



policy brief on Milan Food Policy ongoing actions

# MILAN MODEL OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR FOOD DONATION

#FoodPolicyMilano  
#EUFoodCities  
#MUFPP  
#FoodWaste  
#CircularEconomy

*Cities are innovative living lab to co-create, test and implement local actions for sustainable urban food systems.*

**Population:** 1.366.000 | **Surface:** 181 kmq  
**Administration:** Municipality  
**City size:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Italian city

**Food Policy Agreement (2015-20):**  
City of Milan, Cariplo Foundation  
with the support of Està Research Center

**International networks:**  
MUFPP, Eurocities WG Food,  
C40 Food System Network, 100 Resilient Cities  
100 Circular Economy, WHO Healthy Cities

**European engagement:**  
EU Platform for Food Losses and Waste (DG SANTE)  
FOOD 2030 (DG RTD)

**Institutional responsibility:** Vice Mayor Anna Scavuzzo  
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**VIDEO of Milan Vice Mayor Ms Scavuzzo**  
at the plenary meeting of the  
EU Platform on Food Losses and Waste.

[https://youtu.be/YSSgd\\_SWwYU](https://youtu.be/YSSgd_SWwYU)

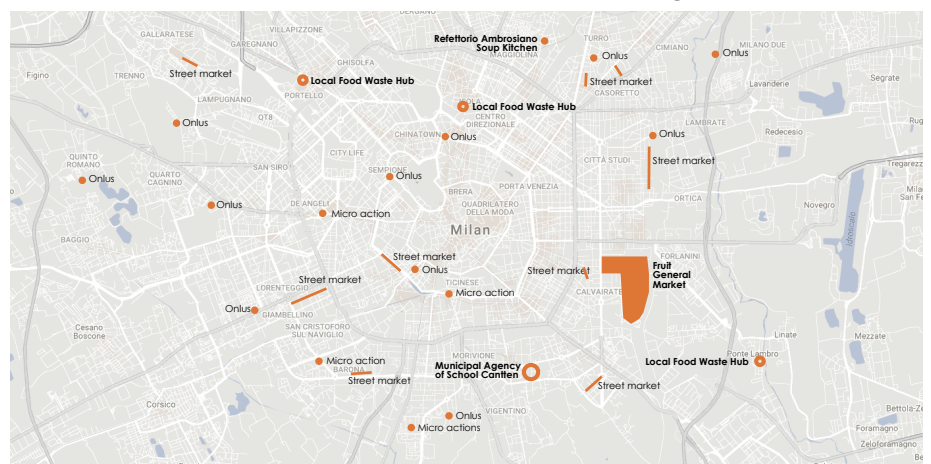
The **City of Milan developed in 2015 the Milan Food Policy** that acts on the urban food system with a multidimensional approach around five key priorities: food losses and waste reduction being one of the most important, engaging several local actors such as research centers, private sector, non profit organizations, foundations.

Milan wants to reach the goal of **reducing food waste by 50% by 2030** with the help of local actors (stakeholders and shareholders). Through the Food Policy implementation the city will try to address all these actors to achieve this goal. The policies connected to the reduction of food losses and waste are combined with those related to the **waste cycle management** to increase the overall sustainability of the system with an approach to circular economy.

Within the Food Policy in 2015 **4 guidelines for food waste priority** were defined and they establish that the city, in cooperation with local actors:

1. Promotes actions of **information and education** addressed to citizens and local actors in order to reduce losses and waste.
2. Promotes **recovery and redistribution** of food losses creating relations among the local players (charities and food banks).
3. Promotes more rational use of **packaging**.
4. Promotes **circular economy** in the food system management.

Milan is member of the **EU Platform for Food Losses and Waste** created in 2016 by European Commission (DG SANTE) that gathers 27 Member States and 37 European organizations active against food waste. Within the EU Platform Milan plays the role of urban shareholder on behalf of 51 European cities member of the Eurocities Working Group Food.



