

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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# SUSTAINABLE FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE FOOD RECOVERY CHALLENGE

*Feed People Not Landfills*

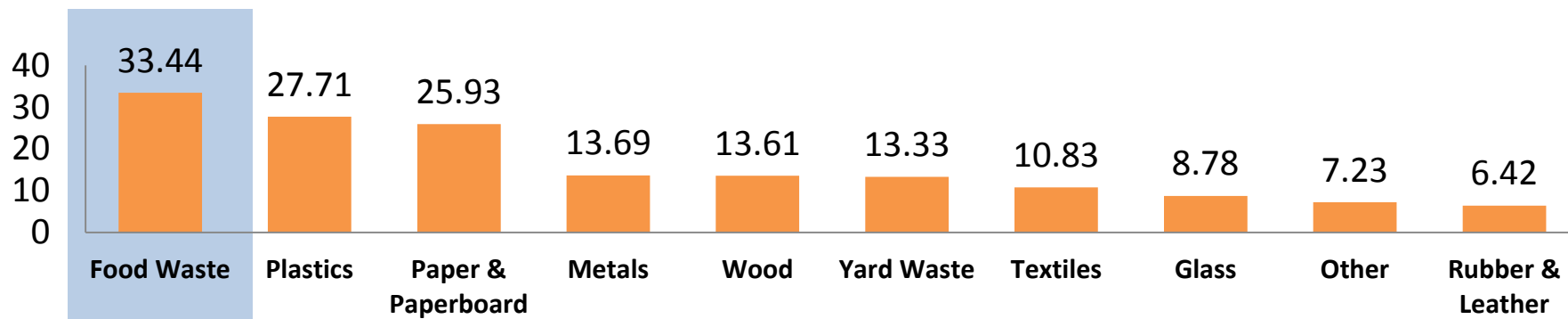
# The Food Waste Problem

**Americans  
waste  
enough food  
to fill the  
Rose Bowl  
every day.**  
(Bloom 2007)



# So how much food waste are we generating?

- In total, about **34 million tons** of food waste was generated in 2009 (14% of the country's total waste stream) (Sitton, 2011)
- **Less than 3%** of food waste was recovered for reuse and recycling in 2009 (Sitton, 2011)





# Food waste is a problem because it impacts the economy.

- Financially, wasted food costs America **more than \$100 billion** annually (Bloom, 2007)
  - Disposal cost of municipal waste management
  - Over purchasing costs
  - Cost of lost energy

# It impacts society.

- **50 million Americans**, or 14% of American households, were food insecure in 2009 (USDA).
- Food insecurity can increase the likelihood for an individual to have **major health concerns**.





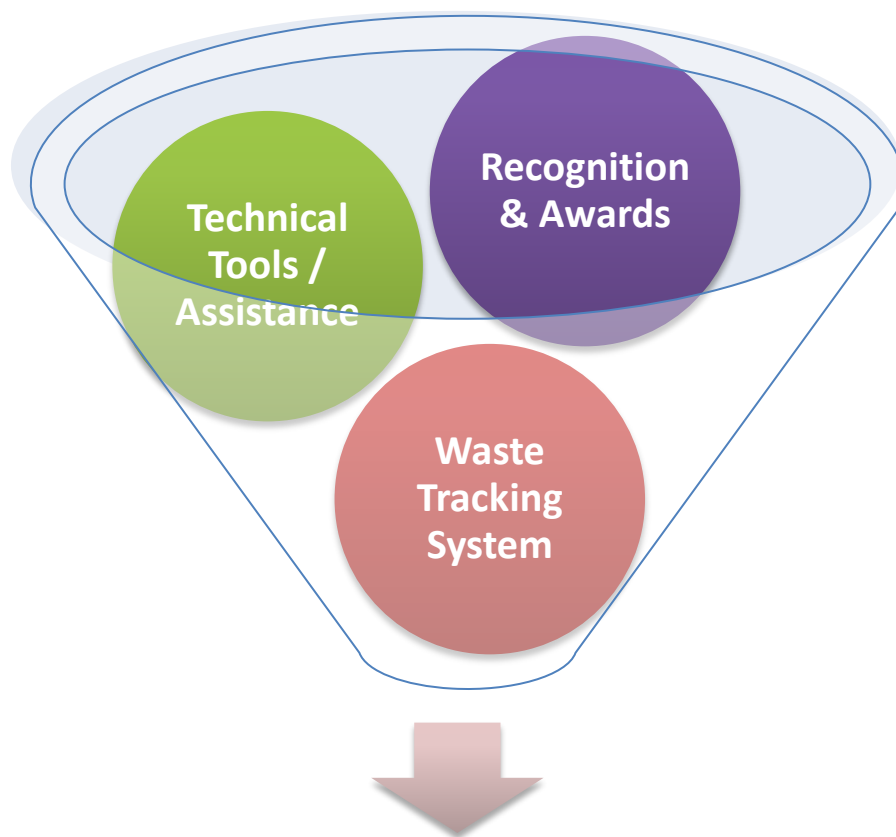
# It impacts the environment.

