

# Food & Organic Residual Reduction Management FORRM

# Members

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United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

## Food Recovery Hierarchy

Most Preferred

### Source Reduction

Reduce the volume of surplus food generated

### Feed Hungry People

Donate extra food to food banks, soup kitchens and shelters

### Feed Animals

Divert food scraps to animal feed

### Industrial Uses

Provide waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion and food scraps for digestion to recover energy

### Composting

Create a nutrient-rich soil amendment

### Landfill/ Incineration

Last resort to disposal

Least Preferred

# EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy

## ① Source Reduction

- We all waste food, we can all work to reduce wasting food.

## ② Feed Hungry People

- In far too many cases still-good, wholesome food landfilled, while many experience “food insecurity”

## ③ Feed Animals

- When done safely (consider animal health and safety protocols), this can save farmers & companies money

## ④ Industrial Uses

- Using food waste to create biofuels (i.e.: digestion, biodiesel, etc.)

## ⑤ Compost

- Turning food waste into soil nutrients (backyard, large-scale)

## ⑥ Landfilling/incineration

- Assume energy produced

# The Legislative Hurdle

## ⦿ Landfill Ban

- Most significant impact for organics diversion from landfills
- Not a practical solution at this time...but when?
- Step by step process over many years

# Barriers

- ⦿ Lack of Education and Information
- ⦿ Regulations
- ⦿ Weather
- ⦿ Fear of Lawsuits
- ⦿ Infrastructure Lacking for Organics Diversion
  - Separation, Transportation, Storage, Hauling, Cost
- ⦿ Behaviors driven by what's convenient & inexpensive

# What's the Motivation?

- ① Find farmers, digesters, and people who can use organics as a benefit
- ① Make them see the value
- ① Template/Framework for relationship building
- ① Incentives for diversion efforts

# Identification of Focus

- ① **Landfill Diversion**
- ② **Source Reduction**
- ③ **Utilized a ranking system based on professional experience and practicality**



# Landfill Diversion

- **Connect the Dots & Fill the Gaps in Wisconsin**
  - Map current infrastructure including licensed and unlicensed farms taking food waste, municipal food waste collection programs, digesters, etc.
  - Foster collaboration in ag industry
- **Statewide Educational Program**
  - Aimed at consumers and specific commercial sectors
  - Influence youth and increase nutritional education
  - Promote backyard composting

# Landfill Diversion

- **Promotion of Compost**
  - Subsidized residential compost bin program and promote backyard compost
  - Mapping for location and route densities
  - Prioritize building soil health and farming relationships
  - Incentivize composting

# Source Reduction

- **Educational Program and Campaign**
  - Educational program for businesses regarding donations
  - Target youth and schools
- **Action Items**
  - Mapping current donation sites
  - Develop an educational campaign for schools
  - Look into current applications in use around the country for food donations/source reduction

# What's next?

- ⦿ Not just a recommendation, but an implementation strategy and a framework to provide assistance in taking this to the next level.
- ⦿ August Meeting