**Milan has the goal of cutting  
by 50% Food Waste by 2030**

# Milan's food waste main initiatives in the Food Policy

## Local Food Waste Hub

In order to support the food recovery made by small local actors, the municipality facilitated an agreement between a university lab (model management and data analysis) and a private sector union that gathers supermarkets and companies with canteens to develop a pilot project in three neighbourhoods for food losses redistribution at local level (each hub recovers 70 Tons per year, 250kg per day). The first "Local Food Waste Hub" will be hosted in a space managed by the Municipality of Milan. In the course of the pilot year the input and output flows of donations in the hub will be monitored and the knowledge will also be spread among 35 local organizations mapped by the Food Policy active on food donations.



### 70 Tons/year per each hub

Actors in the first pilot area  
5 private canteens, 3 supermarket,  
1 street market, 5 non-profit org.

## Multilevel governance with Regional authority

The city is part of the INTERREG CircE stakeholder group, led by Regional Authority, a EU project on circular economy with a focus on food waste. The project concentrates on developing new competences and new urban and regional policy tools to promote circular economy. CircE gathers several stakeholders among private sector clusters, research bodies and local authorities to explore new kinds of incentives.



## Raising awareness campaigns

In order to prevent the fruit waste at the end of each lunch, the municipal agency for school canteens designed a program called "Morning break with fruit": children receive fruit in their classrooms as a morning snack, instead of at the end of lunch. In addition to this preventive action, **31.000 reusable doggy bags in 85 pilot schools** were distributed to children to bring home non perishable leftovers.



### -17% food waste in school meals

"Morning break with fruit"  
57 schools, 779 classes  
17.000 children (28% of total)

## Tax reduction on food losses for donation

In 2018 Milan adopted a reduction on the waste tax for food losses donation. This new regulation aims to reduce 20% of the tax for the first year in favour of food businesses (supermarkets, restaurants, canteens, producers etc.) that donate their food losses to charities. The action involves different departments of the municipality (Fiscal, Environmental, Food Policy dpts.), creating a multisectorial working group. The measure will also support the mapping, strengthening and spreading of food donation ongoing initiatives in the city led by non profit organizations.



### -20% waste tax

10.000 potential beneficiaries  
1,8 Million euro of impact



**technical consultation**  
Food system and charities actors

**CITY COUNCIL VOTE**  
max 50%  
20% for the pilot year (2018)

Food businesses need to send at Municipality an **INITIAL COMMUNICATION**

At the end of the year the food businesses must send a **FINAL REPORT TO THE MUNICIPALITY** containing the amount of food donation

