



The Food Recovery Hierarchy & Sustainable Food Management

Sustainable Materials Management

Food Recovery Challenge



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

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CalRecycle Zone Works, May 7th 2014



Presentation Roadmap

- Food Waste Statistics
- Food Recovery Hierarchy
- EPA Sustainable Food Management



By Foerster (Own work) [CC0], via Wikimedia Commons

Programs

- EPA Food Waste Tools
- Other resources

petr : Wikimedia Commons



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)

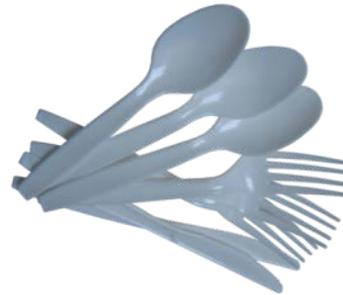
Energy, Water, and Resources Wasted



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

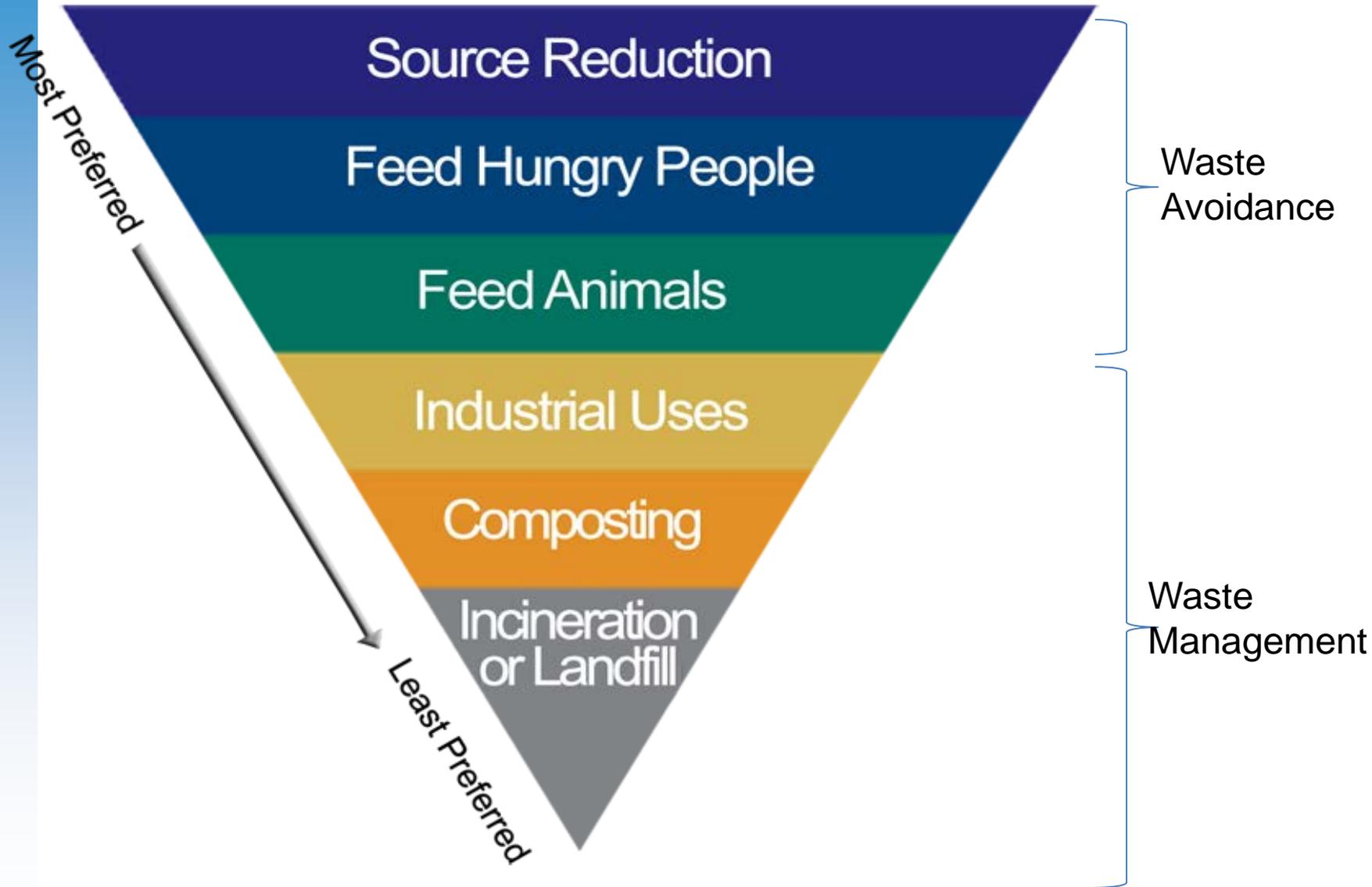
Food Packaging Waste

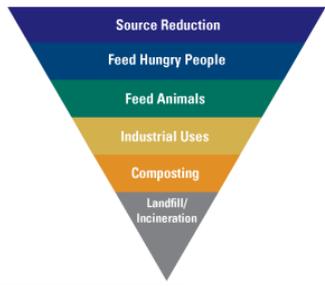
- Packaging accounts for 23% of land-filled material
- Food related packaging and serveware is a large contributor to marine debris
- Reducing US packaging by 50% would save 105 million MTCO₂e
 - Equivalent to removing 20 million passenger vehicles from the road



By ZChaingkwairliens via Wikimedia Commons

Food Recovery Hierarchy





Avoiding Food Waste

- **Source Reduction**

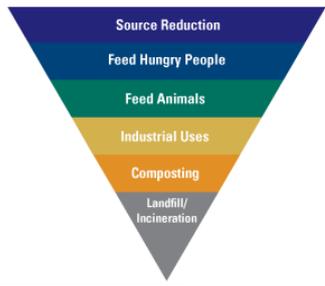
Less wasted food and packaging: spend less on purchasing, preparing and disposing

- **Feed People: donate unwanted food**

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

- **Feed Animals**

Local farmers or zoos can use food scraps as animal feed



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's 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 Wendi Shafir at shafir.wendi@epa.gov or Andre Villasenor at villasenor.andre@epa.gov



Join FRC & Take a Bite Out of Food Waste!



Join the Food Recovery Challenge

- [ReTRAC](#) data management system
 - Tracks food waste practices (donation, prevention, composting)
 - Web-based and secure
 - Converts savings to GHG and other metrics
 - Cars off the road
 - Greenhouse gas reductions
- [Regular webinars](#) on food waste related issues
- [Website](#) with case studies, tools, templates, and other outreach materials
- Telephone assistance available



