

Call for Proposals: Mapping the Food Waste Issue

Project Period: Four months commencing August 31, 2013.

Funding: \$15,000 Canadian

Deadline for Proposals: August 23, 2013

The Network for Business Sustainability (NBS) seeks a Canadian researcher to lead a project on “Mapping the Food Waste Issue.” The United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that one third of the food we produce is wasted along the value chain. Canadians send about \$27 billion in food to landfills and composters each year — approximately the value of Canadian agricultural and agri-food exports in 2007. The issues are related to all aspects of the value chain, including production, inventory, processing, transportation and consumption. This inefficiency directly increases business costs, stresses natural resources like water and arable land, and contributes to climate change.

This project aims to identify the key elements of the food waste issue in Ontario and nationally: stakeholders, sub-issues and root causes. This research will be used to support the efforts of Provision Coalition in forming a food waste-working group that will seek to reduce food waste across the food supply chain over the next 3 to 5 years. The working group will include food producers, manufacturers, distributors, food service, retailers and other stakeholders. We expect the research outputs will be used by practitioners and made publicly available.

Project Background

Provision Coalition is a member of the NBS Industry Association Council. The NBS Industry Association Council supports the advancement of sustainability among industry associations. Through this relationship, Provision Coalition has requested that NBS assist its efforts to understand and address food waste in Canada, with emphasis on Ontario. The mapping project is expected to be the first phase of a multi-year initiative on food waste.

Project Goal, Deliverables and Timeline

This project aims to map the economic, social and environmental impacts of food waste including sub issues and root causes, and to produce a stakeholder map that defines the key entities influencing food waste. Project deliverables and timing include:



1. A **stakeholder map** that defines the key entities influencing food waste in Canada (by mid October).
2. A **problem map** that defines the food waste problem, its sub issues and root causes (by mid November).
3. A **draft report and presentation** that will be used to inform potential food waste working group members and help them identify next steps to address the food waste issue (by mid November). It is expected that the research will provide a perspective on solutions as part of the report and input to the working group session.
4. Participation in a **working group session** to validate problem and stakeholder maps and gather input on potential action steps to address the problem as defined (by end of November).
5. Produce a **final report** of 15 to 20 pages to include working group session summary, and revised problem and stakeholder maps (by end of December).

Criteria for Selection

- Knowledge of the food waste issue in Ontario and nationally
- Knowledge of sustainability
- Demonstrated ability to produce rigorous research and translate research findings for practitioners
- Commitment to working with food waste stakeholders and participation in working group session
- Candidates must have experience with a methodology suitable to map the problem

Funding and NBS Support

The research team/lead will receive \$15,000 (contributed by Provision Coalition) to conduct this research. NBS will provide:

- Project management assistance
- Stakeholder access
- Administrative, design and editing support

To Apply

Please submit an electronic document expressing your experience and interest in this topic and proposed process for developing the problem map and report. The document should not exceed 3 pages. Please also include a resume or CV of the lead researcher.

Deadline: August 23, 2013

Contact Information

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Network for
Business Sustainability

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About the Network for Business Sustainability

A Canadian non-profit established in 2005, the Network for Business Sustainability (NBS) is a powerful and growing network of international academic experts and business leaders. NBS produces authoritative resources on important sustainability issues – with the goal of shaping management practice and research. We connect thousands of researchers and professionals worldwide who are interested in sustainability and who believe in the value of research-based practice and practice-based research.

About Provision Coalition

Provision Coalition is a coalition of 11* member associations representing the sustainability interests of food and beverage manufacturing and input supply sectors in Canada. Providing valuable resources, programming and advocacy, Provision is the industry's leading voice on sustainability. Provision utilizes science, economics and the expertise of its members to ensure the competitiveness and long-term prosperity of the industry. Founded in 2010 under the federal-provincial-territorial initiative Growing Forward, Provision helps its members enjoy the economic, environmental and social benefits that come with operating in a sustainable manner.

*The eleven member associations include: Alliance of Ontario Food Processors, Baking Association of Canada, Canadian Beverage Association, Canadian National Millers Association, Canadian Oilseed Processors Association, Food & Consumer Products of Canada, Ontario Agri Business Association, Ontario Dairy Council, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Processors Association, Ontario Independent Meat Processors and the Wine Council of Ontario.