OCT2017

FEB2018

30APRIL2018

DEC2018

30APRIL2019

FIRST pilot year: 20% reduction

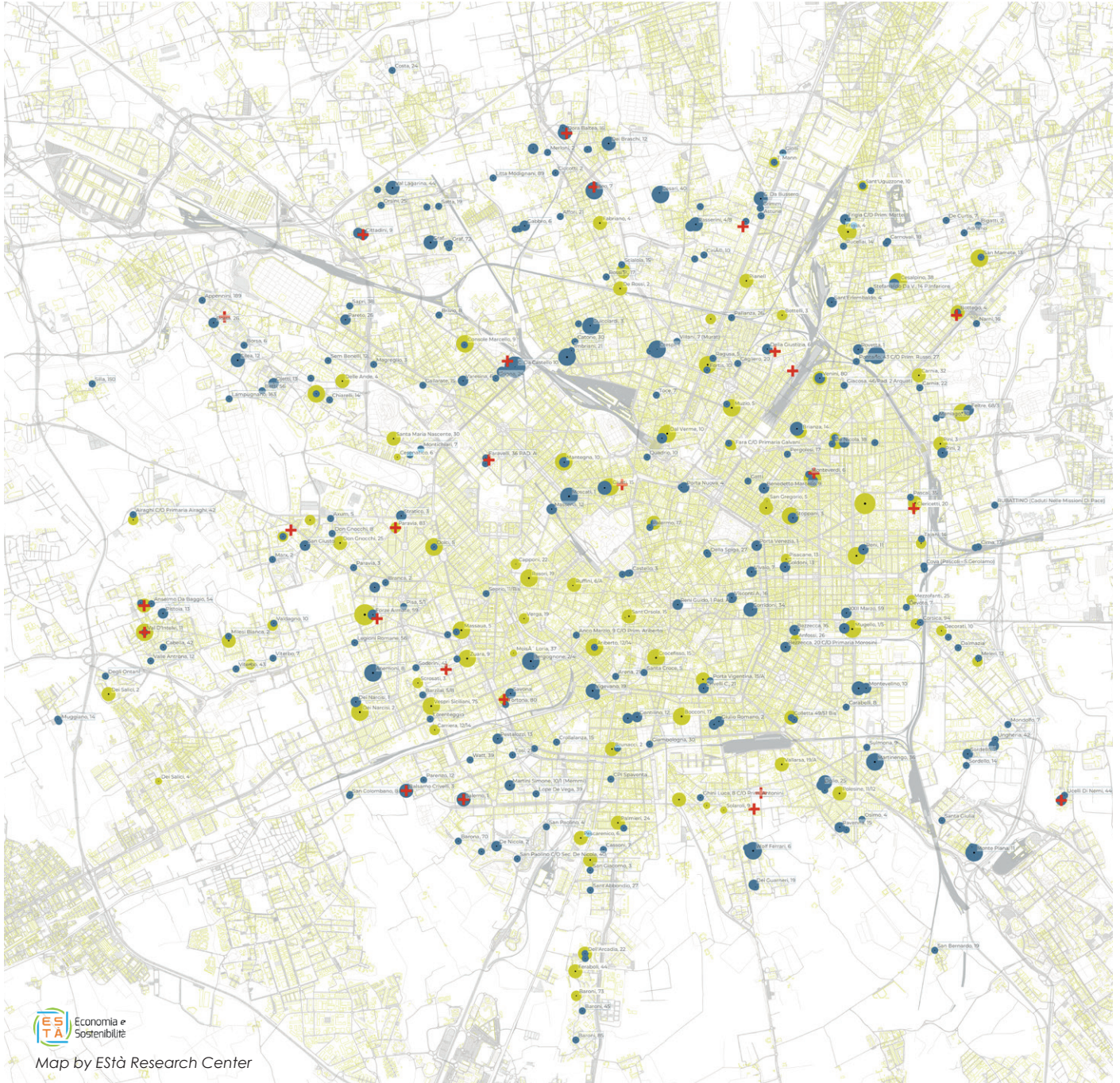
from SECOND year: max 50% reduction

# Food Waste recovered from School Canteens

Since 2017 the Municipal Agency for School Canteens "Milano Ristorazione" has been working with the charity "Banco Alimentare" to recover and donate food losses (fruit and bread) in school canteens.

In addition from 2014 all the dishes and cutlery were replacement from plastic to biodegradable materials and recycled as biowaste.

