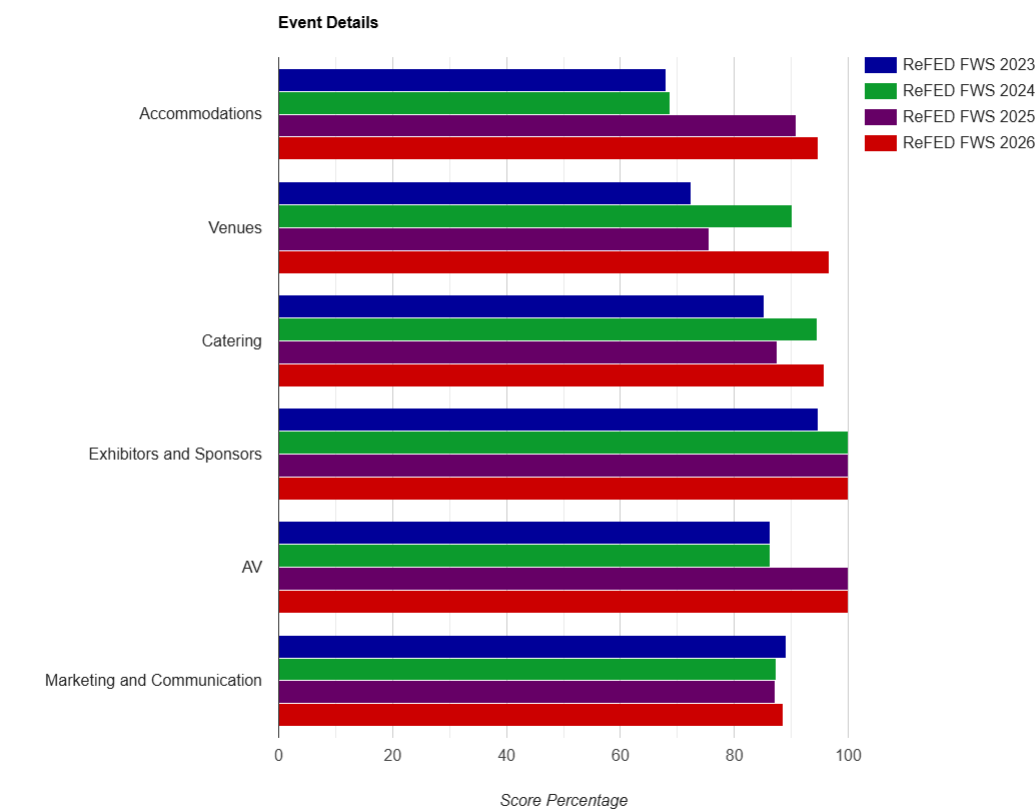


2026 ReFED Food Waste Solutions Summit Sustainability Report

The 2026 ReFED Food Waste Solutions Summit was held May 19-21 in Charlotte, North Carolina at the Westin Charlotte with 650+ in-person attendees, 14 exhibitors, and 23 sponsors.

Event Sustainability Highlights



For the 2026 event cycle, ReFED scored at the highest tier of the MeetGreen® Calculator 2.0 - Sustainable Event Visionary: A Visionary leads within their own industry, prioritizes measurement and works to move the sustainability dial.

Successes in 2026

- Recycling Signage:** Most event signage at ReFED was printed on 100% recyclable corrugated cardboard and recovered for recycling post-event.
- Field Trips:** ReFED organized 9 field trips to local organizations, engaging 300+ attendees in experiences that highlighted Charlotte's local food system.
- Reusable Service Ware:** Meals and breaks were served using 100% reusable service ware, eliminating thousands of disposable items and avoiding an estimated 147,683 liters of water use.
- Single-Use Water Bottles:** Single-use water bottles were eliminated from attendee hotel rooms, meals, breaks, and receptions, avoiding an estimated 3,225 kWh of energy use.

Event Overview:

Plenary: 4 sessions recorded

Sessions: 15 breakouts recorded and 30 side meetings

Offsite Field Trips: 9 field trips to different local places

Meals: 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 networking breaks, and 2 receptions

Did You Know?

Based on MeetGreen modeling scenarios and averages, ReFED 2026 saved an estimated 294,394 liters of water through its sustainability efforts.

That is the equivalent to approximately 975 bath-tubs filled!



Recommendations for 2027

- Digital Signage:** Continue expanding the use of digital signage to reduce the need for printed materials.
- Wellness:** Consider establishing a dedicated Wellness Room to support attendee well-being.

