# FOOD WASTE REDUCTION MONTH
## APRIL 2026

**WHEREAS,** the United States leads global food waste generation at 60 million tons per year and food waste comprises nearly a quarter of municipal solid waste landfilled, with North Carolina residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations generating approximately 2.6 million tons of food alone, and;

**WHEREAS,** the NC State government prioritizes food waste reduction in its "Use the Food NC" campaign, which recognizes Buncombe County and Asheville whose community-based initiatives support NC's goal to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 50% below 2005 levels by 2030, and;

**WHEREAS,** Buncombe County and the City of Asheville have supported residents in successfully diverting almost 1.5 million pounds of food waste from the landfill, and;

**WHEREAS,** reducing greenhouse gases is a primary objective in Buncombe County's Strategic Plan 2030 with a goal of increasing the quantity of organic compost offset from the landfill from 205.5 tons in 2024 to 900 tons by 2030, and;

**WHEREAS**, with grant funding from the NC Department of Environmental Quality, Buncombe County Solid Waste has constructed a pilot aerated static pile compost processing facility and is creating nutrition-rich soil for application on the landfill slopes from locally generated food waste while extending the life of the landfill, and;

**WHEREAS**, in partnership with participating organizations, businesses and individuals, Food Waste Solutions WNC, promotes food waste reduction through education and outreach campaigns focused on effective household and restaurant food waste strategies, including the fourth Food Waste Solutions Summit at AB Tech on April 28, 2026, and;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners hereby resolves and declares **April 2026** as **Food Waste Reduction Month**, highlighting these resolutions and moving the County forward to engage in food waste prevention and recovery efforts, develop and share food waste prevention and recovery best practices, and ground the community in the traditions of food saving and composting.

This 21st day of April, 2026.

Amanda Edwards, Chair
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners