



Our mission is ending food loss and waste by advancing data-driven solutions.

# 2023 Midyear Impact Report

## ReFED by the Numbers

Over the first half of 2023, ReFED's work to end food loss and waste has accelerated dramatically. We released new data, pushed updates to core tools, and deepened existing partnerships, while expanding our reach to entirely new audiences. The accomplishments detailed in this report demonstrate ReFED's continued growth as a leading environmental nonprofit. This report documents what we've accomplished between January 2023 and June 2023. ReFED continues to be the catalyst that is directing companies and organizations to do all they can to work toward our national and international goals to reduce food waste to address our climate crisis and assure food is used for its highest and best good — feeding people.

With our holistic view of the food system, we're working to achieve a 50% food waste reduction in accordance with the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. We're doing it by fostering informed action – action that's driven by solutions to specific challenges, that's grounded in data, that's targeted to where it can benefit the most, and that's coordinated across multiple stakeholders and evaluated to ensure success.

We believe it's possible to solve the food waste crisis.  
*Informed action will get us there.*

### The First Half of 2023 by the Numbers



**38%** rate of uneaten food

In April 2023, ReFED updated its data on food loss and waste across our food system aggregating data from over 80 sources. This is the first update since the launch of the [Insights Engine](#) in 2021 and has set the stage for ongoing annual assessments to assure we are tracking our progress to reach the 50% food waste reduction targets. We have considerable work to get there, and it's going to take engagement from our entire food system to identify the solutions that must be adopted. Our comprehensive data is working to drive decision-making and action across the food supply chain.



**652** attendees

The 2023 Food Waste Solutions Summit was ReFED's largest and most impactful Summit to date. In-person and virtual attendees enjoyed 23 sessions and 109 speakers, 63 (58%) of whom were female, and 26 (24%) of whom were ethnically diverse. Programming also included two new formats — deep-dive workshops and interactive working sessions. An incredible 75% of those in attendance reported they are taking an action, making a change, or activating a connection as a result of the Summit. As the premier gathering of the food waste community, this event is a cornerstone of our systems change activities.



**\$816,000** in grants

ReFED's Catalytic Grant Fund is a game-changer in the food supply chain, bringing much-needed philanthropic resources to for-profit and nonprofit organizations who are making a difference. De-risking and providing proof of concepts is why ReFED, with the support of funders, launched this progressive re-granting effort. We offer a one-stop shop for philanthropists, and a partner to assure success of food waste solution providers. We funded seven organizations this year, adding to the three funded in 2022, for 10 grants exceeding \$1 million!



## 198 leaders in diversity

For more than a year, ReFED and expert advisors dedicated considerable energy to understanding the intersections of food waste and Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI). In June 2023, ReFED released a report that emerged from over 30 interviews with partners offering 15+ recommended solutions to create a more equitable and sustainable food system, and shares nine case studies of great work happening across the country. There were nearly 200 attendees at the virtual Report Launch Event who came to learn about the findings of the report.



## 5,000+ philanthropic funders

An important addition to the Capital Tracker, which is sharing real-time information on the investments happening in food waste, was the addition of approximately 5,300 philanthropic funders to the information. In total, at least \$10B in direct private investment and \$180M in philanthropic funding has gone to food waste solutions over the last 10 years. But it's only a start. Annually we need \$3.4B private funding (3x more than historical average) and \$1.4B philanthropic funding (70x more than historical average) to make the transitions our food system must if we are to meet our goals.



## 51% market share

In its third year, the Pacific Coast Food Waste Commitment — working across California, Oregon, and Washington — is a private-public partnership driving change at the state level, in cities, and in the operations of food supply chain actors. The food retailers engaged represent over half of the market share and are setting their sites on applying what they've learned nationwide. We are working with 23 businesses directly to reduce food loss and waste because we know they can impact up- and down-stream waste to drive the greatest change, and nine published case studies are illustrating how companies have effectively reduced their food waste.



## 4 leading organizations

ReFED has partnered with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic to establish the Zero Food Waste Coalition, with over 20 member organizations already signed on. With a focus on informing and influencing legislation and regulatory action, the Coalition has already delivered on its promise by producing a state toolkit to help drive food system change at this level.



## And only 20 dedicated staff

And we are doing all of this with only 20 dedicated staff who bring their talents to address the problem of food loss and waste. We are about growing the movement, not our organization, and we remain committed to being a lean team that leverages our more than 2,000 partners to change our food system for the better, for all of us.

# Investing in Food Waste Benefits People and Planet

ReFED's models demonstrate what an annual \$18 billion investment can accomplish:



Reduce 58 million tons of waste



Recover 4.3 billion meals



Cut GHG's by 109 million metric tons



Create 60,000 jobs  
(Based on full implementation of solutions)



Save six trillion gallons of water



Achieve a \$74B net financial benefit – a four-to-one return

# Our Financials

## Revenue, support and gains

Contributions	\$4,841,723
Program service fees	\$58,587
Conferences	\$583,072
In-kind contributions	\$100,000
Net assets released from restrictions	\$1,744,842
<b>TOTAL REVENUE, SUPPORT AND GAINS</b>	<b>\$5,583,382</b>

## Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,712,425
Contributions receivable	\$2,015,000
Sponsorship receivable	\$32,500
Accounts receivable	\$54,088
Prepaid expenses	\$51,828
Security deposits	\$22,590
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,888,431</b>

## Expenses



Capital and Innovation Programs	23.5%
Data and Insights Programs	26.3%
Business Initiatives Programs	20.3%
DEIJ Programs	5.3%
Policy Programs	1.0%
Management Expenses	14.2%
Fundraising Expenses	9.4%

## Liabilities and Net Assets

### Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$77,398
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	\$150,119
Deferred revenue	\$76,010
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$303,527</b>

### Net Assets

Without donor restriction	
Undesignated	\$954,841
Board designated	\$835,590
With donor restrictions	\$1,794,473
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,584,904</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**\$3,888,431**

### FINANCIAL FOOTNOTE

Audited financial reports completed by Citrin Cooperman & Co., LLC. ReFED received a clean, unmodified opinion on our audit and the full report can be viewed [here](#).

*Inspired by what you're reading and want to make a difference?*

Give online securely today, or reach out to our Development Team via email at [development@refed.org](mailto:development@refed.org) for personal assistance in making an investment in our work to end food waste.



You can also learn more deeply about our programs from our 2022 Annual Impact Report [here](#).

Learn more about what ReFED is doing to address the crisis of food loss and waste in the United States by following our work.

[refed.org](https://refed.org)

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