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According to a 2014 study by the Food Waste Alliance restaurants landfill 84.3%, recycle 14.3%, and donate 1.4% of food waste. Additionally grocery stores throw away 43 billion pounds of food every year.

As part of development of this plan, Ecology should request local, state, and federal funding to supplement a recycling program, an education program, and robust legislation to encourage restaurants and grocery stores to recycle, donate, or compost food and food waste.

Also, the state should mandate local officials to adopt a recycling program for residents that must include curbside compost and glass/paper/plastic/metal recycling bins. Similar programs are successfully issued around the country and can be used as a model for our state.