- Food that enters a landfill produces methane, a greenhouse gas with **21 times** the warming potential of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Food production impacts **water quality, soil productivity, and contributes to about 13% of the nations greenhouse gas emissions.**





# One tool to reduce food waste is EPA's Food Recovery Challenge (FRC)



**Cost Savings and Brand Recognition  
Supporting Your Community  
Reducing Environmental Impact**

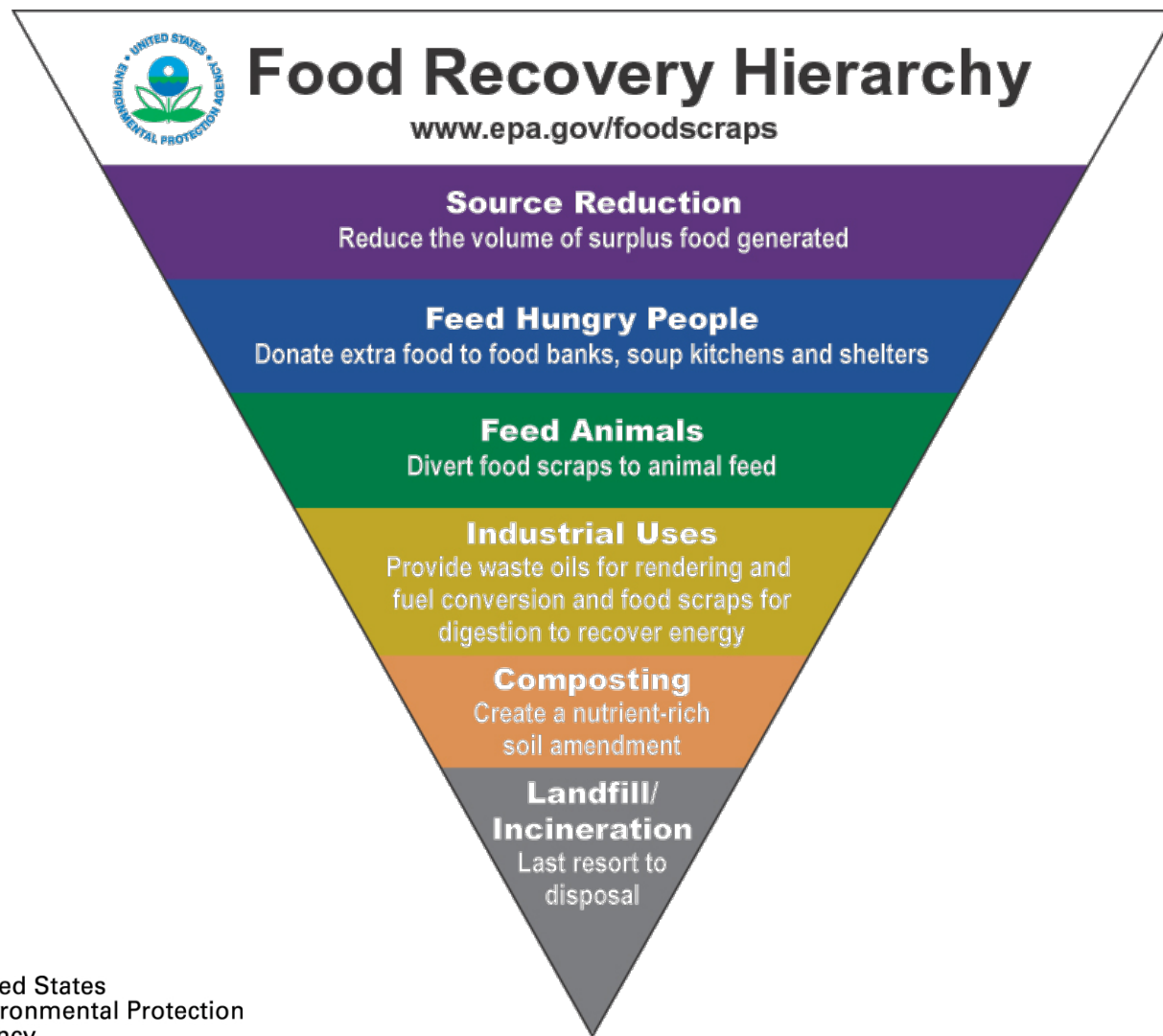
# The FRC is a great tool to help you reduce your food waste.

