

## HOMZ Consulting

<u>Team Member Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major</u>
Maura Aman	2022	MBA
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**Advisor(s):** Dr. Keith Whittingham

**Topic:** Creating equitable access to clean diets with food waste

**Audience:** Publix Board of Directors

### Sustainable Development Goal

SDG #(s): SDG #2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; SDG #3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; SDG #12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

### Executive Summary

Grocery stores such as Publix generate tons of waste due to products that may have bruising or other issues with appearance that may deter customers from purchasing them. It is estimated that 40% of all food in the United States (US) goes to waste, but many grocery stores lack innovative solutions to efficiently use those foods. While Publix currently partners with organizations to deliver food to those who need it, it does not currently have a program to specifically deliver this food waste to schools in areas where students suffer from socioeconomic inequalities. These students could really benefit from this food waste due to the lack of equitable access to clean foods. While there are current programs in place to improve the access children have to nutritional meals during school lunches and snack periods, there are severe inequalities on day-to-day offerings of USDA directed meals. The lack of reliability and consistency from state sanctioned and federally funded meal programs has turned away children from utilizing school meal plans while also under nourishing populations that depend on school provided lunches and snacks as a source of nourishment.

While the initial goal is to provide students with an increased amount of nutritional value in their food, we want to leverage existing systems to create an additional impact in both social and environmental ways for children and surrounding communities. We believe Publix can provide its food waste to communities that are located within food deserts. Therefore, our proposed solution will discuss how to leverage Publix's distribution centers and partner with organizations that will take these products and transport them towards school programs looking to invest in sustainable food consumption. We will explore how to utilize current food standards to implement sustainable food programs that schools may see as advantageous to their current meal situation. Lastly, we seek to build the framework to make it possible for schools to participate in reducing food waste while consistently providing all children, regardless of socioeconomic status or location, foods high in quality and nutritional value.