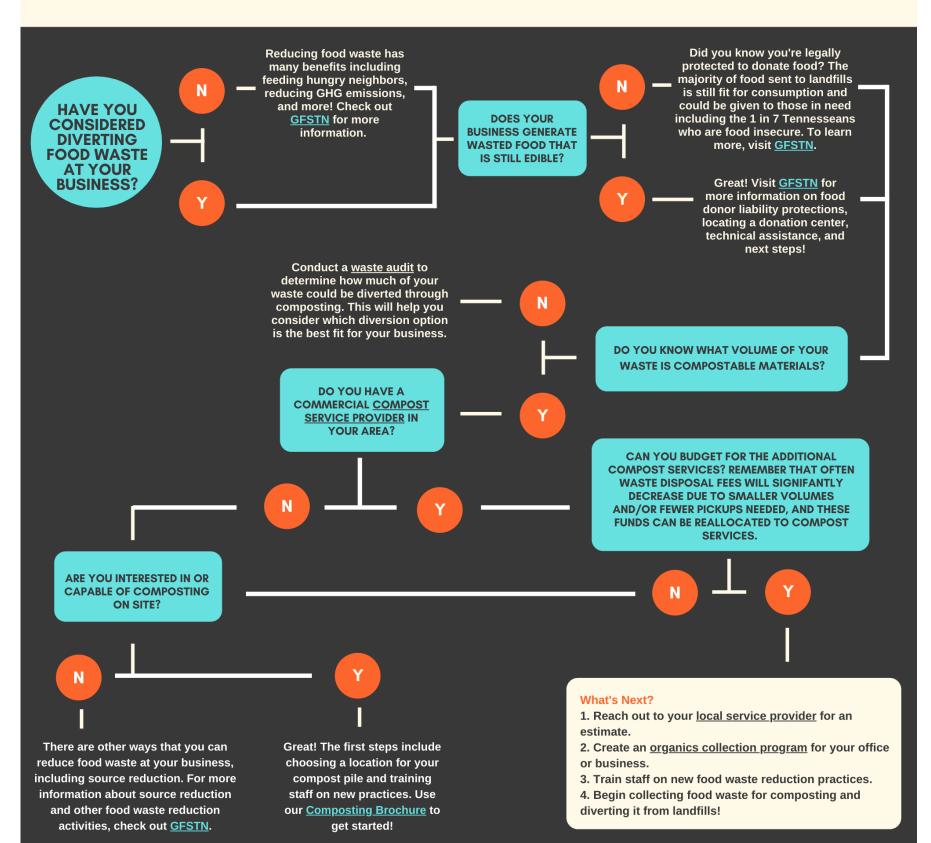
- How to Conduct a Waste Audit
- Food Waste Reduction Decision Tree
- A Guide to Create an Organics Collection
 Program for Your Office
- Organics Collection Guide
- Compost Service Providers
- Deciphering Product Labels
- Biodegradable vs. Compostable
- Composting at Home



Food Waste Reduction

DECISION TREE FOR BUSINESSES

Use this decision tree to help determine feasible and effective food waste reduction practices for your business. Refer to <u>Get Food Smart TN</u> (GFSTN) for additional resources and technical assistance.



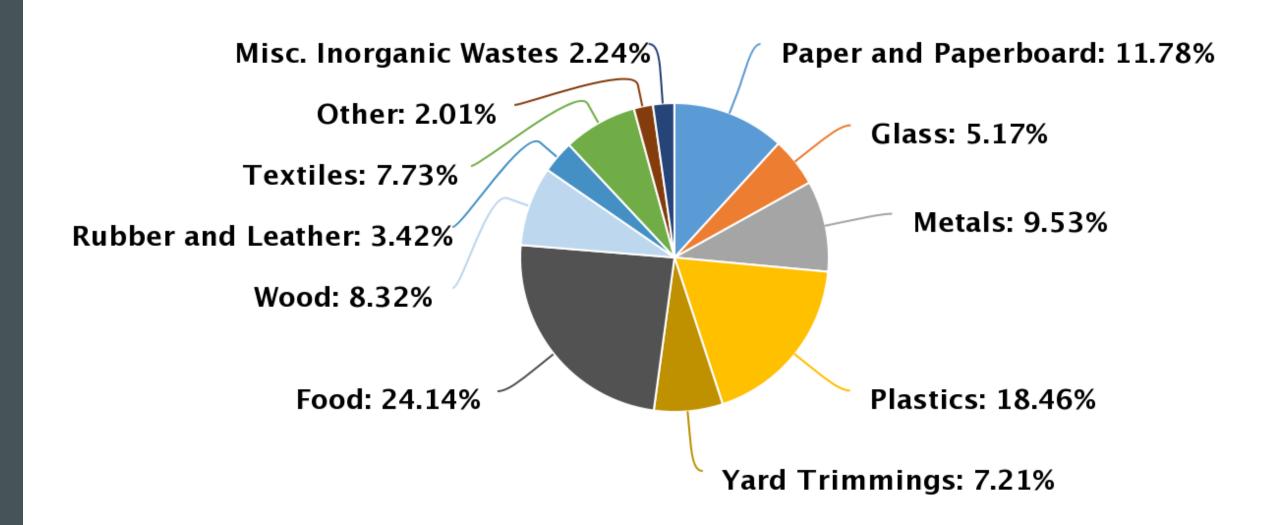
SO WHERE DO I START?