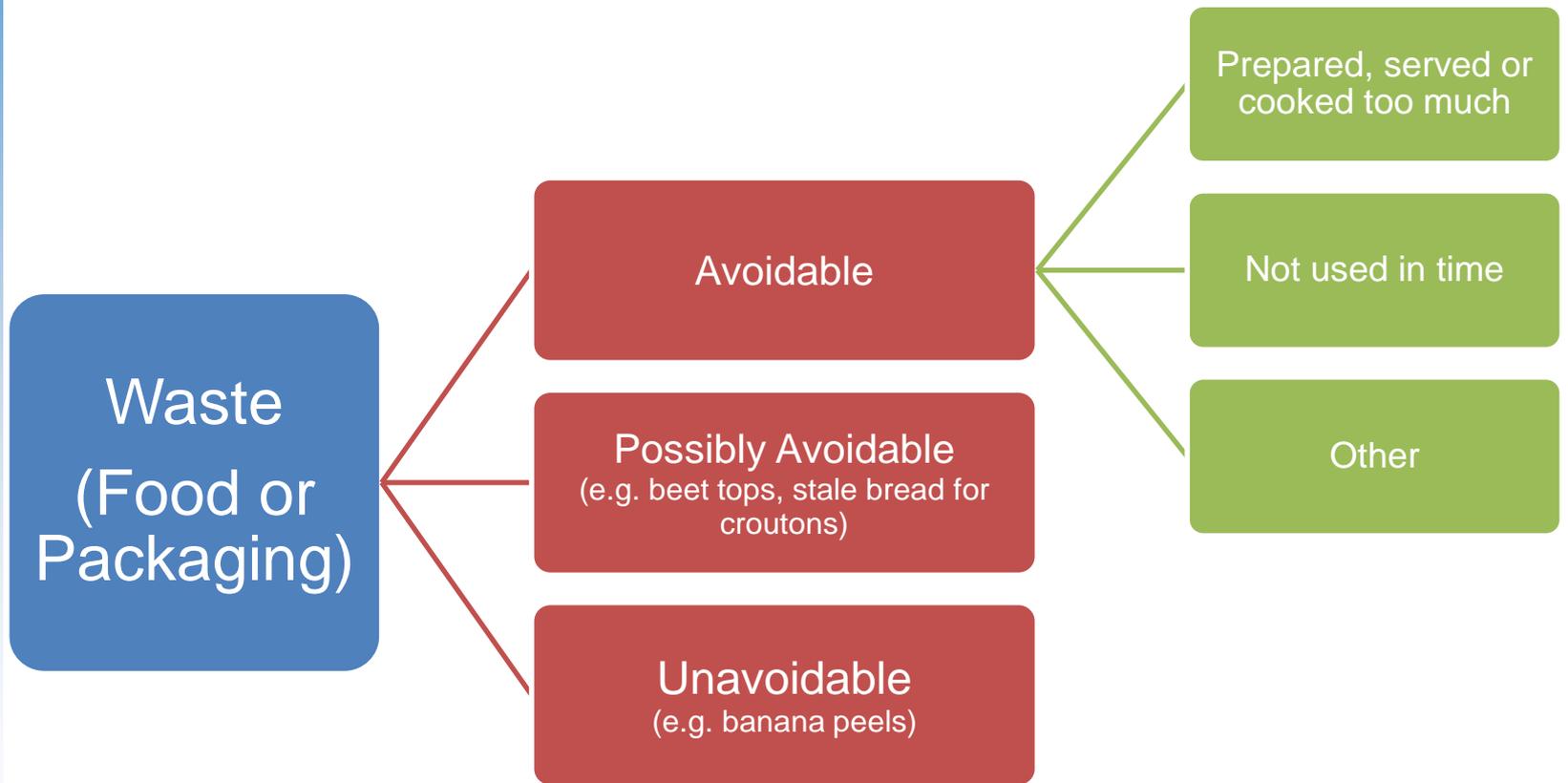
Who's in the Food Recovery Challenge? Over 600 to date



Reducing Wasted Food & Packaging Toolkit

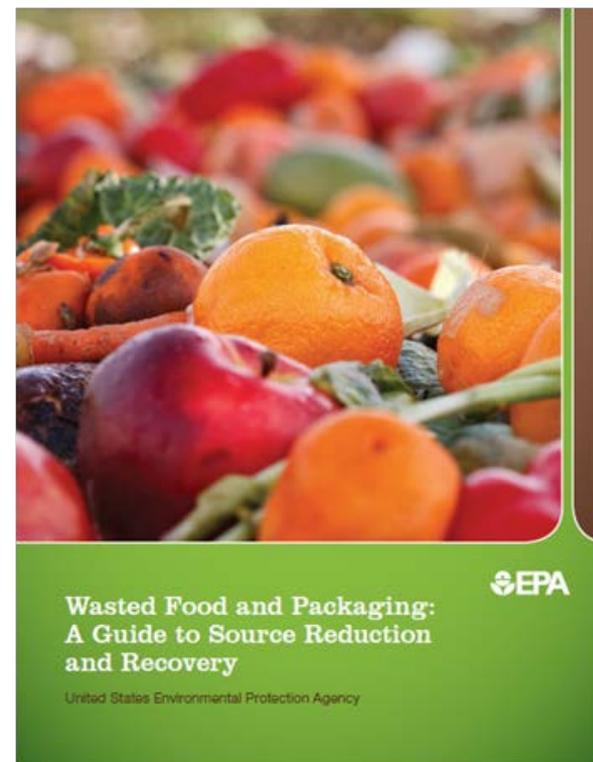


Identify Opportunities for Targeted Interventions



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>



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](#)





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