SESSION DESCRIPTION

D3 Denver-Baltimore food systems resilience

Reality Check Workshop

Date: Thursday, 27 June 2019
Time: 11:00-12.30
Rooms: S25-26

Language: English
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Organized by: ICLEI

OBJECTIVE

Baltimore and Denver are undertaking actions towards becoming more sustainable and resilient by including food systems as a critical component of urban planning for climate resilience. The two cities are adopting an adaptation strategy to prevent food from going to waste, rescue surplus food and recycle food scraps. The cities of Baltimore and Denver were selected to work with Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC) on the Food Matters Project to develop and implement strategies that will drive innovative and system-wide food waste reduction in cities. Addressing the issue of food waste helps cities stabilize municipal waste management costs and meet sustainability goals.

Baltimore City is implementing the Baltimore Food waste Recovery Strategy, which focuses on setting and meeting ambitious food waste reduction goals, building a local economy and increasing food security. The strategy aims at educating residents about food waste; at encouraging surplus food donation by local businesses and engaging public health inspectors to address the food rescue gap; lastly, at encouraging and incentivizing residents and businesses to recycle and compost organics and food scraps. Denver City is also integrating the Food Matters Project with the Denver Food Action Plan, whose strategies include public education campaign aimed at cutting food waste from its largest sources; engaging businesses through challenges and city-level technical assistance by DDPHE´s Certifiably Green Denver Program; finally, encouraging surplus food donation by local businesses.

The speakers presented a case study of a city-university partnership developed to assess and improve the food system resilience of Baltimore City, Maryland, with a particular focus among stakeholders critical to the city´s food supply chain. The results of the study show that Baltimore´s food system is vulnerable to winter storms, flooding and power outages and in order to mitigate some of these effects of these disasters on community food security, cities should establish social and political capital and communication networks.

OUTCOMES

- Participants learned about opportunities for including food systems in urban resilience planning and about the planning process;
- During the presentations, participants gained understanding of the context of the cities with detailed information about the cities and learn about the two projects aimed at reducing food waste and increasing food security;
- Participants also learned about the city-university partnership to improve the food system resilience.

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator	*Angie Fyfe, Executive Director, ICELI USA*
Speakers	*Anne Draddy, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Baltimore, Baltimore, United States*
	Ava Richardson, Special Assistant, City of Baltimore, Baltimore, United States
	Baltimore's Food Waste Reduction Strategy
Speakers	*Laine Cidlowski, Food Systems Administrator, City of Denver, Denver, United States*
	Lesly Baesens, Food Waste Recovery Administrator, City of Denver, Denver, United States
	Food Matters in Denver & Baltimore: Tackling Food Waste in Cities

Further Recommended Reading

Baltimore Food Waste Recovery Strategy
Available at:
https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/BaltimoreFoodWaste&RecoveryStrategy_Sept2018.pdf

Food matters: empowering cities to tackle food waste
Available at:
https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/food-matters-cities-food-waste-fs.pdf