

TU Food Recovery Network

FY24 End of Year Report



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Mission

THE TOWSON UNIVERSITY FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK CHAPTER AIMS TO SERVE THE LOCAL BALTIMORE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER, REDUCTION OF FOOD WASTE, AND PROMOTION OF CLIMATE CONSCIOUSNESS.

Vision

A CAMPUS WITH NO WASTED EDIBLE FOOD



This Year in a Snapshot

9,756

pounds of food prevented from going to the landfill.

175

student volunteers from 18 different organizations.

360

hours of service completed.



Weekly Meetings

Towson University FRN collected 28 times from September 2023 to May 2024 on Wednesdays and Fridays. Weekly collections were completed with help from 175 student volunteers from over 15 different Towson University clubs. Volunteer organizations ranged from Greek life to sporting clubs.

This spring, FRN added a Wednesday collection in addition to their regular Friday collections. The volunteers were able to collect donations from all on-campus dining halls leading to the recovery of 1,848 pounds of food from four different collection dates.



Social and Service

With an executive team member in charge of social media, FoodRecovery_TU Instagram gained 40 new followers and had 100 new accounts engaged. This represents a 3.5% increase in activity compared to the Fall semester.

TU's FRN successfully completed 360 hours of volunteer work and service. Most volunteers said they heard about FRN through word of mouth or social media. With the help of the volunteers, Towson's Food Recovery Network chapter collected 4,356 pounds in the fall semester and 5,400 pounds in the spring semester. With the Towson minimum wage being \$15.15, it saved the university \$5,454. Based on the national volunteer hourly pay of \$33.49, it saved Towson University \$12,056.40.



Pounds of Food Donated and the Emissions Avoided

Location	Pounds of Food Collected	GHG Emissions Avoided (Tons)
Au Bon Pain (ABP)	2,284.44	3.10
University Union (UU)	1,282	1.74
Science Complex Café	1,013.36	0.96
Glen Dining Hall	1,010.04	1.37
Newell Dining Hall	1,006.96	1.36
College of Liberal Arts Café (LA Café)	834.19	1.37
Starbucks	705.65	0.96
7720 Café - Admin	585.39	0.79
West Village Dining Hall	353.09	0.48
Center for the Arts Café (CFA Café)	300.2	0.41
Total	9,375.32	12.54

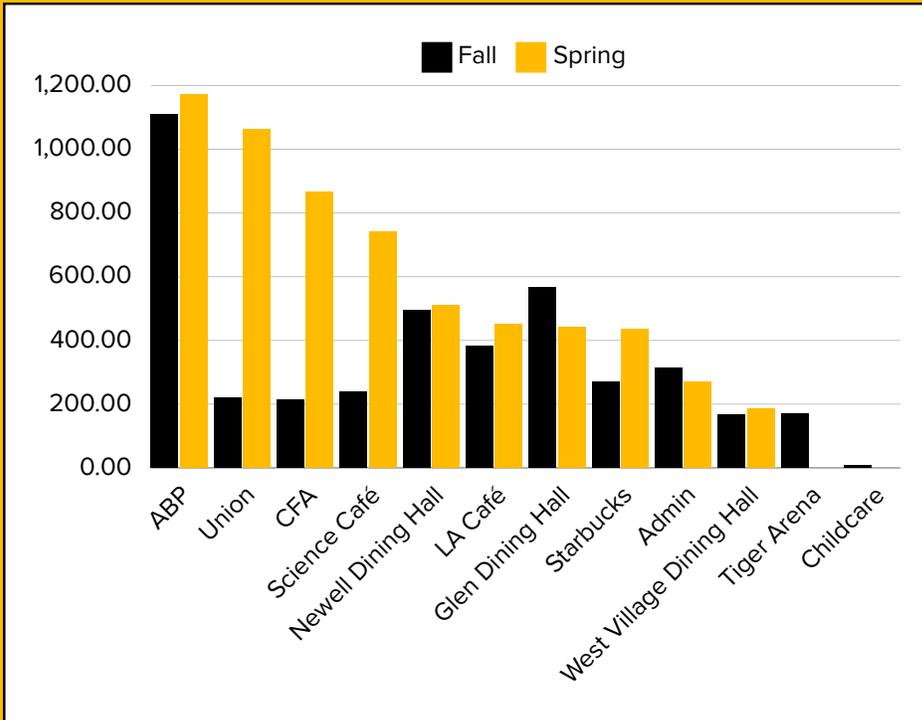
Greenhouse Gas Emission Calculated from ReFed insights Engine

This year, **2,369.09** pounds of food were donated by dining, and **7,006.32** pounds of food were donated by the grab-and-go locations around campus.

Additionally, this year, FRN collected **171.6** pounds of leftover food from concessions after sporting events such as football and basketball.