IN YOUR KITCHEN!

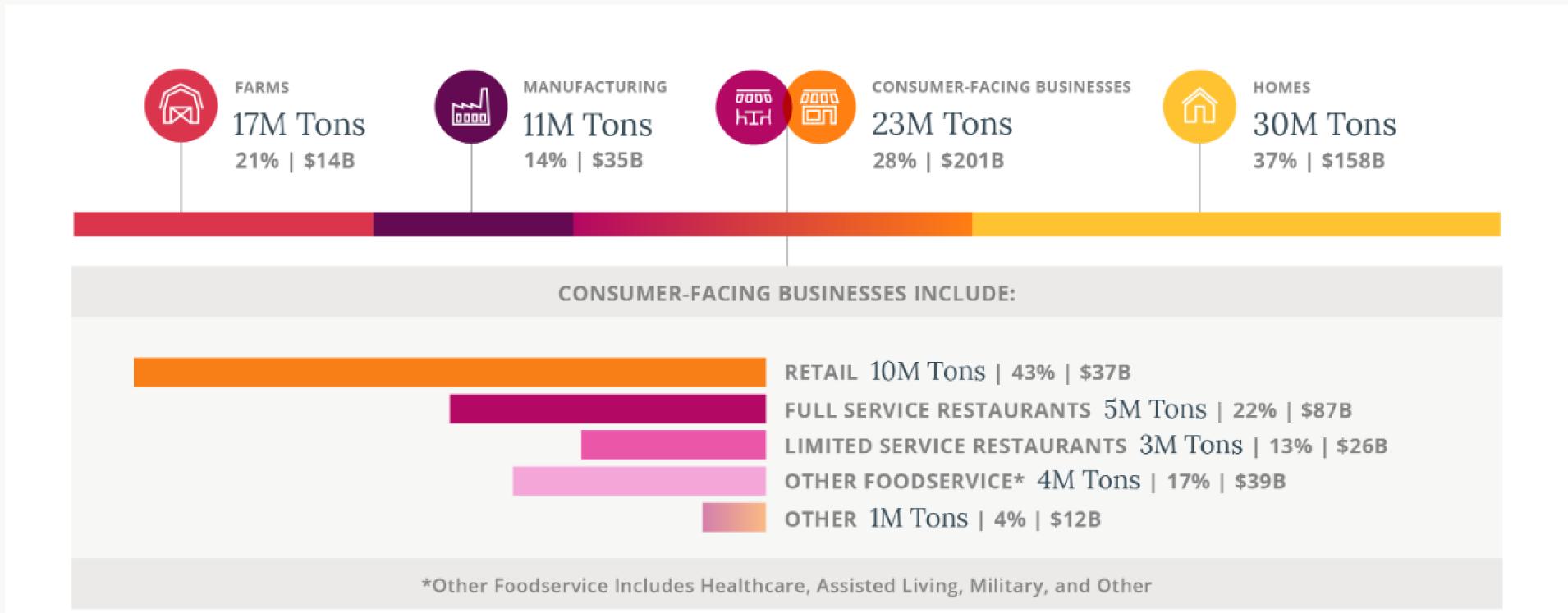
For many homes, the kitchen is the largest generator of waste. From food packaging to food waste, our kitchens have the greatest opportunity to reduce our waste!

Total MSW Landfill by Material, 2018

146.1 million tons



Surplus Food Occurs Across the Supply Chain:



Source: ReFED



ZERO WASTE KITCHEN

CUT BACK ON KITCHEN WASTE

Kitchens are the source of a lot of waste, which means that there are numerous opportunities to implement zero waste habits in kitchens. From purchasing decisions to prepping, cooking, storing and preserving, our daily habits can get pretty wasteful. Reaching a true zero waste kitchen may seem like an impossible task, but there are many quick and easy tips that can save you time and money and cut out your kitchen waste!

ZERO WASTE FACT:

Food waste represents the largest percentage of waste landfilled in the US, with over 75% of food waste generated being landfilled, while only 6% is composted.

Benefits

- Zero waste kitchen practices can save you money from avoided purchasing costs of single-use disposable items, and through better food storage and preservation, meaning less kitchen and food waste.
- Zero waste kitchen practices help keep recycling streams clean by avoiding unwashed, soiled, or unrecyclable single-use plastics and aluminum foil.

Challenges

- Implementing new cooking and storing habits and changing traditional kitchen behaviors can be intimidating.
- Finding alternatives to traditional storage and preserving methods might pose a learning curve.
- Finding locations to purchase items in bulk and with preferred packaging options may be challenging.



RETHINK

Many staple kitchen items that we have grown accustomed to for convenience are actually unnecessary and generate a lot of waste and reoccurring expenses. Rethink your kitchen staples and determine which items are easy to do without or replace with a durable, reusable option. Often zero waste replacements work just as well or better than their disposable counterparts.

