



CIRCULAR BUSINESS

FOCUS ON FOOD POLICY IN MILAN

Milan tackle Food Waste

Milan Food Policy Coordinator

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Milan Food Policy actions on food losses and waste management

Milan wants to achieve its goal of reducing food waste by 50 % by 2030 with the help of local players.

Milan Municipality developed a comprehensive urban food policy with a multidimensional approach. The policy identifies five main priorities of intervention, including the fight against food waste.

The Milan Food Policy is a strategic entry point for systemic changes, which have to be implemented, by involving several local players as research centres, private sector, civil society organizations and foundations. The policies designed to reduce food losses and food waste are combined with those regarding waste cycle management, in order to increase the overall sustainability of the system with a consistent approach to circular economy. Four guidelines were defined under the food waste priority of the Milan Food Policy and they establish the promotion at city level of: actions

to inform and educate citizens and local players to reduce food losses and waste; the recovery and redistribution of food losses, creating local partnerships (among charities and food banks); a more rational use of packaging; a circular economy in food system management. Milan wants to achieve its goal of reducing food waste by 50 % by 2030 with the help of local players. A key feature of the success of the Food Policy of Milan is the multi-level governance approach, involving representatives from the local authorities with a wider relations with relevant local actors. ■

The fiscal driver of a tax reduction for the donation of food losses

One of the most significant actions is a reduction in the waste tax, approved by the City Council in February 2018. The measure reduces the tax on waste by a maximum of 20% for the first pilot year in favour of those food businesses (supermarkets, restaurants, canteens, producers etc.) that donate their food losses to charities. The action is coordinated by different departments of the Municipality (fiscal, environmental, food policy), as part of a multi-sectoral working group. The measure further supports the mapping, strengthening and dissemination of food donation initiatives in the city, mainly led by non-profit organisations.



According to the preliminary review of participation in the first year of implementation, it will lead to the recovery of around 660 tonnes of food. At the same time, the action is a structural variation of the Tax Rules, which enables food policy initiatives to be consolidated and local players to become permanently involved as it moves forward. At its maximum, this measure could involve 10,000 private operators in the food system



with an impact of EUR 1.8 million on the municipal budget. The Municipality of Milan is working on this issue with the Regional Authority to set up the same action in other cities and, together, to co-design additional, fiscal incentives in round-table discussions. On the one hand, priority will be given to involving the greatest number of businesses from the private sector in the food donation. On the other, it will support charities in their acquisition of skills and infrastructures to manage large quantities of food losses. ■

-20% waste tax reduction for business donating food.

660 tonnes of food recovered in 2018 through the tax reduction.

35 supermarkets involved in food donation.

