



Sustainable Materials Management

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Food Recovery Challenge



Changing how we think about our resources today for our children's tomorrow

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Environmental Protection Agency, Southeast Region 4

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Presentation Roadmap

- EPA, What are our Goals?
- EPA Food Waste Tools
- Grants
- Where are we going?
- Our Commitment



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Food is too good to waste!

- Wasted food costs US **\$165 billion annually.**
- **Single largest and least recovered waste stream** in the US
- Food + Landfill = **Methane Emissions**
- While **1 in 6 Americans** lack a secure supply of food.



(Sources: USDA, EPA. Photo Credit: Jonathan Bloom)

Energy, Water, and Resources Wasted



To grow **wasted** food: we use **300 million barrels of oil** and more than a **quarter of the freshwater** consumed in the US, not to mention pesticides and fertilizer

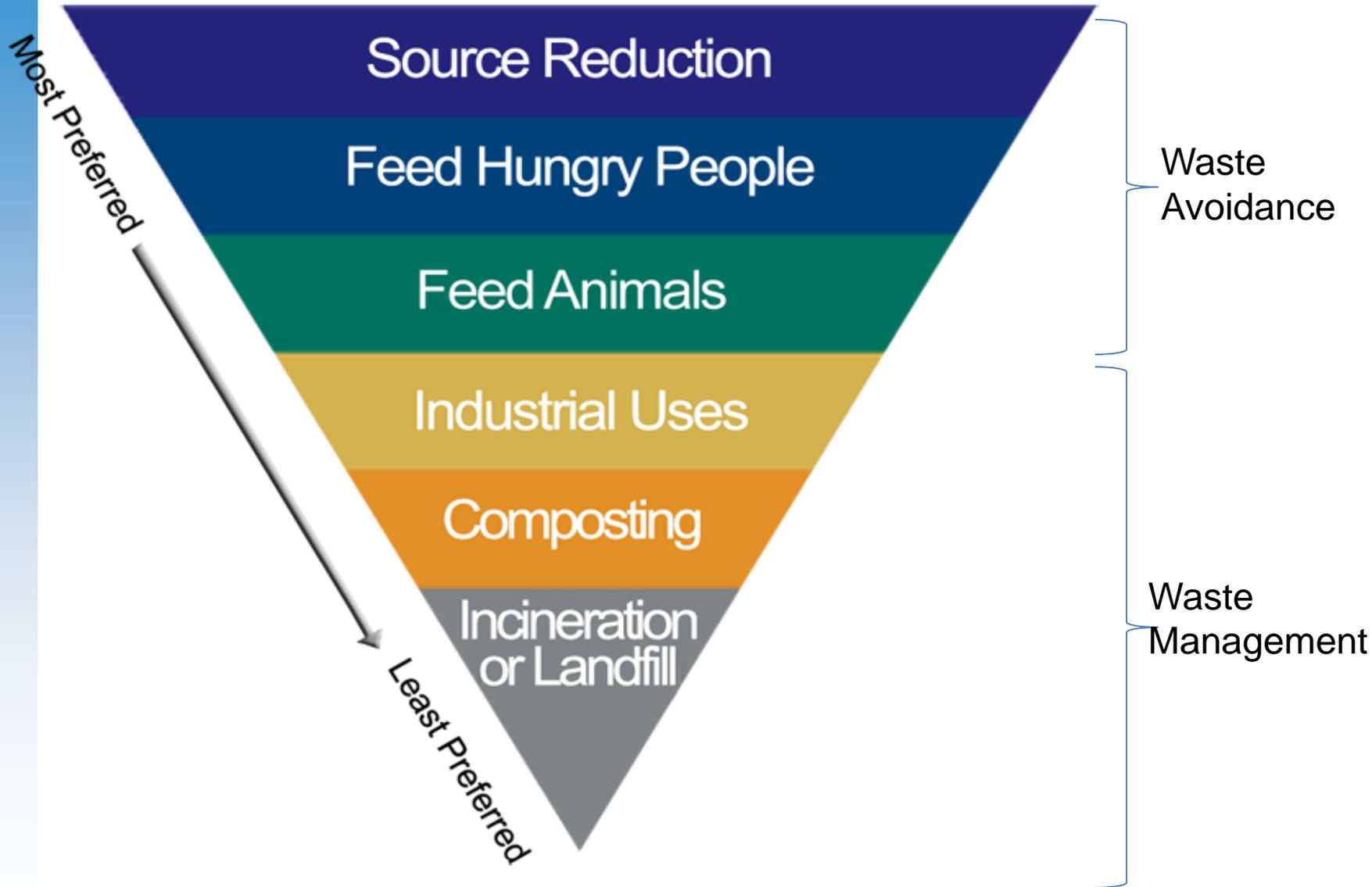
Food Packaging Waste

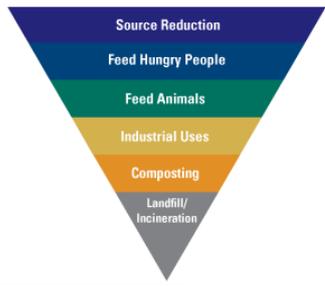
- Packaging accounts for 23% of landfilled material
- Food related packaging and serveware is a large contributor to marine debris