What traditional kitchen items and behaviors can you rethink to reduce or eliminate waste?

- Zip loc bags can be replaced with reusable silicone baggies or other reusable storage containers.
- Plastic wrap can be replaced with reusable silicone stretch lids or cloth bowl covers.
- Aluminum foil for baking can be replaced with silicone baking sheets or mats.
- Aluminum foil for storage can be replaced with reusable cloth beeswax food wrap.
- Single-use muffin or cupcake liners can be replaced with silicone baking cups.
- Paper towels can be replaced with reusable cleaning cloths.
- Paper napkins can be replaced with reusable cloth napkins.
- Disposable coffee cups can be replaced with a travel thermos or tumbler.
- Plastic water bottles can be replaced with a filter pitcher.
- Dish sponges can be replaced with a washcloth, bamboo or wooden scrubbing brush, or natural fiber scourer.
- Single-use or disposable storage containers replaced with glass, stainless steel, or reusable plastic preserve ware.

2. REDUCE

There are many easy, effective, and cost-saving ways to reduce and eliminate unnecessary kitchen waste simply by avoiding it in the first place.

What items do you use in your kitchen that may not be needed at all, or only needed infrequently?

- Paper plates
- Disposable silverware
- Disposable straws

What kitchen staples do you purchase that have a waste-reducing alternative?

- Purchase meats from your local meat market or your grocery butcher to reduce Styrofoam and plastic wrap waste (most butchers wrap fresh cuts in paper).
- Avoid pre-cut produce wrapped in Styrofoam and plastic wrap and instead opt for whole, loose fruits or vegetables. This reduces unnecessary waste and saves you money.

ACTION ITEMS

- When shopping in the produce section, bring your own reusable produce bags and avoid the plastic produce bags.
- Bring your own containers and purchase in bulk whenever possible such as loose grains, nuts and seeds, coffee, nut butters, herbs and spices, dried fruit etc. (remember to know your tare weight!).
- Instead of tea bags, opt for loose leaf tea. You can use a reusable tea infuser or your French press to make fresh tea.
- Single-serve brewing pods can be replaced with a French press, or switch to a compostable/recyclable option.

3. REUSE

Consider reusability and durability of items that you may already have in your kitchen. Instead of purchasing new storage containers or kitchen accessories, consider reusing or repurposing items that you already have. The most sustainable and waste-free items are the ones you already own.

What items do you already have that could be reused to reduce your kitchen waste?

- Glass jars make great storage or to-go containers.
- IBulk packaging jars from wholesale stores can be used as reusable containers for freezing or storing food or pantry items.
- Old t-shirts can be repurposed to make grocery bags or kitchen cloths.
- Old pillowcases can be repurposed to make grocery bags or bulk bin bags.
- Reuse food scraps or leftovers in new recipes. You can make homemade stocks, croutons, sauces, or pesto.



Be conscious about your kitchen waste recycling and be sure you're following local protocols. Contaminated recyclables that have food residue on them can ruin an entire load of recycling, so it is important to recycle properly to achieve the associated environmental benefit. Additionally, be sure you are only placing accepted items in your bin.

Which remaining items in your kitchen waste are usually recyclable?

- Glass drink bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Plastic packaging labeled 1-7 (check which plastics are accepted locally)
- Paper bags
- Paperboard and cardboard boxes
- Metal food cans
- Brita Filters (Brita Recycling Program)
- Wine Corks (ReCORK, Cork Club)

Consumer's Guide to Zero Waste

ACTION ITEMS

. RE-EARTH

22% of waste that ends up in landfills is food. Composting food waste is a more environmentally friendly option to landfilling because it avoids greenhouse gases and produces a beneficial soil amendment. Residential composting options are often available in larger cities, and backyard composting is a viable option for those who have the space to do so. There are even indoor composting options for those with limited outdoor space!

What kitchen waste items are remaining that can be composted instead of landfilled?

- Any soiled paper products not coated in wax or film.
- Scrap kitchen produce such as veggie caps, peelings, stems, etc.
- Leftover or spoiled fruits and vegetables that are no longer edible.

ZERO WASTE KITCHEN KIT

- Beeswax wrap
- Silicone baggies
- Stainless steel containers
- Glass containers
- Natural fiber scourers, compostable sponges, natural fiber scrubbers and brushes
- Refillable dish soap options
- French press (for coffee, tea, etc.)
- Produce bags
- Veggie bags and produce preservers
- Reusable grocery or tote bags
- Silicone baking cups
- Silicone baking sheets
- Cloth bowl covers
- Reusable silicone bowl covers
- Up-paper towels
- Cloth napkins





WHAT ABOUT FOOD WASTE?

Our Get Food Smart TN Program has many excellent resources to help teach you how to prevent food waste in your home. These resources include:

- Rethink Meal Planning
- Reduce Proper Food Storage
- Reuse Repurposing Food
- Re-Earth Composting



RETHINK – MEAL PLANNING

Planning beforehand can reduce the amount of food you waste at the end of the week.

<u>Plan your meals</u> before grocery shopping, so you purchase only what you need.

Include quantities on your shopping list to keep from buying too much.

