

Making the Leap to Composting Food Scraps

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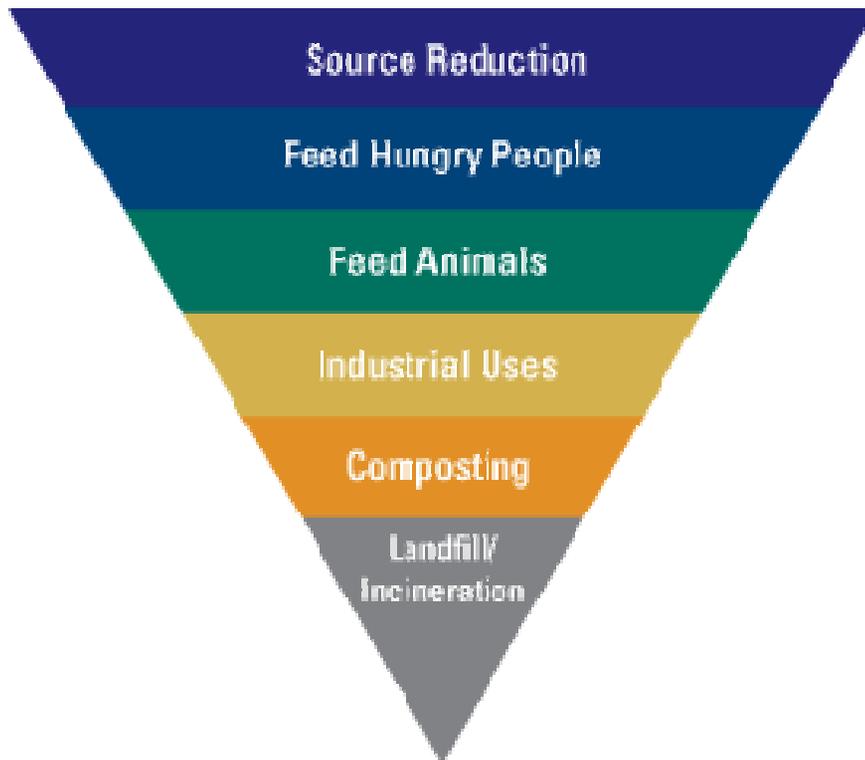
Speaker's Background

- Plan, design, assist with implementation of commercial and residential organics programs and policies
- Extensive work with local and regional agencies, also with haulers
- 20 years experience, 15 with leading food scraps programs
- Major cities, suburban areas; East and West





How big is the pie?



- 31 million tons of food scraps landfilled in 2007 (EPA).
 - 3% diverted, mostly via composting.
 - Methane as potent greenhouse gas.
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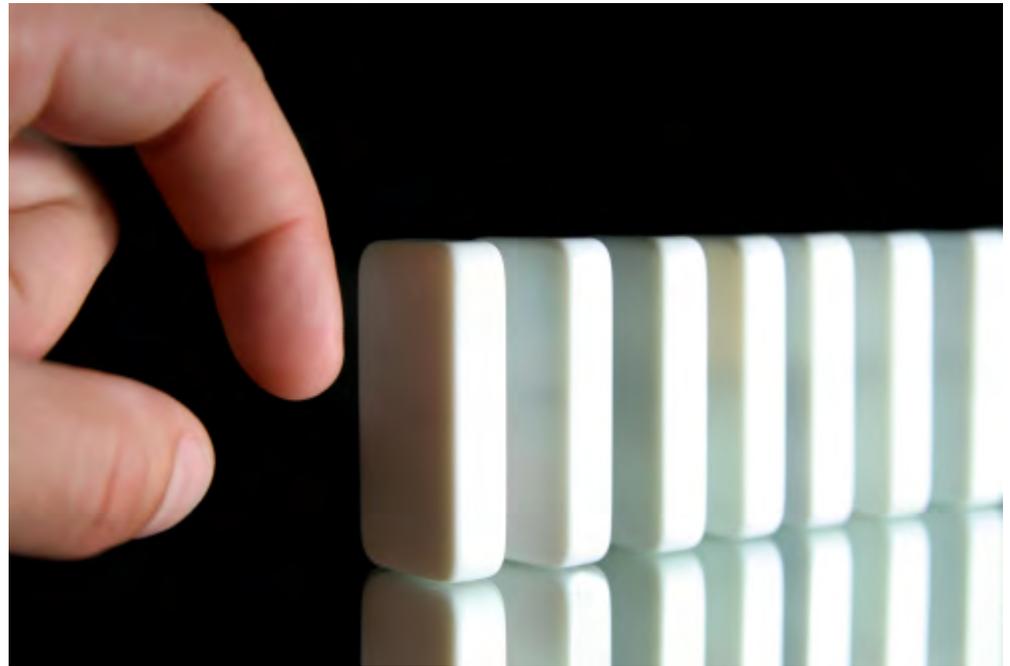
Included Materials

- Food Scraps
- Yard Trimmings
- Clean Scrap Wood
- Compostable Non-Recyclable Paper



Where Do We Start?