- Reducing US packaging by 50% would save 105 million MTCO₂e
 - Equivalent to removing 20 million passenger vehicles from the road



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Food Recovery Hierarchy





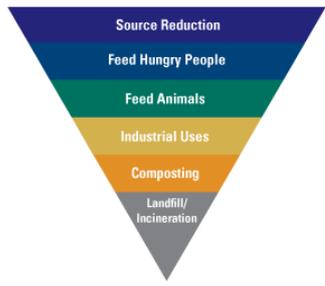
Top 3: Avoiding Food Waste

- **Source Reduction**

Less wasted food and packaging: spend less on purchasing, preparing and disposing

- **Feed People: donate unwanted food**

Good Samaritan law nationally and in every state
Many organizations can help
Benefit local community



Food Waste Management

- **Industrial Uses**

Fat, oil and grease (FOG) converted into soaps, cosmetics, and biodiesel fuel

- **Compost**

Turn unwanted food into valuable soil amendment

EPA Free Food Waste Resources

- **Food Recovery Challenge, WasteWise**
- Food Waste Challenge
- Food Too Good to Waste
- Reducing Wasted Food and Packaging Toolkit
- Food Waste Management Cost Calculator
- Co-Eat Calculator
- Other Resources



Food Recovery Challenge

Challenges organizations to **reduce amount of food sent to landfills**

Goal: To reduce food waste reaching landfills and divert surplus food for better uses through:

1. Prevention
2. Donation &/or
3. Composting

To join or for more information, contact Kim Charick at charick.kim@epa.gov



Join FRC & Take a Bite Out of Food Waste!