Keep a running list of foods that are frequently enjoyed in your house.

Check your refrigerator and pantry when making your shopping list to avoid buying items you already have. Don't forget to mine the freezer for items as well.

When preparing for a large gathering, plan ahead to prevent from preparing too much food. Use the <u>Guest-imator</u> from Save The Food to help you decide how much food to buy and prepare.

Weekly Meal Planning

- · Shop your kitchen first and see where you can repurpose leftovers.
- · Be realistic about how many meals you will eat in.
- Include quantities on your grocery list to avoid buying more than what you need.



GROCERY LIST
ertTN.org

Meal Planning Notepad

REDUCE -PROPER FOOD STORAGE

Storing your produce in the right place and at the right temperature can reduce the chance of waste.

Freeze, preserve, or can surplus fruits and vegetables.

Store bananas, apples, and tomatoes by themselves and store fruits and vegetables in separate bins.

Wait to wash berries until you are ready to eat them to prevent mold.

Store fruits and vegetables at the right temperature to ensure freshness.

When unpacking groceries, move older products to the front of the fridge, freezer, or pantry, and put new products in the back. This is the First In, First Out plan.

Refer to this storage guide for more tips on proper storage of various fruits, vegetables, and herbs.

Additional tips for safe food storage and preservation are available from <u>USDA</u>.



SMART FOOD STORAGE

STORE YOUR GROCERIES IN THE BEST LOCATION TO PRESERVE SHELF-LIFE, REDUCE SPOILAGE, AND SAVE MONEY.

Freezer:

- >Fruits & Veggies
- >Sauces
- >Bread/Dough
- >Cheese
- >Cooked Grains

Pantry:

- >Potatoes
- >Onions
- >Garlic >Winter Squash
- >Eggplant

Counter:

- >Bananas
- >Pineapples
- >Tomatoes
- >Avocados
- >Peaches



Fridge **Shelves:**

- >Mushrooms
- >Asparagus
- >Herbs
- >Watermelo



High-Humidity Crisper Drawer:

>Artichokes

>Berries

>Broccoli

- >Cauliflower >Celery
- >Corn >Cucumbers >Brussel Sprouts
- >Green Beans >Cabbage
- >Carrots

- >Lettuce >Peas
- >Peppers
- >Radishes >Spinach
- >Summer Squash >Turnips





Low-Humidity Crisper Drawer:

- >Apples
- >Blueberries
- >Cherries
- >Grapes
- >Grapefruit
- >Lemons >Limes >Melons >Oranges >Green Onions

- Freeze fruits, vegetables, cheese, and other items that won't be used within a few days. Wrap and label meat, fish, and poultry.
- Store leftovers and snacks on the highest shelf of the fridge. Juices, non-dairy drinks, and lunchmeats can also be stored here.

>Kale

- Store dairy and eggs on the lower shelf, towards the back where it's colder. Store meat on the lowest shelf in a sealed container to prevent leaking.
- Drawers are the best option for fruits and vegetables. Vegetables require higher humidity, fruits require lower.

- Well-preserved foods, such as condiments, jams, non-dairy beverages, and wine should be stored in the door of the fridge.
- Canned goods and grains should be stored in the
- Keep potatoes and onions in a cool dry place, but
- Keep bananas, tomatoes, peaches, and avocados out on the counter, but separate. Place tomatoes and peaches in the fridge after 3-4 days.

REUSE - REPURPOSING FOOD

- Using leftover or excess food can save money and reduce waste
- Creatively repurpose leftovers and trimmings to efficiently use excess food
- Menu planning to accommodate the use of excess food from previous meals is key to success



Leftover Fruit
Smoothies or dessert topping



Day-old Bread Croutons or breadcrumbs



Vegetable Trimmings
Base for soups, sauces
and stocks

Re-Earth

Composting is one of the most important steps in the zero waste hierarchy because it addresses 24% of waste that ends up in landfills unnecessarily – food waste.

Composting food waste is a more environmentally friendly option to landfilling because it avoids greenhouse gases and produces a beneficial soil amendment.



The Compost Company

Service Area: Middle TN Phone Number: 615-380-1090

Website: https://www.compostcompany.com/

Compost Nashville

Service Area: Nashville

Phone Number: 615-398-0209

Website: https://compostnashville.org/

NewTerra Compost

Service Area: Chattanooga, Cleveland

Phone Number: 423-250-1444

Website: https://www.newterracompost.com/

Green Heron

Service Area: Knoxville

Phone Number: 865-236-0557

Website: https://www.greenheroncompost.com/

Hoffman Composting

Service Area: Johnson City Phone Number: 423-943-0712

Website: https://www.hoffmancomposting.com/

Compost House

Service Area: Chattanooga, Memphis Phone Number: (864) 278-2322

Website: https://atlasorganics.net/residential-collection

REGENR8

Service Area: Middle TN

Email: info.generatecompost@gmail.com; Website: https://generatecompost.com/

RE-EARTHING AT HOME

Composting at home allows residents to take charge of their food and organics waste. Refer to <u>this brochure</u> to learn everything you need to know to begin composting in your own back yard.

Composting at Home



What can you do?