- ✓ The FRC is a FREE, simple tool.
- ✓ You'll receive free technical assistance from regional EPA staff.
- ✓ Standardized metrics allow for easy comparison.
- ✓ Opportunity to learn about best management practices.
- ✓ Be recognized for your innovative work with food waste

# Therefore, reducing your food waste can

- ✓ Reduce your costs
- ✓ Improve your image
- ✓ Feed your communities
- ✓ Protect your environment.

# So how can you reduce your food waste and save money?



# Source Reduction Success Story

- Intel Corporation Cafes ([More Information](#))
  - Tracked all pre-consumer food waste on a daily basis for one year using computerized system
  - **Reduced pre-consumer food waste by 47%**
  - **Reduced costs per meal by 13.2%**



# Donation Success Story

- Rock and Wrap It Up ([More information](#))
  - Collaborated with 150 bands, 200 schools, and universities, and 30 sports franchises
  - Collected more than **100 million pounds of food**
  - As of March 1, 2011, NHL Clubs provided **120,000 meals keeping 160,000 pounds of food waste from landfill**





# Composting Success Story

- Boston Convention and Exhibition Center
  - ([More information](#))
  - **Saved \$27/ton** in avoided disposal costs with composting program
  - **Diverted 103 tons** of organics from landfills in 2008



# Join Now!

And... take a bite out of food waste!

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

## Four Easy Steps!

1. **Assess It!** Conduct baseline food waste assessment
2. **Commit to It!** Set a three year goal with a commitment to increase food reduction/diversion by 5% in the first year.
3. **Do It!** Undertake food waste reduction and recovery activities to meet your goals!
4. **Track It!** Report annually using WasteWise tool

# Questions?



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

# What We Can Do For You...

- EPA tools and technical assistance
  - [WasteWise Tool](#) for tracking waste
    - Personalized annual progress report with Climate Profile
  - Other EPA Tools
    - [Food Waste Management Calculator](#)
    - Food Waste Source Reduction Auditing Tool
  - Regular webinars on food waste related issues
  - Clearinghouse for case studies, tools, templates, and other outreach materials

# Details for Joining the FRC

1. **Join** Waste Wise and the Food Recovery Challenge at <http://www.epa.gov/osw/partnerships/wastewise/join.htm>
  - Make sure to choose Food Recovery Challenge when you join
2. **Conduct baseline food waste assessment** within 60 days of joining
  - Done using the WasteWise Tool (<http://www.epa.gov/osw/partnerships/wastewise/retrac.htm>)
3. **Set a three year goal** for reducing the amount of food waste reaching landfills.
  - Year One: Commit to at least a 5% increase in at least one of the three food diversion categories ([prevention](#), [donation](#), and [composting](#)), or alternatively a combined %% increase across all three categories. If you have no data from a previous year for a category, partners may select a site-specific goal.
  - Years Two and Three: Set site-specific numerical targets based on opportunities at your facility
4. **Report annually**
  - Done using the WasteWise Tool
5. **Get Recognized!**
  - Annual awards for outstanding participants

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