Pounds of Food Diverted

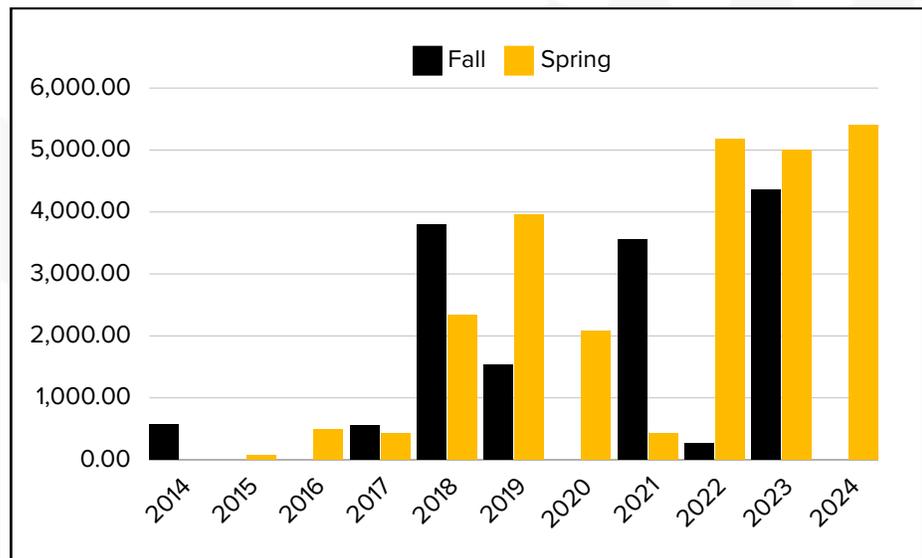
Pounds collected per semester



Pounds of food collected per location varied between the fall and spring semesters. From fall to spring, there was an increase in donations from ABP, Union, CFA, Science, Newell, LA Café, and Starbucks. This increase is likely due to formally establishing relationships with the managers and staff. At the same time, there was a decrease in donations from Glen Dining Hall, Admin, Tiger Arena, and Childcare. This decrease is likely due to miscommunications between dining and TU’s FRN. TU’s FRN was not consistently notified if food was available for pickup from these locations.

Over the past ten years, there has been a significant increase in food collection. In total, 46,226.74 pounds has been diverted from the landfill and donated to the community. Spring 2024 was the most food recovered in a semester in the history of TU’s Food Recovery Network Chapter.

Annual collection amounts



Accomplishments

Food Recovery Network National recognized the TU Chapter for its hard work and effort through the awarding of a grant.

FRN was also nominated for Organization of the Year at the TU Student Affairs Leadership Awards.

This spring, the Office of Sustainability hired four students to drive the collected food to the donation sites.

The addition of student drivers solved many of FRN's transportation issues. We hope to offer more driving positions in the future.

With additional funding from FRN National, the club purchased a cart for easier transportation of food between locations. And then was able to replace the old cooler bags.



Challenges

- Communication between staff and students should be streamlined. Student volunteers often called the locations before collection, however, there were times when there was no food for collection, and students weren't notified.
- West Village Commons only donated six times out of eighteen during the spring semester. This could be due to a lack of understanding or consistent management.
- Often the pans for FRN go missing or run out. Pans need to be explicitly labeled for FRN use when stored in the dining halls. Discuss sourcing of pans and roles and responsibilities.

Looking Forward

- The entire executive board are new appointees. See the appendix for more details.
- Before the start of the semester, FRN board members will meet with all current managers of the on-campus collection locations to ensure everyone fully understands the program and the expected roles of each party involved.
- One goal is to donate all Wednesday collections to The FoodShare at The Hub.
- Towson Food Recovery Network alongside Aramark will work to address campus food waste at the source.



Interested in getting involved?

Food Recovery meetings occur every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. and Friday at 2:45 p.m. in front of Au Bon Pain in Hawkins Hall.

<https://linktr.ee/foodrecovery>



Leadership for Spring 24



Maile Hynes
PRESIDENT

Responsible for overseeing all food recovery operations including coordinating with dining services, organizing volunteer participation, leading weekly recoveries, communicating with the local pantries, leading officer meetings, and supervising funding applications.



Avery Misterka
VICE PRESIDENT

Collaborating with the president on food recovery operations including coordinating with dining services, organizing volunteer participation, and supervising funding applications.



Edward Kongo
SECRETARY

The secretary is responsible for tracking all the weights during the meeting. They keep track of what has been weighed, where it came from, and the type of food. After each meeting, they are responsible for sending out a message to the FRN GroupMe informing members of the final weights.



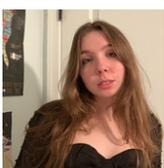
Joyce Akintan
TREASURER

Apply for funds through Towson University and Food Recovery Network. Use Excel to organize proposed budgets.



Riley Peters
SOCIAL MEDIA
MANAGER

The Social Media Manager oversees the active social media platforms for the club. This entails creating weekly posts tailored around past and upcoming meetings. As well as creating informative posts aimed to educate the community about food security and sustainability.



Cara Cassano
OUTREACH
COORDINATOR

Coordinate with other Towson University clubs on participation with Towson's chapter of Food Recovery Network. Create weekly a Sign-Up Genius to organize volunteer participation. Create and disperse recruitment flyers for a variety of volunteer participation.



Paddy Watson
CO-ADVISOR

Offer any needed guidance on club matters as well as facilitating any needed communications.



Meghan Bennett
CO-ADVISOR

Offer any needed guidance on club matters as well as facilitating any needed communications.