Learn to make compost for healthy soil and to reduce landfill waste.





Quarterly Activity List



March Suggestions

Share information related to:

- National Nutrition Month
 - Healthy Recipes
 - Eat Your Veggies Word Scramble
 - Frozen Food Myths & Facts







March Suggestions

Activities and webinars to promote:

- WFHTN Scavenger Hunt for Employee Spirit Month!
- <u>I'm Too Busy to Eat Healthy</u> (*Presented by Here4TN*)
 Tuesday, March 7 from 10:30-11 a.m. CT
- Healthy Eating Trivia
 Thursday, March 16 from 1-1:30 p.m. CT
- Green Plate Challenge
 In honor of St. Patrick's Day (Friday, March 17)
- <u>Stretches for Better Sleep</u> Friday, March 24 from 10-10:15 a.m. CT
- Green Smoothie Demo with Lindsey
 Thursday, March 30 from 12-12:15 p.m. CT



What's New?



March Daily Wellness Calendar & Virtual Events



MARCH INTO HEALTHIER HABITS



WEEK

March

1-3

March

6-10

March

13-17

March

20-24

MONDAY

TUESDAY

It's National Nutrition

Month! Celebrate by

completing this Eat

Your Veggies Word

Scramble.

Practice Relaxation and

Sleep Well from

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

break from

11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

(Calendar invite)

THURSDAY

Skeptical about Black Bean Brownies? Watch Coordinator Natalie's

Join Yoga: Core & More from 12:15-12:45 p.m. (Calendar invite)

Join our one-week Green Plate Challenge in honor of St. Patrick's Day! Submit your participation by Friday, March 31.

Relieve some tension with these Stretches for Better Sleep from 10-10:15 a.m. (Calendar invite)

This tasty **Healthy Yogurt** Cake calls for yogurt which adds protein) and is lower in sugar.

WEDNESDAY

Take a Fitness **Break** with DCS from 11-11:15 a.m. (Calendar invite)

Stephen lost more than 100 pounds & is looking forward to a healthy future with his grandchildren!

Celebrate National Nutrition Month by testing your knowledge at our Healthy Eating Trivia from 1-1:30 p.m.! (Calendar invite)

Give your mind a refresh with TDOE's Meditation Break from 11:15-11:30 a.m. (Calendar invite)

FRIDAY

Communications

honest review!

Please note:

All times listed are in the Central time zone.

Get into the (employee) spirit & complete the WFHTN

Scavenger Hunt by Friday, March 31.

Join Yoga for All

from 12-12:15 p.m.

(Calendar invite)

(presented by Here4TN) from 10:30-11 a.m. (Register) Shake it off at our

Attend "I'm Too Busy to

Eat Healthy"

Tuesday Dance **Break** from 11:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.! (Calendar invite)

National Waffle Day is March 25! Celebrate with these Freezer-Friendly Oatmeal Waffles.

Yoga for All is relaxing for all fitness levels. Join us from 12-12:15 p.m.

Take a 10-Minute Fitness Break with DHS from 11-11:10 a.m. (Calendar invite)

(Calendar invite)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2023

WORKOUTS

Yoga for All

Mondays from 12-12:15 p.m. Link to join. Calendar invite.

Dance Break

Tuesdays from 11:45 a.m.-12 p.m. Link to join. Calendar invite.

DHS 10-Minute Fitness Break

Wednesdays from 11-11:10a.m. Link to join. Calendar invite.

Stretches for Better Sleep

Friday, March 24 from 10-10:15 a.m. Link to join. Calendar invite.

WRKING FOR **HEALTHIER TN**

Yoaa for All

Wednesdays from 12-12:15 p.m. Link to join. Calendar invite.

DCS Fitness Break

Thursdays from 11-11:15 a.m. Link to join. Calendar invite.

Yoga: Core & More

Fridays from 12:15-12:45 p.m. Link to join. Calendar invite.



WEBINARS & ACTIVITIES

TDOE Meditation Break

Thursdays from 11:15-11:30 a.m. Link to join. Calendar invite.

I'm Too Busy to Eat Healthy

(Presented by Here4TN) Tuesday, March 7 from 10:30-11 a.m. <u>Register</u>

Meditation with Nat

Wednesday, March 15 from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Link to join. Calendar invite.

Healthy Eating Trivia

Thursday, March 16 from 1-1:30 p.m. Link to join. Calendar invite.

Green Smoothie Demo with Lindsey

Thursday, March 30 from 12-12:15 p.m. Link to join. Calendar invite. Supplies & Ingredients Needed:

- Blender
- 2 cups raw spinach leaves
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup frozen mango
- 1 cup pineapple
- 2 frozen bananas, sliced



Please note: All times are listed in the Central time zone. For more information about these events, visit

/ww.tn.gov/wfhtn/challenges/wellness-events.html.



27-31

Did you know that bad posture can lead to more than an achy back? Learn more in this 1-minute video!

Ever wonder if frozen

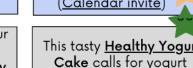
foods have a lot of preservatives? Learn more in these **Frozen** Food Myths & Facts!

National Hot Chicken Day is happening March 30! Try this delicious Air-Fryer Nashville Hot Chicken.

