



FOUNDATION

The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation’s Innovation Fund Names mobius Member of its Inaugural Cohort

mobius is one of seven innovators collectively receiving \$1 million to accelerate programs and solutions that help end food waste

Combined projected impact is a 7.2-million-pound reduction in food waste

Knoxville, TN - August 28, 2019 – The Innovation Fund (the “Fund”), a program of The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation (the “Foundation”), today named mobius pbc a member of its inaugural cohort of innovators, selected from nearly 400 applicants who submitted interest earlier this year during the first-ever [open call](#). The invitation welcomed innovators to submit ideas and solutions to prevent food waste for an opportunity to receive a grant, ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000 per project, from the \$1 million designated for the first cohort.

“We’re incredibly excited to be a part of the inaugural cohort of the Innovation Fund,” said Tony Bova, Co-founder and CEO of mobius. “At mobius, our mission is to create a world where There’s Wonder in Waste. This grant will allow us to advance our mission and begin development of a new technology that will work towards converting waste cooking oil into valuable chemicals that can be used in a variety of applications, including biodegradable and compostable plastics that can offset the growing plastic waste crisis across the globe.”

“Kroger’s bold social impact plan, [Zero Hunger | Zero Waste](#), sets out to end hunger in our communities and eliminate waste across the company by 2025. We know we can’t accomplish this ambitious goal alone, so we supported the development of [The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation](#) – a public charity established to work with

social enterprises, corporations and non-profits that are committed to creating communities free of hunger and waste,” said Jessica Adelman, president of The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation. “The Foundation’s Innovation Fund was designed to bring like-minded organizations together as philanthropic disrupters – setting a new course on how to partner and change the world. The Foundation’s first cohort of innovators were individually selected due to their big ideas, shared vision and collaborative spirit in achieving a world with Zero Hunger | Zero Waste.”

The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation board of directors, with support from the Foundation’s advisory council for the Fund, represented by subject matter experts and thought leaders from 84.51°, Feeding America, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, Kroger Technology, ReFED, Seed 2 Growth Ventures and World Wildlife Fund, evaluated the proposals and identified the top seven opportunities to advance the Foundation’s mission to create Zero Hunger | Zero Waste communities.

Key criteria included alignment with the Zero Hunger | Zero Waste mission, potential for positive impact in U.S. communities, ease of implementation, geography, and measurability and scalability.

The inaugural cohort features:

1. [Food Forest](#) (Cincinnati, OH)

Food Forest uses technology to source products through multiple channels, maximizing fulfillment efficiencies and minimizing the carbon footprint of delivery logistics. The Food Forest app uses dynamic pricing and recommendations to offer incentives to customers and mitigate wasteful behavior. It also provides pop-up grocery pickup points to low-access, high-need neighborhoods.

2. [Imperfect](#) (San Francisco, CA)

Imperfect is a national online grocer creating a more sustainable and effective food system to better communities and the environment. The company sources imperfect produce and surplus food like grains, nuts, oil, bread, milk and cheese directly from farmers, growers and food purveyors and delivers these goods directly to customers' doors through a customizable subscription service.

3. [mobius](#) (Knoxville, TN)

mobius converts industrial organic waste streams from food, forestry and agriculture into renewable chemicals and materials as part of its mission to create a world where *There’s Wonder in Waste*. Its first products are biodegradable plastics and polymers created from industrial organic waste, with applications focused in agriculture, horticulture, and food service packaging.

4. [Replate](#) (Berkeley, CA)

Replate creates technology to reliably redistribute surplus food from businesses and events directly to nonprofits in need. Leveraging the gig economy, it creates meaningful jobs while providing a simple platform for businesses and caterers to reduce their waste while supporting members of their community.

5. [Ripe Revival](#) (Greenville, NC)

Ripe Revival is an innovative food brand on a mission to reduce waste and feed those in need. Its nutrient-dense protein gummies are crafted utilizing proprietary extraction technology, providing a profitable solution for farmers' excess produce. Its products are packed with purpose, maximizing the potential of fruits and vegetables through nutritious, clean and fun foods.

6. [Seal the Seasons](#) (Chapel Hill, NC)

Seal the Seasons' mission is to increase access to local food by reducing on-farm food waste and providing family farms with a reliable income stream by selling locally- and regionally-grown frozen fruits and vegetables year-round. It partners with local family farms on a state-by-state basis to source local produce while in season, freeze it within 24 hours of picking, and sell it to local grocers in the grower's home region.

7. [Winnow](#) (Iowa City, IA)

Winnow builds artificial intelligence tools to help chefs measure food waste and provide stakeholders with transparent, measurable, and actionable data, helping run more profitable and sustainable kitchens. The data communicates food waste reduction opportunities and details where food is being lost—whether as a result of customer food preferences, preparation, storage, or overproduction issues.

The inaugural cohort will use the non-dilutive funding provided by the Foundation to implement projects over the next 12 months in cities across America.

“We’re excited to see our inaugural cohort work toward meaningful and measurable solutions to prevent, recover and recycle food waste, with the possibility of reducing food waste by up to 7.2 million pounds,” added Adelman.

The Foundation will host additional open calls with a total seed funding commitment of \$10 million.

To learn more about The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation, visit [here](#), and to download photos and a packaged video of the inaugural cohort, visit [here](#).

About mobius:

At mobius pbc, our mission is to create a world where *There's Wonder in Waste*. We're an award-winning public benefit corporation backed by Techstars, the National Science Foundation, The Clean Energy Trust, and Carbon Ventures. Established in 2016, we set out to build a phenomenal team of chemists, biologists, and engineers to tackle industrial organic waste head-on. We do this by creating technologies to turn organic waste into renewable chemicals and materials that can return to nature at the end of their life. Our current projects include biodegradable and compostable plastics for farms and greenhouses, platform chemicals, and even fertilizers - all from the lost carbon found in organic waste.

About The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation:

The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation (the "Foundation") is a 501(c)(3) public charity founded in 2018. The Foundation was formed to support initiatives that create communities free of hunger and waste.

About Kroger:

At The Kroger Co. (NYSE: KR), we are dedicated to our Purpose: To Feed the Human Spirit®. We are nearly half a million associates who serve over 11 million customers daily through a seamless digital shopping experience and 2,761 retail food stores under a variety of [banner names](#), serving America through food inspiration and uplift, and creating #ZeroHungerZeroWaste communities by 2025. To learn more about us, visit our [newsroom](#) and investor relations [site](#).

Contact

Tony Bova, info@mobius.co, (865) 888-6421