

# Sustainable Management of Food and the National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics

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## What Is "Food Loss and Waste"?

Food loss and waste (FLW): Food produced for human consumption that leaves the human food supply chain for any reason (and is not ultimately consumed by humans).

Wasted Food: overarching term to describe food that was not used for its intended purpose and is managed in a variety of ways, such as donation to feed people, creation of animal feed, composting, anaerobic digestion, or disposal in landfills or combustion facilities.

Other terms include excess food or surplus food

# Where Does Food Waste Happen?

Main drivers of food loss and waste throughout the supply chain

#### **Near the Farm**



- Inefficient harvesting practices
- Out-of-date machinery
- Crop damage

#### In Transit



- Poor infrastructure
- Lack of cold storage

### During Food Processing



- Poor planning, outdated equipment
- Lack of measurement and data to show hot spots
- Lack of food-handling skills and awareness

### In Stores and Restaurants



- Poor planning and stock management
- Lack of measurement to show hot spots
- Lack of food-handling skills and awareness

#### At Home



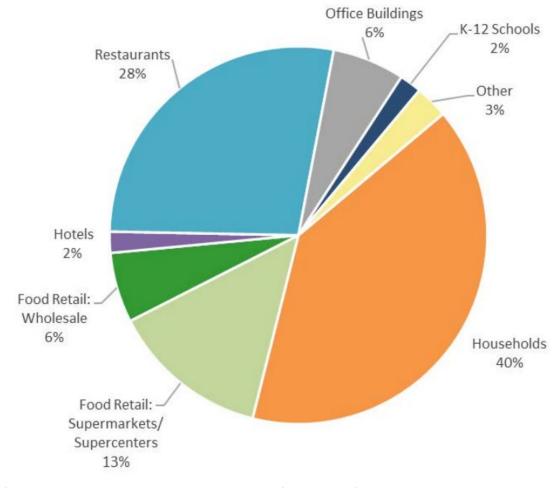
- Lack of awareness of food waste issues
- Inefficient cooking, storage and portioning
- Poor planning; not using shopping lists or menu plans
- Poor understanding of date labels

Source: World Resources Institute

### Food Waste in the U.S.

- 30-40% of food is wasted
- 66 million tons of wasted food was generated in the food retail, food service, and residential sectors in 2019.
- Most of this waste was sent to landfills.

### Distribution of Wasted Food Generation from the Food Retail, Food Service, and Residential Sectors (2019)

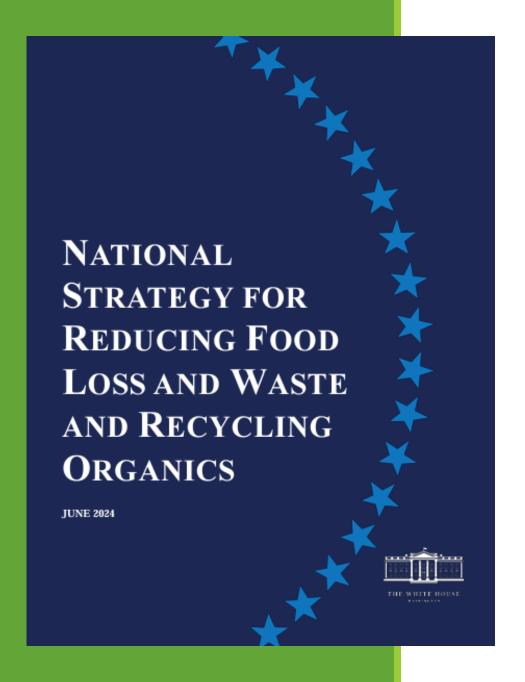


Source: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/2019%20Wasted%20Food%20Report\_508\_opt\_ec.pdf



# EPA's Role in Sustainable Management of Food

- Funding
- Technical Assistance and Facilitate Networks
- Tools and Guidance
- Science, Data and Research



# National Strategy released June 12, 2024

### **GOAL**

Prevent the loss and waste of food; increase recycling of food and other organic materials to support a more circular economy for all; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; save households and businesses money; and build cleaner, healthier communities.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/NATIONAL-STRATEGY-FOR-REDUCING-FOOD-LOSS-AND-WASTE-AND-RECYCLING-ORGANICS 6.11.24.pdf

# Strategy Objectives

- 1. **Prevent** the loss of food.
- 2. **Prevent** the waste of food.
- 3. Increase the recycling rate for all organic waste.
- 4. Support policies that incentivize and encourage food loss and waste prevention and organics recycling.







# EPA Actions Included in the Strategy

- National campaign
- Updated estimates
- Benefits of compost use
- Organics contamination analysis
- Methane emission tool and assessment







