Center for EcoTechnology's Wasted Food Solutions



We help people and businesses save energy and reduce waste



Center for EcoTechnology Partners















































Rhode Island

Department of

Environmental

Management







Department of **Environmental** Conservation























U.S FOOD WASTE Did you know?

- 30-40% is wasted
- Valued at \$165 billion annually
- Rotting food in landfills releases greenhouse gases



Wasted Food Solutions

Impact since 2013:

21,000,000 donated meals recovered

150,000 tons of food waste diverted

70,000 tons of CO₂ emissions avoided



Thank you EPA Region 5 partners!













Wasted Food Solutions for SW Ohio





STRENGTHS (+)

- Sustainability and wasted food solutions are already priorities
- Diversion efforts around the state present opportunities to leverage networks and create synergies
- Regional stakeholders are interested in collaborating to further shared goals
- Ongoing outreach efforts exist for source reduction
- In select areas, funding mechanisms have been developed to support recovery and diversion programs
- Food rescue systems and networks are well established
- Development of food scraps drop spots and commercial diversion efforts offer examples of successful outreach around composting
- Widespread interest in anaerobic digestion presents an opportunity for food scrap processing

WEAKNESSES (-)

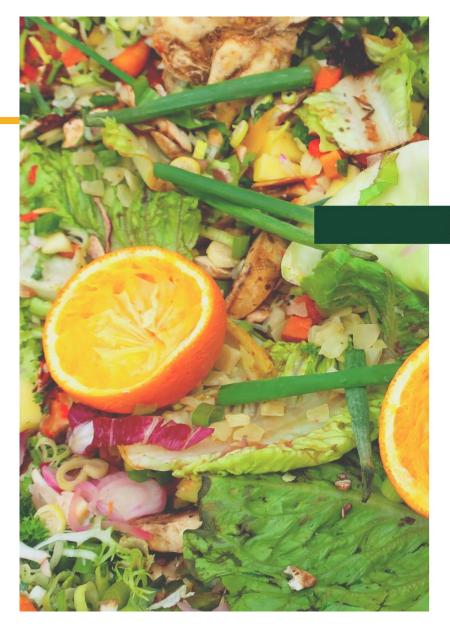
- Financial resources are needed to support wasted food solutions, including composting systems
- Need for technical skills to support generators through technical assistance (TA) and other means
- Past challenges with compost technology have tarnished public opinion of the technology as a viable solution
- Limited regional processing capacity exists for handling food scraps
- Need for tools and resources to facilitate connections between generators and entities seeking materials for animal feed

OPPORTUNITIES (+)

- Area generators can act as leaders to support wasted food prevention and diversion
- Opportunity to better leverage prevention as a cost savings measure
- New technology supports consumer-facing source reduction
- Significant potential to divert more material from a variety of generators
- Opportunity for additional infrastructure development, including food recovery and recycling
- Potential for more networking and collaboration to further food recovery efforts
- Commercial and institutional generators interested in composting and diversion opportunities

EXTERNAL FACTORS THREATS (-)

- Low tipping fees threaten cost-competitiveness of diversion efforts
- The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the economy and the livelihood of commercial generators
- Lack of infrastructure and resources paired with a culture of disposal as the most cost-effective strategy for food recovery limits participation
- Lack of communication and collaboration among some food recovery stakeholders
- Liability and regulatory concerns around food donation and recovery for feeding humans and animals limit generator participation in these measures
- Negative perceptions of compost persist due to past failed compost facilities
- Since food scraps are beneficially used to produce compost, there is a misperception that diversion should be less expensive than disposal.
- Market for finished compost is largely undeveloped



Wasted Food Strategies for Institutional Kitchens

MARCH 11, 2021 | 10:00AM - 11:30AM

Learn strategies and best practices for addressing wasted food.

Choose 2 breakout sessions, meet service providers, and learn solutions across the EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy.

wastedfood@cetonline.org















Food Rescue Agency Meetings

Past Meetings

June 24, 2021

September 22, 2021

February 22, 2022

Place for food rescue agencies to connect, share best practices, and voice challenges



August 2021
Compost
Workshop









No-Cost Wasted Food Assistance





Impact







Meeting You Where You Are:



Receive No-Cost Assistance Today!



QUESTIONS?

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