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**Title**

USA Adoption of True Cost Accounting as a Strategy for Food Policy Reform

**Abstract**

In this presentation, Merrigan provides a brief overview of true cost accounting (TCA). She describes how TCA provides transparency on the true cost of food, including often ignored externalities. She explores the reasons why the USA federal government might consider adopting TCA in federal rulemaking in lieu of cost benefit analysis, the current tool policymakers depend upon. Finally, she provides ideas as to when it makes the most sense for government to use TCA.

**Bibliographic references**

Merrigan, K. (2024, Feb 28). The true cost of food is far higher than what you spend at the checkout counter. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/the-true-cost-of-food-is-far-higher-than-what-you-spend-at-the-checkout-counter-217883>

Merrigan, K. (2021). Embedding TCA within US regulatory decision-making. In B. Gemmill-Herren, L. Baker, P. Daniels, (Eds.), *True Cost Accounting of Food: Balancing the Scale* (pp. 179-188). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003050803>