### 2019 Wasted Food Report Estimates of generation and

management of wasted food in the United States in 2019

April 2023





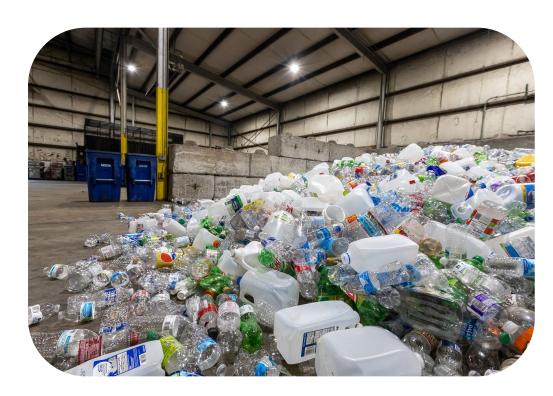




EPA 530-R-23-005



# **New Funding Opportunities**



Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program



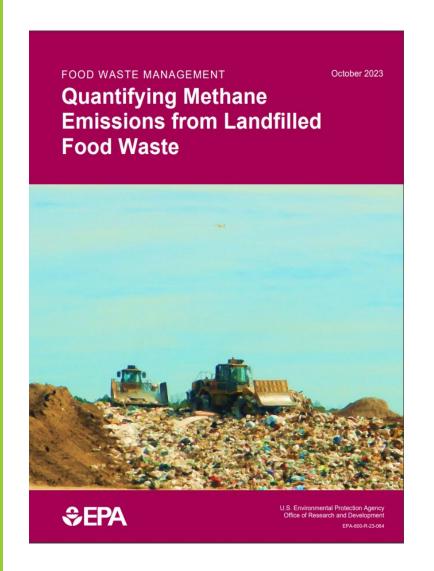
Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) Grant Program

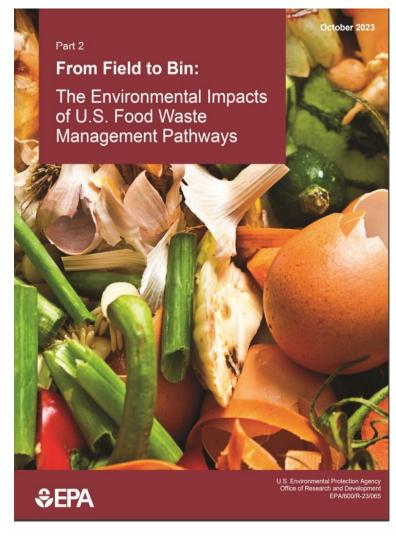


# Food Waste & Climate Change



# EPA Food Waste Management Research Reports



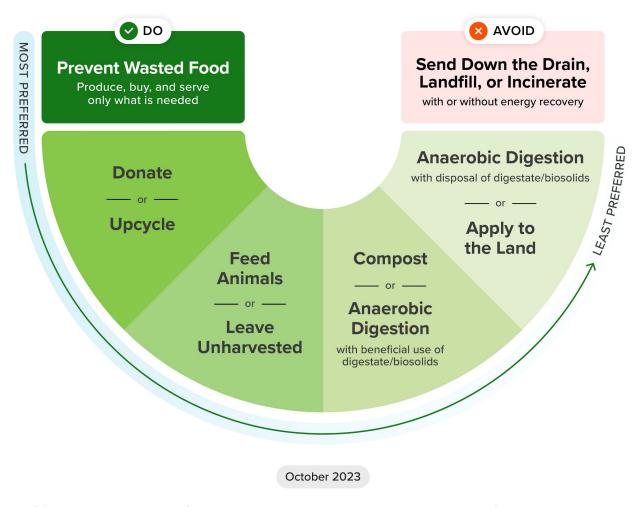


https://www.epa.gov/land-research/food-waste-research



### **Wasted Food Scale**

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



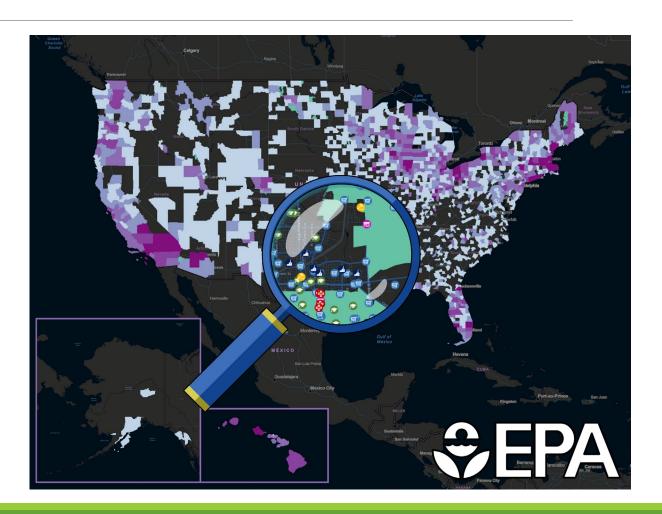
https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/wasted-food-scale



# **Excess Food Opportunities Map**

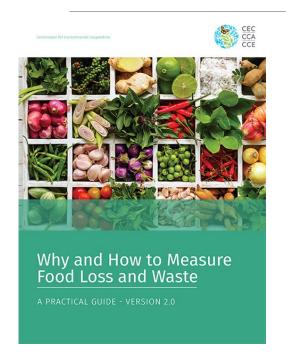
- 950,000+ excess food generators
- ~6,500 potential excess food recipients
- Supporting infrastructure
- Location and basic information
- Excess food estimates for each generator
- Publicly available datasets

epa.gov/foodmap





# What Can Businesses Do?











# What can we all do?

## Ways to Reduce Wasted Food at Home







STORAGE



COOKING AND PREPARATION

# Thank you!

### Stay in the loop!



- EPA: Sustainable Management of Food
- Food Waste Research
- **► Wasted Food Scale**
- ► National Strategy
- ► US Food Loss and Waste 2030 Champions



Contact Us about Sustainable Management of Food

https://www.epa.gov/sustainablemanagementfood/forms/contact-us-aboutsustainable-management-food

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