- Key drivers
- Community motivation
- Which indicators of success to track
- Which sector to start with



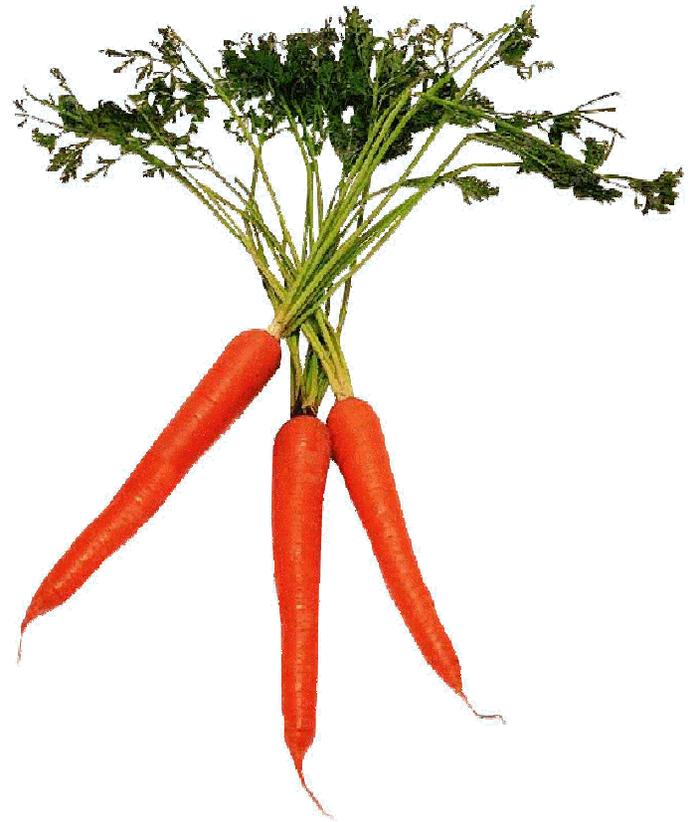
What are the Drivers?

- Regulatory
- Environmental
- Economic/Social



What Motivates Communities?

- Long-term disposal cost savings
- Preservation of landfill capacity
- Resource recovery = jobs
- Climate change goals
- Wastewater FOG, BOD reduction
- Demand for 'green services'
- Laws and regulations
- Environmental education value



Indicators of Success

- Amount Collected (tons/year)
- Material Quality (% contamination)
- End-uses of Finished Compost (seek highest value)
- GHG reduction (CO2 equivalents)
- Cost-effectiveness (cost /ton)



Residential organics

Case Study: successful programs in Alameda County, San Francisco, and King County (WA)

Logistics: Should you collect with yard trimmings, collect separately, or use sewer system?



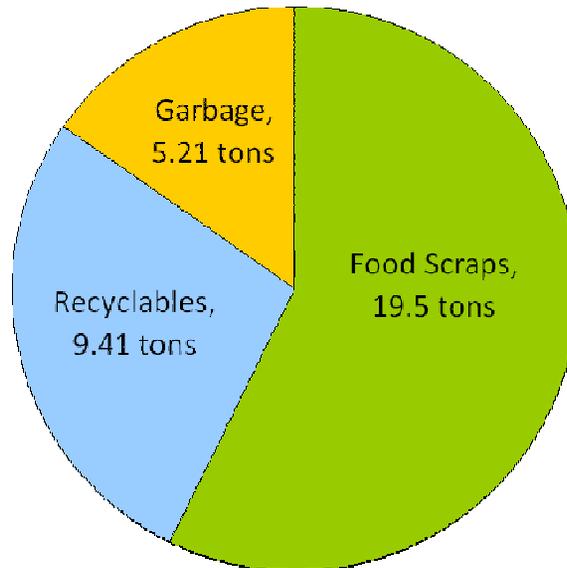
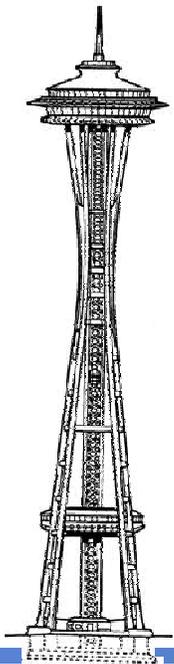
San Francisco Residential Organics

- Voluntary program (ca. 2000)
- Mandatory organics participation (2009)
- Huge success, despite multi-lingual, multi-tenant challenges



Why start with commercial?

- Space Needle Restaurant generates **20 tons** of food scraps a month vs average household of four generates **70 lbs** a month!



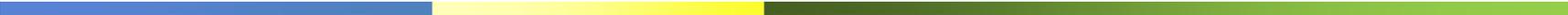
VS





Primary West Coast Commercial Organics Programs (2007)

Location	Recovery Rate (tons /year)	Participating Businesses
City of San Francisco	60,000	3,000
San Mateo County	12,000	500
City of Berkeley	5,000	200
City of Oakland	11,000	200
City of Los Angeles	25,000	300
Metro region, Portland, OR	9,000	200
Seattle/King County, WA	2,000	200
Totals		



Program Planning Steps

How Does a Local Government Start a Source-Separated Organics Program?



Program Planning Steps



1. Evaluate other programs
2. Develop action plan
3. Assess infrastructure needs
4. Assess product markets
5. Choose hauler

Program Planning Steps

6. Set incentives
7. Design outreach strategy
8. Launch program
9. Document and analyze results



Incentive Structure



- Participants
- Haulers
- Processors (critical limiting factor)

Program Planning Steps

- Hauler strengths
- Hauler weaknesses
- Hauler needs



Permitting Hurdles



- Expensive process
- Time-consuming
- Facility upgrades

Siting Hurdles

- Population Growth
- Suburbanization
- Conversion of Agricultural Lands
- Open Space Preservation
- Facility Size
- Terrain
- Access to Water
- Land Use Classification



Supportive Policies

- Choose words carefully, define terms
- Restrict organics disposal
- Use zoning to benefit organics processors
- Require source separation of organics
- Promote multiple haulers and processors
- Include professional commercial technical assistance/outreach
- Support creation of multiple end products
- Stimulate end product demand





OPPORTUNITY

Food scraps:

**an opportunity for communities, generators,
haulers, equipment dealers, and facility operators**



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