(<u>Register</u>) Join Meditation with Nat to give your mind a

Blend-a-long in our Green Smoothie Demo with Lindsey from 12-12:15 p.m. (Calendar invite)





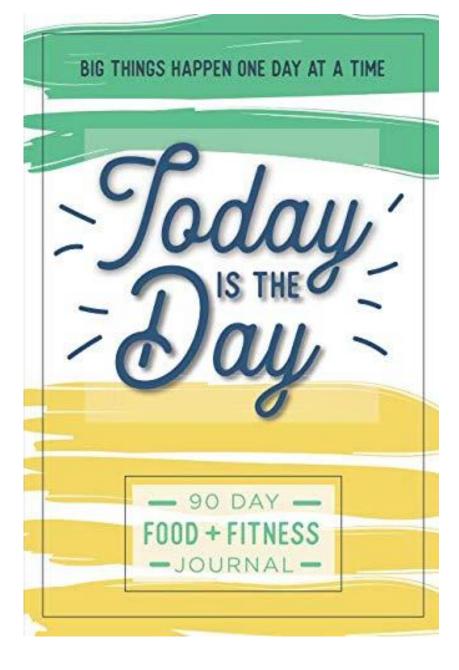


New Swag Available!



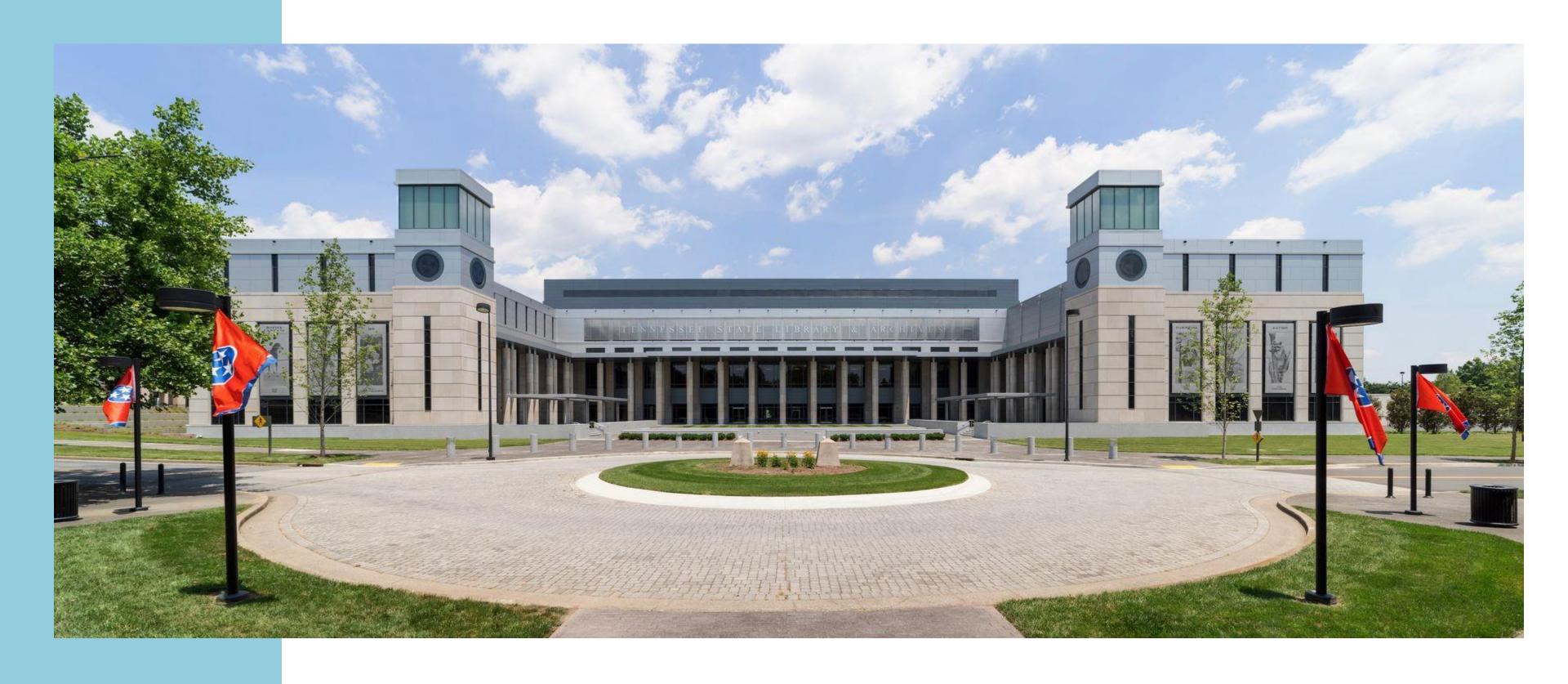








2023 Annual Celebration





New YouTube Videos

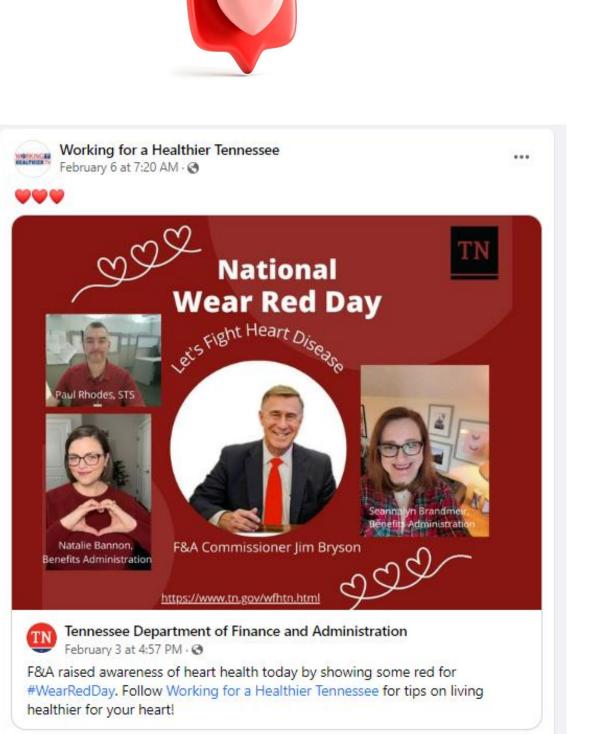


Healthy Eating on a Budget: 4 Tips



Social Media Shoutouts









Wellness Council Spotlights



21 Days to a Healthier Heart







"DORITO" POPCORN SEASONING

- · 2 tablespoons nutritional yeast
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- · 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon cumin
- · 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

In a small bowl, combine the ingredients.

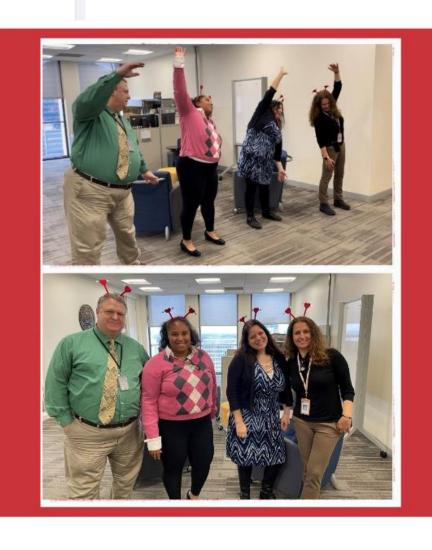
Spray or drizzle oil onto popcorn, tossing to evenly coat.

Sprinkle seasoning over popcorn and toss to coat once more. Serve warm.

