

FOODBACK

The Food Recovery Centre of MERCABARNA

24th June 2022

Barcelona's agri-food ecosystem



Mercados de Abastecimientos de Barcelona SA (Mercabarna SA) is the **managing company of the Food Unit of Mercabarna**, one of the main drivers of the Catalan agri-food sector.

Its **mission is to ensure the supply of food** to the population, guaranteeing the **smooth running of the distribution chain via the wholesale link**, which connects the productive sector and retail trade.


It supplies

Municipal markets
Convenience stores
Small and medium-sized supermarkets
The HORECA sector



Barcelona and the metropolitan area
Catalonia
Spain
35% exports

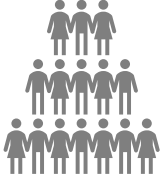
Mercabarna in figures

 **100 h** to BCN +
4.5 h to Sant Boi

 **600**
companies


 **2.3 million**
tonnes/year

 **30-35%**
exports

 **10 million**
consumers

 **23,000**
users/day


 **7,500**
direct
workers

 **14,000**
vehicles/day

 **30,000**
tonnes waste/year

 **76%**
recycled

 **1.2 million**
kg in the
Food Bank

 **0.36%** waste

Sustainable Food Mercabarna

ENVIRONMENTAL | SOCIAL | ECONOMIC

SUSTAINABLE FOOD

Local production
Organic production
Seasonal produce
Local varieties

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

ZERO WASTE

The circular bio-economy
Fight against waste
Waste management
Packaging management

Energy transition
Eco-mobility
Carbon footprint reduction

SUSTAINABLE DISTRIBUTION

HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE EATING HABITS

Children's campaigns
Training initiatives
Awareness-raising

Right to food
Universal access
Conscious and responsible consumption

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

Control bodies (Public Health)
Certification bodies (CCPAE)





feedback

A project co-governed in a public-private-social partnership
with a common goal:

The fight against food waste



*Started:
1 February 2022*



Construction of a new 900 m² facility at Mercabarna, located next to the Recycling Centre, which is integrated as an essential element of infrastructure of the Food Unit's organic waste management system.



Objectives of **foodb**ack

- Maximize **food recovery** and the **reduction of organic plant-based waste** through an **integrated waste management system** in the Food Unit.
- **Involve wholesale companies** in the joint fight against food waste.
- Guarantee the **traceability** of the management of surplus products (from reception to distribution) and **food security**.
- **Professionalise the selection process** and **promote social and occupational integration**.
- **Guarantee the distribution of the recovered food items** to benefit vulnerable individuals, through the entire network of social community organisations.
- Contribute to **the 2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development Goals.





Principles of **feedback**

- ∞ The circular bio-economy
- ∞ Food recovery
- ∞ Social innovation
- ∞ Job placement
- ∞ Networking - partnerships
- ∞ Technological innovation

Integration into the ecosystem of initiatives to combat food waste.



Cornerstones of the new system of plant-based waste management at the Mercabarna Food Unit



Fruit Market

Food Unit companies

COMPACTORS with user ID and weighing



Dumping limited to a maximum of 400 kg/day (2,000 kg/week).
Registration of company's data.

feedback



Manage the surpluses that are fit for human consumption

Distribution to community organisations



RECYCLING



Selection NOT usable

Manage waste
Objective: management of surpluses mostly NOT fit for human consumption



Compostatge i bioenergia



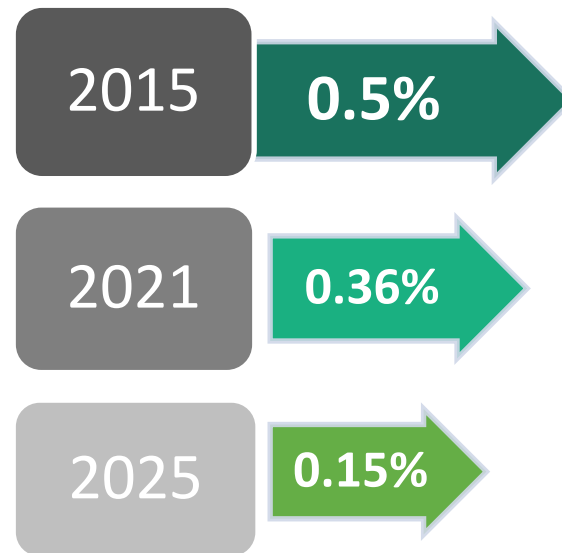
feedback



Food recovery goal



Since 2015 Mercabarna has audited and quantified, using scientifically-based data*, its **food waste** with respect to the total of almost 2 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables that enter the facilities.



