

DANA GUNDERS

Leading U.S. expert on food system efficiency, recognized as initiating the current national movement towards food waste reduction.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director

[ReFED](#)  2019-Present

Direct the leading national organization working to reduce food waste.

- Provide strategic direction for key initiatives, such as the recently announced \$100 million funding platform, networks for funders and practitioners, business initiatives, data products, and annual Summit.
- Oversee data analysis for the [ReFED Insights Engine](#), including for greenhouse gas emission factors
- Provide content expertise across a range of advisory relationships, including with food companies, tech companies, Federal and state agencies, investors, foundations, and entrepreneurs. Some examples of those we work with include:
 - USDA, EPA, and FDA via MOU with the three agencies
 - Food & hospitality companies seeking efficiency improvements to internal operations, supply chain interactions, or the latest food and ag technologies
 - Tech, food, food storage, and kitchen appliance product companies designing products to minimize industry or household waste of food
 - Investors and philanthropists addressing climate, water, food systems, or hunger
 - Start-up companies and accelerators creating food system or food product solutions
 - Policymakers and policy advocates on salient, feasible, and effective policy strategies
 - Researchers looking to advance understanding of inefficiencies in the food system
- Act as media expert including interviews with New York Times, Wall Street Journal, PBS Newshour, Fox News, NPR Science Friday, Last Night Tonight with John Oliver, National Geographic, Dr. Oz, and hundreds of television, print, podcast, and online outlets, in addition to three documentaries
- Perform typical managerial functions--Oversee Board relations, fundraising, finances, operations, and programs for staff of 20.

Principal and Founder

[Next Course, LLC](#)  2018-2019

- Provided high-level strategy consulting and implementation support to food and tech companies, funders, and others. Clients included Google, Four Seasons Hotels, Dairy Management Inc., Climate Collaborative, Off the Grid, and anonymous \$1B+ funders/investors.
- Expert witness for corporate cases and Republican-led Congressional hearing
- Contributing writer to Forbes.com

Senior Scientist

[Natural Resources Defense Council](#)  2009-2018

- Authored landmark report, *Wasted; How America is Losing 40% of Its Food from Farm to Fork to Landfill*, recognized as sparking the national movement towards food waste reduction.
- Authored *Waste-Free Kitchen Handbook* (Chronicle Books, 2015); over 20,000 copies sold.
- Co-authored *The Dating Game* report, which led Walmart and Kroger to standardize their date labels, the two largest industry associations to establish standardized food dating guidelines, and three related bills


to be introduced into Congress (most recent introduced in July 2019)

- Launched \$100M+ Save the Food campaign w/ Ad Council
- Launched \$4M Food Matters project with Rockefeller Foundation and city partners of Denver, New York, Nashville, and Baltimore
- Advised corporate strategy including for Walmart, Sodexo, & Bon Appetit Mgmt. Co.
- Built and led NRDC's food waste initiative, including managing five staff & raising annual \$2-3M
- Regular media expert regarding food waste reduction for print, online, radio, and television

Prior Experience




Supply Chain Manager, Fair Trade USA  2007-2009

- Strategic sourcing work with small scale suppliers and buyers incl. Starbucks and Ben & Jerry's

Associate Mediator, RESOLVE, Inc.  2004-2006

- Associate mediator for multi-stakeholder negotiations with up to 33 distinct parties.

EDUCATION

- **Stanford University**, MS Earth Systems; *Sustainable Business*  2002
- **Stanford University**, Certificate in Innovative Manufacturing and Product Creation  2002
- **Stanford University**, BS Earth Systems; *Energy*  2000