Circles, Cycles & Pyramids
EPA’s Food Waste Hierarchy

Kathleen Salyer, Deputy Director
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

CHANGING HOW WE THINK ABOUT OUR RESOURCES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

www.epa.gov/smm
The Beginning
The Food Recovery Hierarchy

Source Reduction
Feed Hungry People
Feed Animals
Industrial Uses
Composting
Incineration or Landfill

Most Preferred
Least Preferred

CHANGING HOW WE THINK ABOUT OUR RESOURCES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW
Source Reduction

Clark University Dining Services
Worcester, Massachusetts

CHANGING HOW WE THINK ABOUT OUR RESOURCES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

www.epa.gov/smm
Donation to Feed People

Source Reduction
Feed Hungry People
Feed Animals
Industrial Uses
Composting
Incineration or Landfill

Least Preferred
Most Preferred

Serendipity Catering – Denver, Colorado

CHANGING HOW WE THINK ABOUT OUR RESOURCES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

www.epa.gov/smm
Donation to Feed Animals

Source Reduction
Feed Hungry People
Feed Animals
Industrial Uses
Composting
Incineration or Landfill

CHANGING HOW WE THINK ABOUT OUR RESOURCES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

www.epa.gov/smm
Industrial Uses

Source Reduction
Feed Hungry People
Feed Animals
Industrial Uses
Composting
Incineration or Landfill

Most Preferred

Least Preferred

Crystal Creamery - Modesto, California

www.epa.gov/smm
Composting

Pearl City High School, Pearl City, Hawaii
The Food Recovery Challenge

The Challenge encourages organizations to:

• Change practices to purchase leaner to minimize waste
• Divert surplus food away from landfills to local hunger relief organizations
• Compost food scraps

Benefits to participants:

• Improve your bottom line
• Support your community
• Reduce your environmental footprint

CHANGING HOW WE THINK ABOUT OUR RESOURCES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW
Challenge Accomplishments

- **Over 800 participants** - ranging from your local corner store to one of the largest hotel chains.
- Our participants **prevented over 600,000 tons of wasted food** from going to landfills this year.

- Challenge participants **dramatically increased source reduction** – from just 7,000 tons in 2013 to 85,000 tons in 2014.
Sustainable Materials Management

The use and reuse of materials in the most productive and sustainable way across their entire life cycles.

SMM encourages organizations to make good decisions about:

- Conserving resources,
- Managing and reducing waste,
- Slowing climate change, and
- Minimizing the environmental impacts of the materials they use.
SMM Offers New Perspectives

- SMM offers new opportunities to address climate change:
  - Materials Management is represented by the Provision of Goods and Provision of Food.
  - Accounting for 42% of U.S. GHG emissions.

U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions
EPA’s SMM Strategic Plan
FY 2017 – FY 2022

**Strategic Priority Areas**

- The Built Environment
- Sustainable Food Management
- Sustainable Packaging

**Additional Emphasis Areas**

- Sustainable Electronics Management
- Lifecycle Assessment
- International Efforts
- Measurement

[Image: Changing how we think about our resources for a better tomorrow]

[Logo: United States Environmental Protection Agency]

[Website: www.epa.gov/smm]
SMM Strategic Priority: Sustainable Food Management

Critical Action Areas

1. Convene and support partnerships around infrastructure development for alternatives to landfill disposal of wasted food.

2. Promote opportunities across food life cycle to reduce wasted food from landfills, with preference for approaches higher on EPA food recovery hierarchy.

3. Improve and standardize measurement of wasted food.
Circles, Cycles & Pyramids

Thank you!

Sustainable Management of Food
http://www2.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food