

Willing Hands Climate Action Plan SUMMARY

MISSION: Willing Hands recovers fresh food in order to reduce waste, improve health, and provide reliable access to nutritious food for our neighbors in need.

GOAL: Double our negative carbon footprint by 2026, for a total of negative 2 million pounds CO₂e.

DID YOU KNOW? Food recovery is one of the most important things we can do to address the climate crisis; in fact, **reducing food waste is 10 times more impactful than transitioning to electric vehicles.** That's because when food goes to waste it harms the climate in two ways: first by wasting all the energy that went into producing it, and second by producing methane—a greenhouse gas which is 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide—as it rots in the landfill.

Food Recovery

Increasing food recovery is not only good for the planet; it is good for our food-insecure neighbors. Expanding our food recovery efforts will enable us to deliver more nourishing food to the community that we serve. This dual benefit is especially important since the impacts of climate change, including food insecurity, are experienced more acutely by the most vulnerable populations that we serve.

- ✓ Increase food recovery from existing sources
- ✓ Increase yield from gleaning program
- ✓ Find new food sources
- ✓ Build a New England perishable food recovery network



ABOUT US: Willing Hands is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that recovers fresh food from farms, grocery stores, and wholesalers, and delivers it year-round, for free, to more than 80 social service organizations across the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire. Our work is made possible by a strong and wide network of volunteers, food donors, and recipient organizations. Together, we serve 30,000 individuals annually with 4 million servings while mitigating nearly 1 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions from food that would have otherwise gone to waste.



Direct Emissions

Willing Hands will reduce direct emissions by at least 70 percent by investing in the efficiency of our logistics systems and electrifying as much as possible.

- ✓ Improve efficiency of refrigeration systems
- ✓ Install a heat pump in the office
- ✓ Increase truck route efficiency by 10 percent
- ✓ Purchase an electric van for gleaning
- ✓ Replace hot water heater
- ✓ Replace daily delivery truck with a van
- ✓ Foster a culture of efficiency

Resilience

“Climate resilience” is the ability to prepare for, adapt to, and recover from the impending impacts of climate change. Willing Hands is currently practicing almost all of the conservation and regenerative agriculture strategies recommended by Project Drawdown and the Vermont Climate Action Plan.

- ✓ Enhance soil sequestration
- ✓ Examine compost practices
- ✓ Agricultural intensification



Outreach

As a well-established, well-respected and well-loved community organization, we have the opportunity to leverage our community influence in support of climate action. This outreach is essential to the success of our Climate Action Plan because addressing climate change requires strong partnerships and broad support across communities.

- ✓ Integrate climate messaging into our work wherever possible and give our partners the tools to do the same
- ✓ Create a replicable Climate Action Plan template for other organizations

ASK US ABOUT THE FULL PLAN!

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Willing Hands

**Reducing
food waste to
end hunger.**

willinghands.org