**-720.000 kilos of plastic**



Map by Està Research Center

**Canteens WITH food donation actions**

- 14 - 190 MEALS PER DAY
- 191 - 350
- 351 - 550
- 551 - 700
- 700 - 880

**+ Cooking Centers**

**Canteens WITHOUT food donation actions**

- 9 - 135 MEALS PER DAY
- 136 - 265
- 266 - 390
- 391 - 550
- 551 - 645

**106 school canteens** on a total of 418 connected by charities food donation system

**150 Tons**  
 91 Tons of fruit  
 50 Tons of bread  
 9 Tons of complete meals from cooking centers



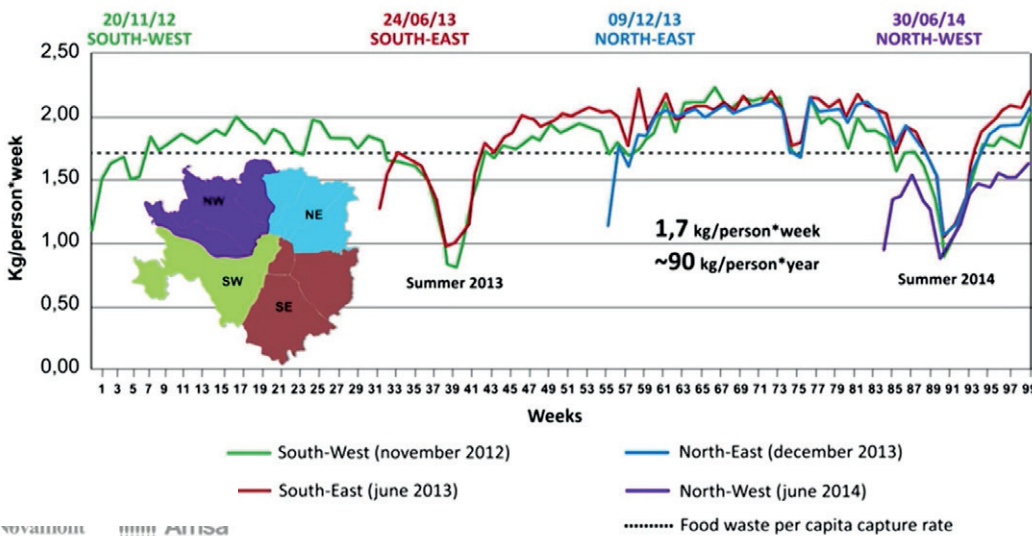
# Collecting biowaste for compost and biogas

The separate collection of biowaste is one of the **strengths of Milan waste management system**: this good practice has been encouraged by the introduction of the door-to-door collection system, with a process that began in November 2012 and reached in June 2014 **100% coverage** of the Municipality.

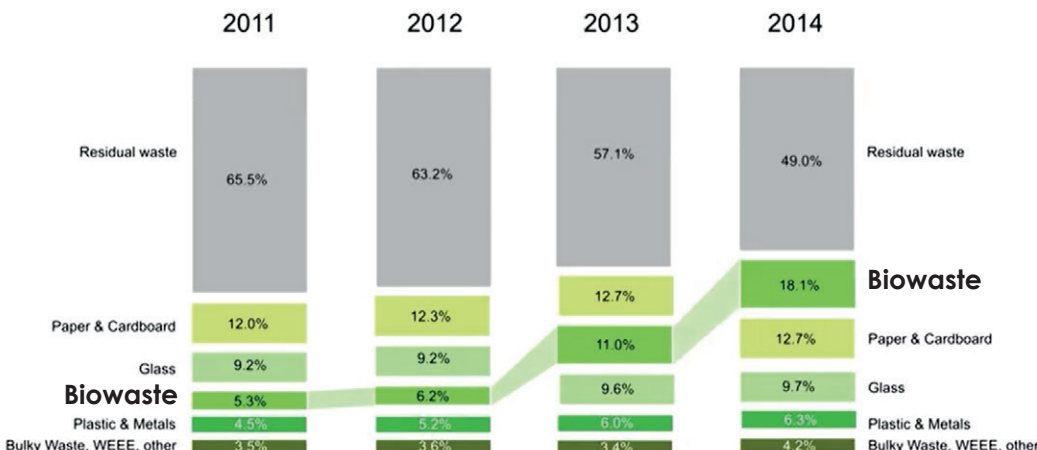


This system allowed the city to overcome **in May 2014 the level of 50% of separate waste collection (compared to 36.7% in 2012)**, a record in Europe (also compared to other European cities with more than 1 million inhabitants) that makes of Milan a "virtuous case" at an international level. The biowaste collected has an excellent quality (<5% of pollutants), and Milan transforms it into **compost for the soil and biogas for energy**.

Besides the goodwill and commitment of citizens, also the use of **bioplastic bags** played a key role for the success of this good practice. The bags were provided by a private company (Novamont) to AMSA - Milan Environmental Services Company that manages the collection and disposal of waste in the city of Milan and ten municipalities of its metropolitan area - to guarantee to each user a starter kit of 25 pieces (for a total of over 1 million bags donated free of charge). Moreover Municipality of Milan, Municipal Agency AMSA and private company Novamont, carried out **information campaigns for citizens** aimed at encouraging the reuse of compostable carrier bags, used by large supermarket chains counters, for the collection of the organic fraction of household waste.



**Average biowaste capture rate**



## 51% of waste comes from separate collection

Biowaste collected for compost  
1,7 kg/person per week  
90 kg/person per year



## VIDEO of Milan model

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSjBbp-Q3IU>