* 2015, study conducted by the Autonomous University of Barcelona with Spora Sinergies and the *Aprofitem els Aliments* Platform
2020, study conducted by the Mercabarna Chair-Polytechnic University of Barcelona

Food recovery goal



With the launch of Foodback and Mercabarna's new waste management system, the recovery of:



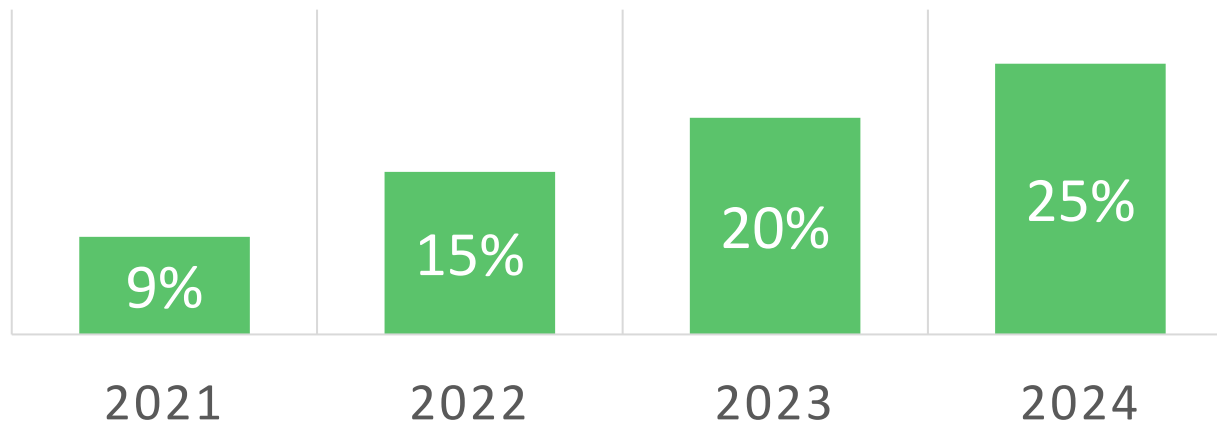
**BUT, PAY
ATTENTION**

2.6 times
current
recovery

Food recovery goal



% of surplus vegetable products recovered
out of the total tonnes managed by Mercabarna's waste
management system



↓
1,011 tonnes
recovered
from 11,000 total
organic waste

Mercabarna's new waste management system is expected to increase the capacity for recovering fresh plant-based foods.

Management bodies



OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE



mercabarna

RECEPTION



SELECTION



DISTRIBUTION
GEN. COORD.

STRATEGIC COMMITTEE



mercabarna



Fundació "la Caixa"



Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d'Acció Climàtica,
Alimentació i Agenda Rural



Ajuntament
de Barcelona



Origins of **feedback**

2002: Mercabarna gives the Food Bank a warehouse within the Food Unit, to receive surplus fruit and vegetables from wholesale companies in the form of donations;; sort them and distribute the usable products through community organisations. Warehouse expansion in 2015.

2015: UAB-Spora-PAA study to diagnose waste at the Food Unit.

2016: Manifesto for food waste reduction signed by all the Food Unit's business associations.

2021: Creation of UPC-Mercabarna Chair to quantify food waste in the Food Unit.

Transfer of the future Feedback infrastructure to the **Food Bank**

2022: Launch of Mercabarna's **new organic plant-based matter management system** (recycling centre, Feedback and smart waste containers)

Thanks for your attention!

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