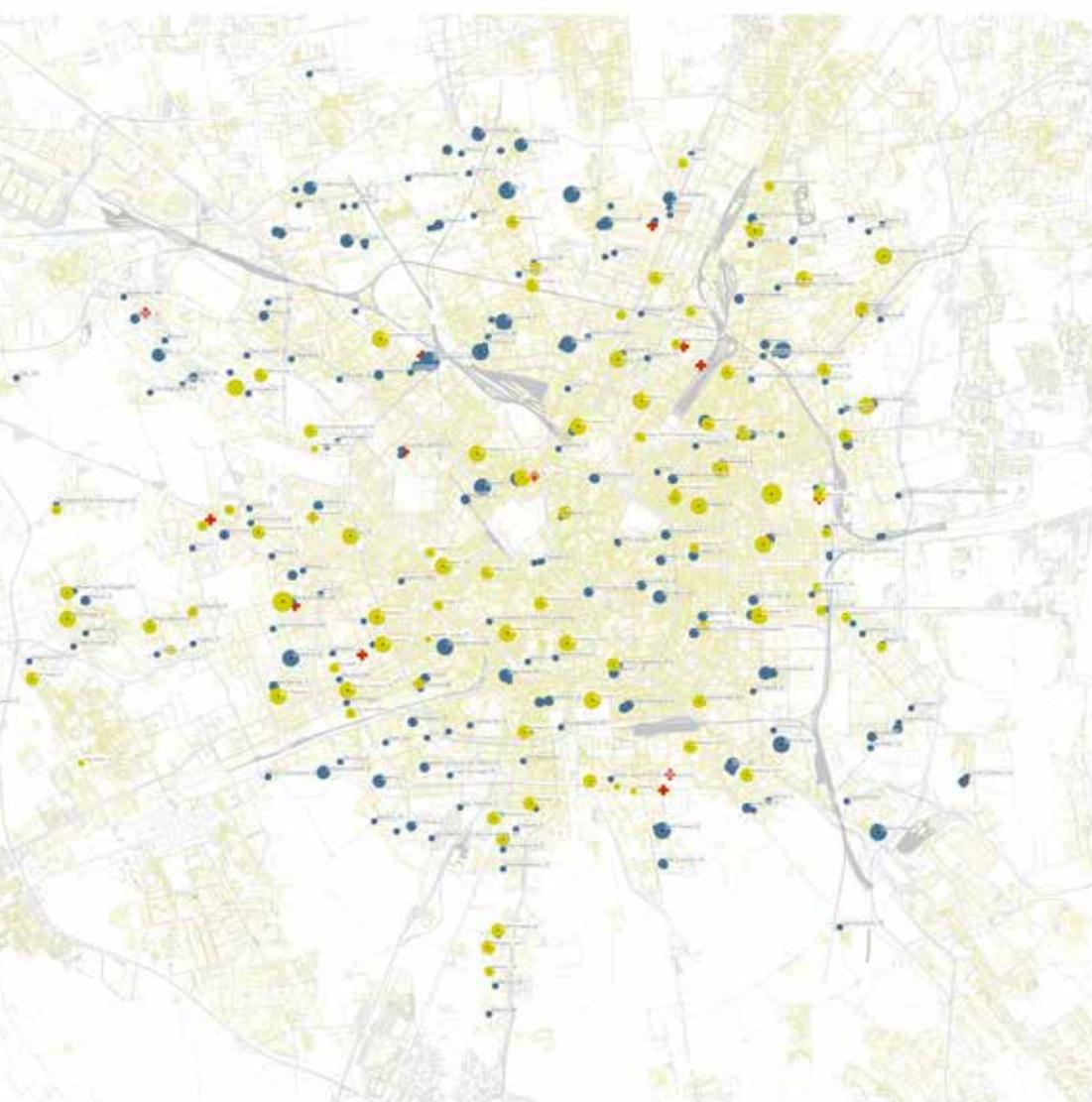
Coordinating actions in School Canteens: preventive initiatives, food donation and a ban on plastic

The Municipality of Milan is focusing its action on areas of the food system, which can be controlled directly, such as school canteens. Milan owns a municipal agency called “Milano Ristorazione”, which cooks 85,000 meals per day for a total of 17 million meals per year. The municipal agency, as a major public stakeholder, is the main tester for various Food Policy actions. Currently, there are 106 canteens (out of a total of 418) affiliated to a food bank for the recovery and redistribution of 140 tonnes of fruit and bread. Furthermore, in order to prevent fruit waste at the end of each lunch, the municipal agency designed a specific programme called “Morning Break with Fruit”, where children receive

fruit as a morning snack, instead of at the end of the meal. The programme involved 17,000 children and achieved the result of preventing 17% of food waste in the schools where the programme is active.

Moreover, 31,000 reusable doggy bags were distributed to children, to take home any non-perishable leftovers. In order to implement the food policy priority of water and food distribution and simultaneously encourage recyclable packaging, from 2016, plastic cutlery and plates have been replaced in all Milan school canteens with biodegradable materials, thus eliminating 720,000 kilos of plastic. ■

31,000 reusable doggy bags were distributed to children, to take home any non-perishable leftovers.



