Cleaning Our Plate: EPA Food Action Plan

Cheryl Coleman, Director
Resource Conservation & Sustainability Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Southeast Recycling Development Council: Recycling at a Crossroads
November 8, 2016
EPA Sustainable Management of Food

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

www.epa.gov/smm
U.S. 2030 Food Loss & Waste Reduction Goal
A Call to Action by Stakeholders: United States Food Loss & Waste 2030 Reduction Goal

The federal government, led by EPA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is seeking to work with communities, organizations and businesses along with our partners in state, tribal and local government to reduce food loss and waste by 50 percent over the next 15 years. As an important stride in reaching the 2030 food reduction goal, EPA hosted the Food Recovery Summit where organizations across the food chain, from manufacturers to consumers, met to discuss the key challenges in reducing food loss and waste. Based on this summit and continued input, EPA, USDA and stakeholders from across the food chain have developed a collaborative Call to Action, which identifies current opportunities and challenges in reducing food loss and waste in the United States.

On this page:

- Objectives
- Key Activities Identified by Stakeholders
- Opportunities and Actions Identified by Stakeholders

Helpful Links

- Join the Food Recovery Challenge and benefit from EPA’s technical assistance to set specific quantitative food-waste goals and attain them!
- Join the U.S. Food Waste Challenge, and post activities/objectives your organization will undertake in the next year to reduce, recover, and recycle food waste in the United States.
- Check out the recent conference we co-hosted with Harvard Law School on June 28-29, 2016. Reduce and Recover: Save Food For People
A Call to Action

Focus Areas
• Production
• Manufacturing
• Retail/Food Service
• Consumers and Donation
• Recovery/Recycling
• Regulators/Policy Makers.

• Key Stakeholders
• Opportunities
• Demonstrated Practices
• Actions
A Call to Action

KEY Activities Identified:
- Seek Prevention Strategies
- Increase Public Awareness
- Improve the Data
- Forge New Partnerships and Expand the Existing Ones
- Clarify Date Labels and Food Safety
- Build Food Loss and Waste Infrastructures
EPA’s Role

• Strengthen consumer-oriented messaging
• Work with states and industry to focus efforts and scale results
• Recognize leaders in the business world
• Refine and enhance measurement
• Convene key stakeholders
• Develop new tools
EPA Sustainable Management of Food

Food Loss Prevention Options for Manufacturers

- Store raw materials in cool, dry, clean, and well-ventilated areas
- Use proper packaging to minimize spoilage
- Implement effective inventory management systems
- Use technology to monitor food loss and waste

Food Loss Prevention Options for Grocery Stores

- Implement inventory management systems
- Use proper packaging to minimize spoilage
- Conduct regular audits to identify losses
- Implement loss prevention measures

Food Loss Prevention Options for Universities

- Implement inventory management systems
- Use proper packaging to minimize spoilage
- Conduct regular audits to identify losses
- Implement loss prevention measures

Food Steward’s Pledge

Reduce • Donate • Compost

Changing How We Think About Our Resources for a Better Tomorrow

www.epa.gov/smm
Upcoming Products

2. Wasted Food & Other Organics Disposed (FOOD) National Mapping Tool
3. National Virtual Resource Center

www.epa.gov/smm
Thank you!

Please visit our website:
http://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food

Follow us @EPAland using #nowastedfood

Join the Food Recovery Challenge