



# End Food Waste Initiative in East Boston

Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA) & Maverick Landing Community Services (MLCS)



# Objectives



Advance food waste reduction through continue food rescue initiatives.



Engage young professionals and community members on food education



Celebrate food throughout the East Boston Community

# About the Community

- East Boston meets the Massachusetts' criteria as an EJ community:
  - East Boston's median household income is \$51,549;
  - The minority population is 63 percent; and
  - 30 percent of households are linguistically isolated.
- East Boston is a diverse community with 52.9 percent Latinx, 37.2 percent white, 3.2 percent black or African American, 3.5 percent Asian, and 3.1 percent one or more races.
- East Boston is located on a two-mile peninsula that is home to Logan Airport and faces high levels of particulates in the air because of its proximity to the airport contributing to various health concerns including childhood asthma.



# Addressing Environmental and Food Injustices through Food Recovery



- MLCS partners with a local food distributor to rescue food that otherwise would be disposed
- Hosts a weekly food day to distribute rescued food at lower costs for MLCS residents
- Donates remaining food to surrounding East Boston groups and organizations



# Education Workshops for MLCS Youth Workers

- Introduction to Agriculture
- Food Security & Recovery
- Community Gardens in Urban Settings
- Climate Change & Food Systems
- Local Chef Session
- Celebratory Event

**Impacts:** MLCS diverted an average of 2,248 pounds of food from incineration per month (note: MLCS trash goes to incineration through the contracted hauler).

Using ReFED's Impact Results calculator, this equates to:

- 0.86 tons of Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>eq) avoided
- 45,693 gallons of water saved
- 1,873 meals recovered per month

Using EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator this equates to:

- 14.2 tree seedlings grown for 10 years
- 96.8 gallons of gasoline avoided
- 104,613 smartphones charged



# Lessons Learned

- The greatest value-add of this Project was bringing the East Boston and Maverick Landing communities together around the concept of ending food waste
- It is important to engage with communities about the problems associated with wasting food, particularly the connection with GHG emissions and how climate change affects vulnerable coastal communities
- Meet community needs
- Adapt processes & be open to change

Thank you!

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