MENSE SCOLASTICHE & DONO DI CIBO



LEGENDA

SCUOLE NESSUN PROGRAMMA

- 9 - 135 PASTI/GIORNO
- 136 - 265 PASTI/GIORNO
- 266 - 390 PASTI/GIORNO
- 391 - 550 PASTI/GIORNO
- 551 - 645 PASTI/GIORNO

SCUOLE CON PROGRAMMA

- 14 - 190 PASTI/GIORNO
- 191 - 350 PASTI/GIORNO
- 351 - 550 PASTI/GIORNO
- 551 - 700 PASTI/GIORNO
- 700 - 880 PASTI/GIORNO

- ✚ CUCINE MILANO RISTORAZIONE

NOTE



Local Food Waste Hub to involve local neighbourhoods

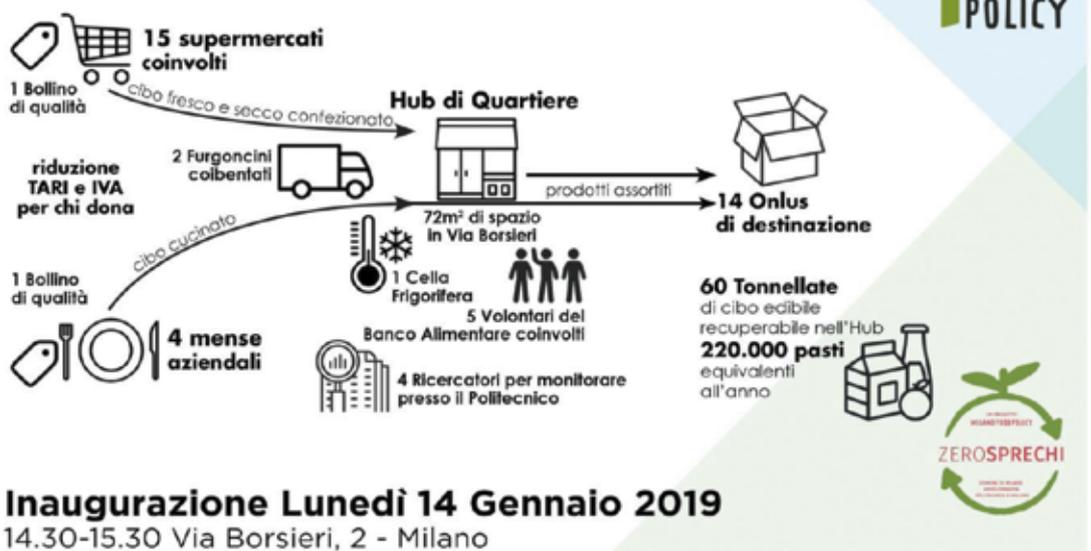
In order to support food recovery by small, local players, the Municipality entered into an agreement with a university lab of the Politecnico di Milano, to design a model and data analysis for food losses and waste management, the private sector union “Assolombarda”, that represents supermarkets and companies with canteens, and the philanthropic Cariplo Foundation, which will cover the costs of infrastructures, in order to develop a pilot project to redistribute food losses in two local neighbourhoods. The “Local Food Waste Hubs” will be hosted in a space owned by the Municipality of Milan and managed by a local food bank. During the course of the pilot year of implementation (2019), the incoming and outgoing flows of donations in the hub will be monitored and the knowledge will also be spread among 35 local organisations, mapped



by the Food Policy working on food donations. According to a preliminary analysis, each hub will be able to gather and redistribute approximately 70 tonnes of food per year, 250 kg per day. In 2020, the idea would be to scale up the model in all 9 neighbourhoods of the city using the lesson learned in the pilot project, to connect the institutional drivers of the main partners of the initiative

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Modello di raccolta e redistribuzione del cibo nell’Hub di Quartiere



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