WORKING THE HEALTHIERTN

Recipe source: liveeatlearn.com









Trivia Breaks

General Services

and

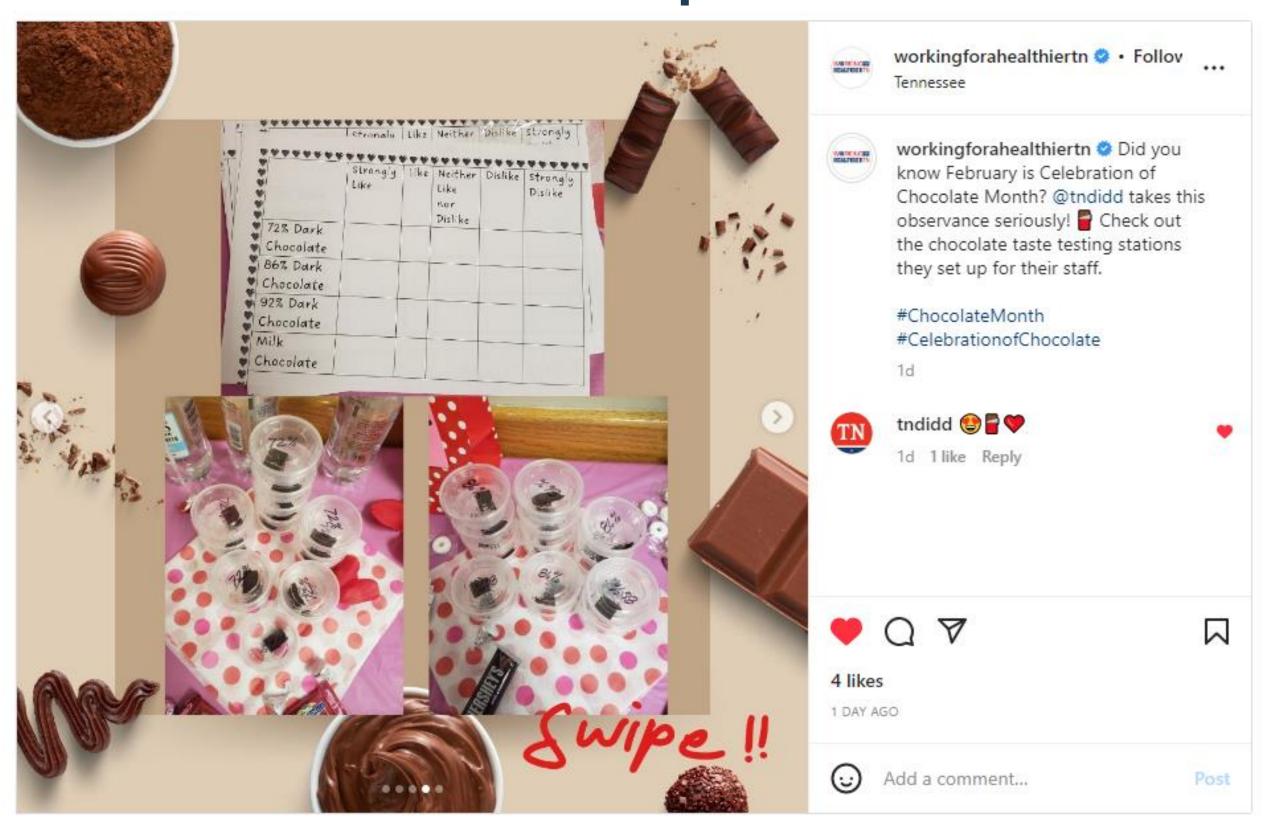
Economic & Community Development





Chocolate Taste Testing

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities





Upcoming Schedule



April Wellness Council Webinar