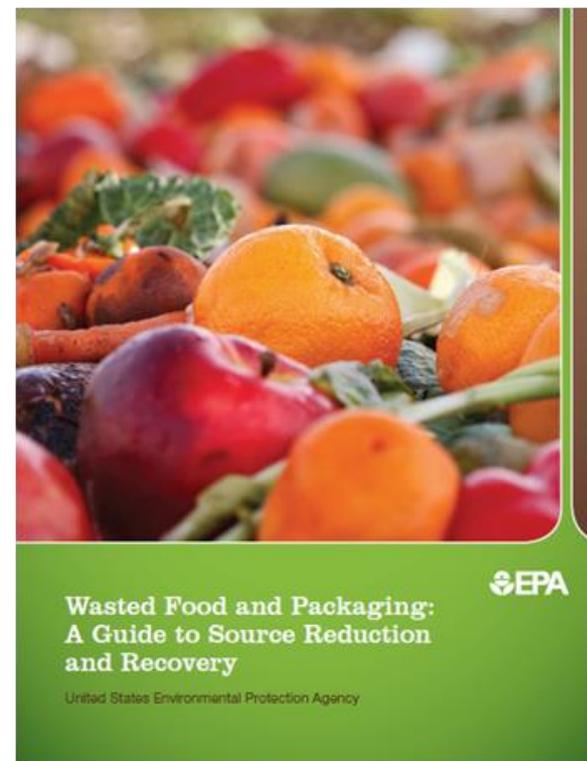


Who's in the Food Recovery Challenge? Over 600 to date

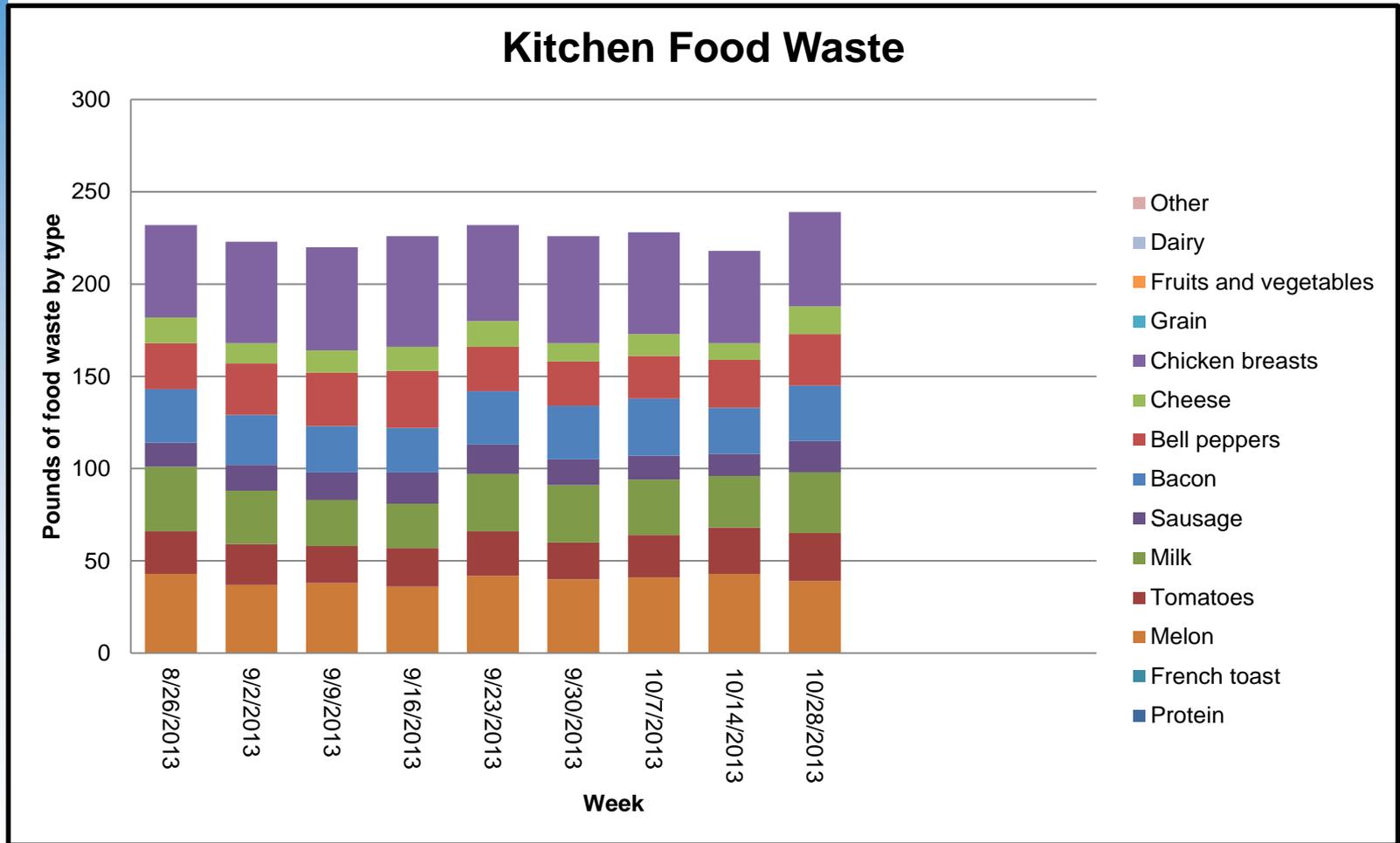


The Toolkit Guide

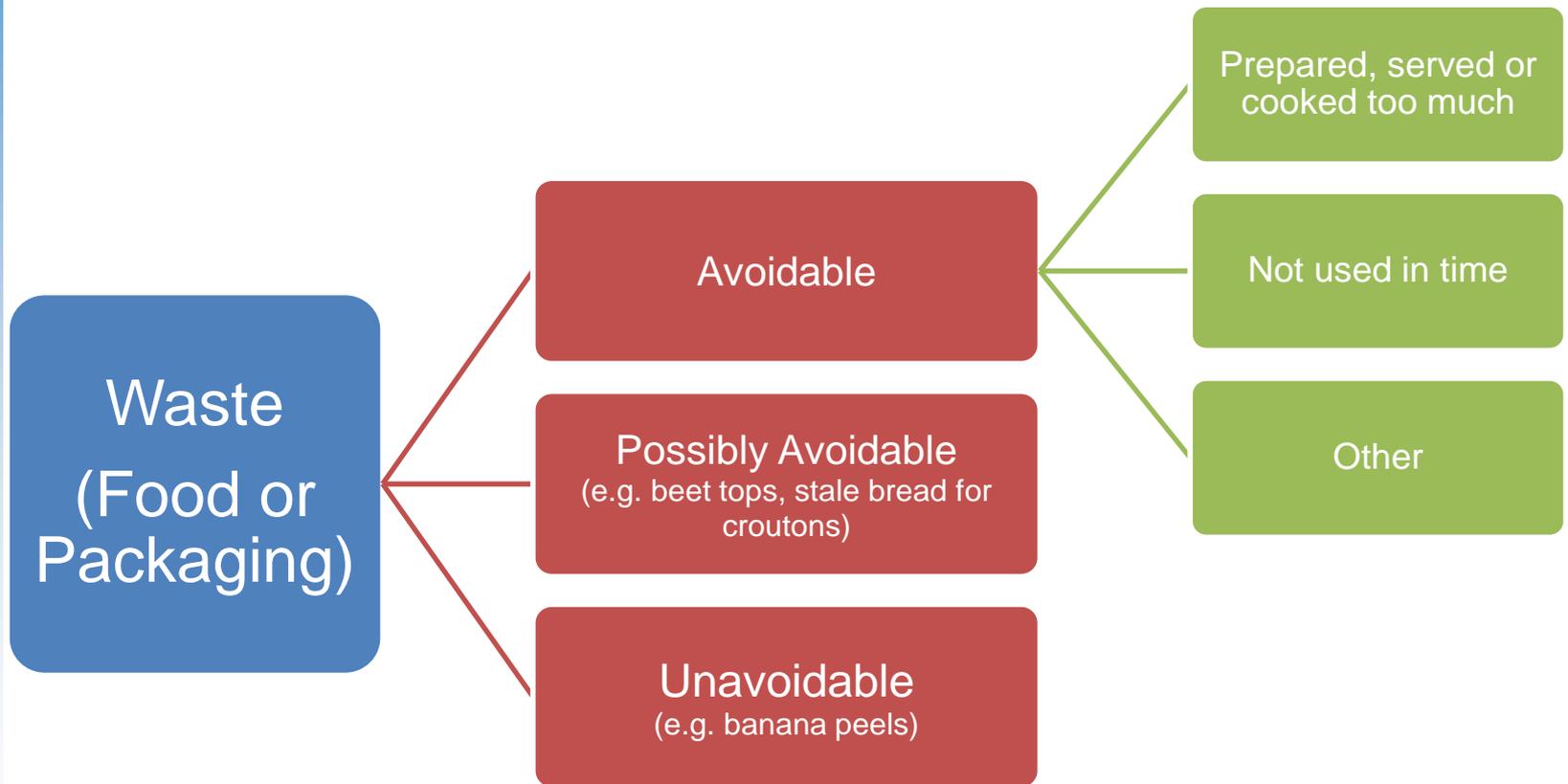
- Helps tool users take the data collected and turn it into action
- Identifies opportunities for:
 - Pre-consumer source reduction
 - Post-consumer recovery
- Provides:
 - Case Studies
 - Instructions on how to calculate the potential cost savings
 - Checklists
- <http://www.epa.gov/foodrecovery/tools/index.htm>



Reducing Wasted Food & Packaging Toolkit



Identify Opportunities for Targeted Interventions



Food Waste Management Cost Calculator

- Estimates cost of alternatives to landfill
 - Source Reduction
 - Donation
 - Composting
 - Recycling Yellow Grease
- Allows site-specific data
- Excel Spreadsheet Tool



Scaling up Composting in the Charlotte, NC Area











Charlotte Grant Overview



Improved Waste Diversion and Infrastructure

- Route optimization
- Participant recruiting, education and training
- Collection and processing

Recruitment Mode

- Looking for diversity of participants
 - Restaurants
 - Institutions
 - Schools
- FUNDING for set-up, first month fees, system set-up, training, ongoing consultation and troubleshooting if necessary





Work in Progress

- Recruitment materials & information packet
- *charlottecompost.org*
- Two blog articles
- Site visits



Desired Grant Outcomes

- 1: Increased Waste Diversion
- 2: Food and Packaging Waste Characterization
- 3: Lessons Learned and Transferability Report







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Questions

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<http://www.epa.gov/foodrecoverychallenge>

