



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an
Official Statement

*W*HEREAS, Connecticut is experiencing a waste crisis; and

*W*HEREAS, food waste represents 22% of Connecticut's municipal solid waste and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates 70% of that food is edible; and

*W*HEREAS, only about 3% of edible and surplus food is recovered for human consumption in Connecticut and safe and nutritious food that is currently thrown away could instead help feed the 1 in 10 Connecticut residents who experience hunger; and

*W*HEREAS, food is wasted at every level in the food system, from farms to food processing to grocery stores to homes; and

*W*HEREAS, Connecticut's statutory waste hierarchy puts preventing food waste and redirecting surplus edible food to feed humans and animals as a priority; and

*W*HEREAS, communities can save on waste disposal costs, and CT schools can save on food costs and improve nutrition by reducing the estimated 7 million pounds of food wasted annually; and

*W*HEREAS, Connecticut has the opportunity to conserve our valuable resources – land, water, energy, and labor – used to produce and transport food that ultimately goes wasted when food is wasted; and

*W*HEREAS, Connecticut K-12 schools have a special role in educating our next generation to reduce, recover, and recycle food, and this younger generation can help educate their families; and

*W*HEREAS, we must do all we can to keep food waste out of the trash where it ends up at waste-to-energy facilities or in landfills that produce dangerous methane gas, 28 times more potent than Carbon Dioxide and a major contributor to climate change; now

*T*HEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim the week of April 1st – 7th, 2024, to be

CT FOOD WASTE PREVENTION WEEK

in the State of Connecticut. I encourage all Connecticut residents – young and old – to become aware of the wasted food in our homes, schools, universities and all around us, and to commit to reducing food waste.



Ned Lamont

GOVERNOR