Thursday, April 6 from 9-9:45 a.m. CT

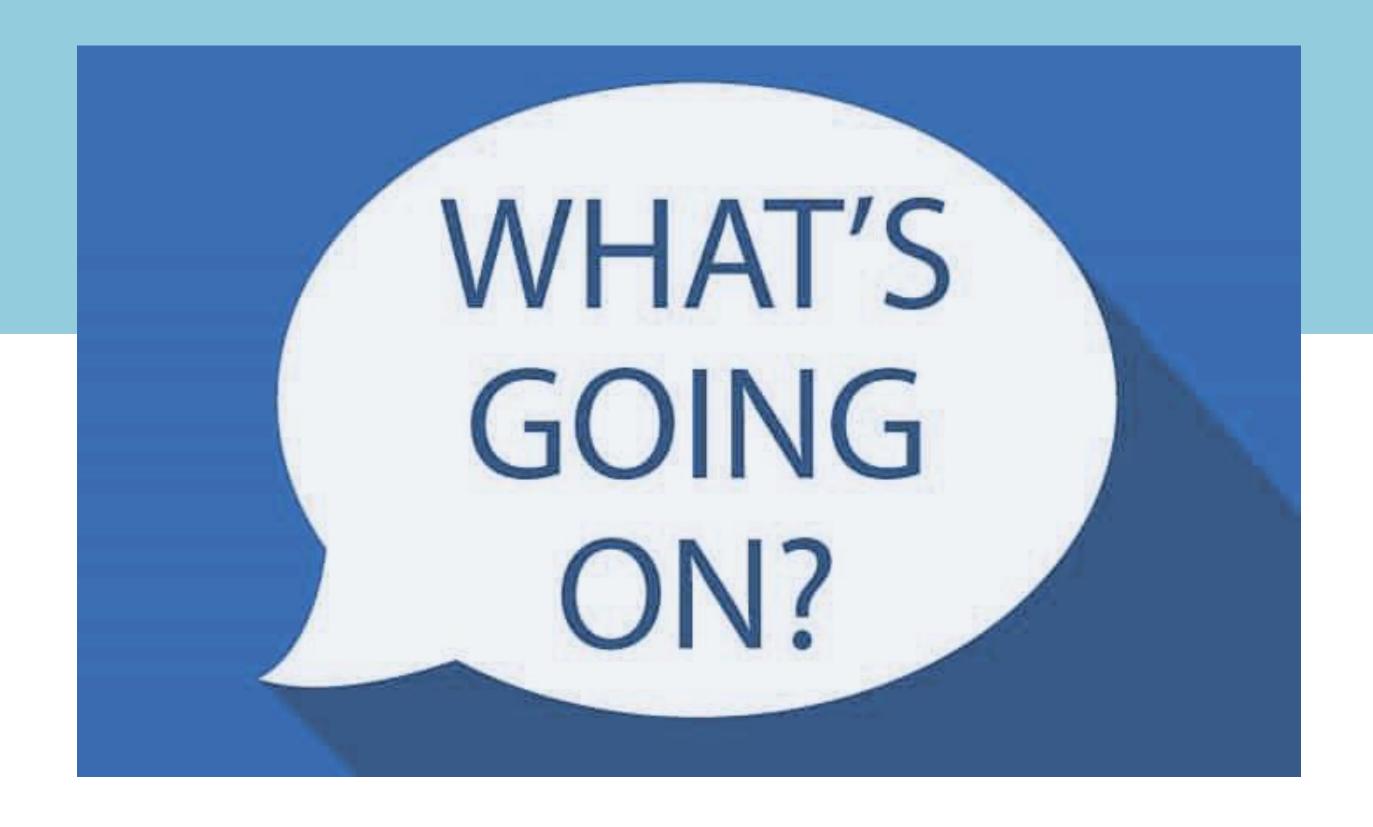
Quarter 3 Activities

We encourage you to contact your Wellness Coordinator for assistance with planning and tracking.

For our full virtual event list, please visit https://www.tn.gov/wfhtn/challenges/wellness-events.html



Your Updates!











Follow Us on Social Media!

