

# Tackling Food Waste: A Policy, Programmatic and Cross-Sector Approach

Andy Harig

Senior Director – Sustainability, Tax & Trade

Food Marketing Institute

aharig@fmi.org



**THE VOICE OF FOOD RETAIL**

Feeding Families  Enriching Lives

# Why Food Waste Matters – Economically, Ecologically and Socially



**25 - 40%**

Food that is grown,  
processed and transported  
in the United States will  
never be consumed.



**60 Mil.**

Tons of food waste  
generated in the US in  
2010, 2/3 of which went to  
landfills.

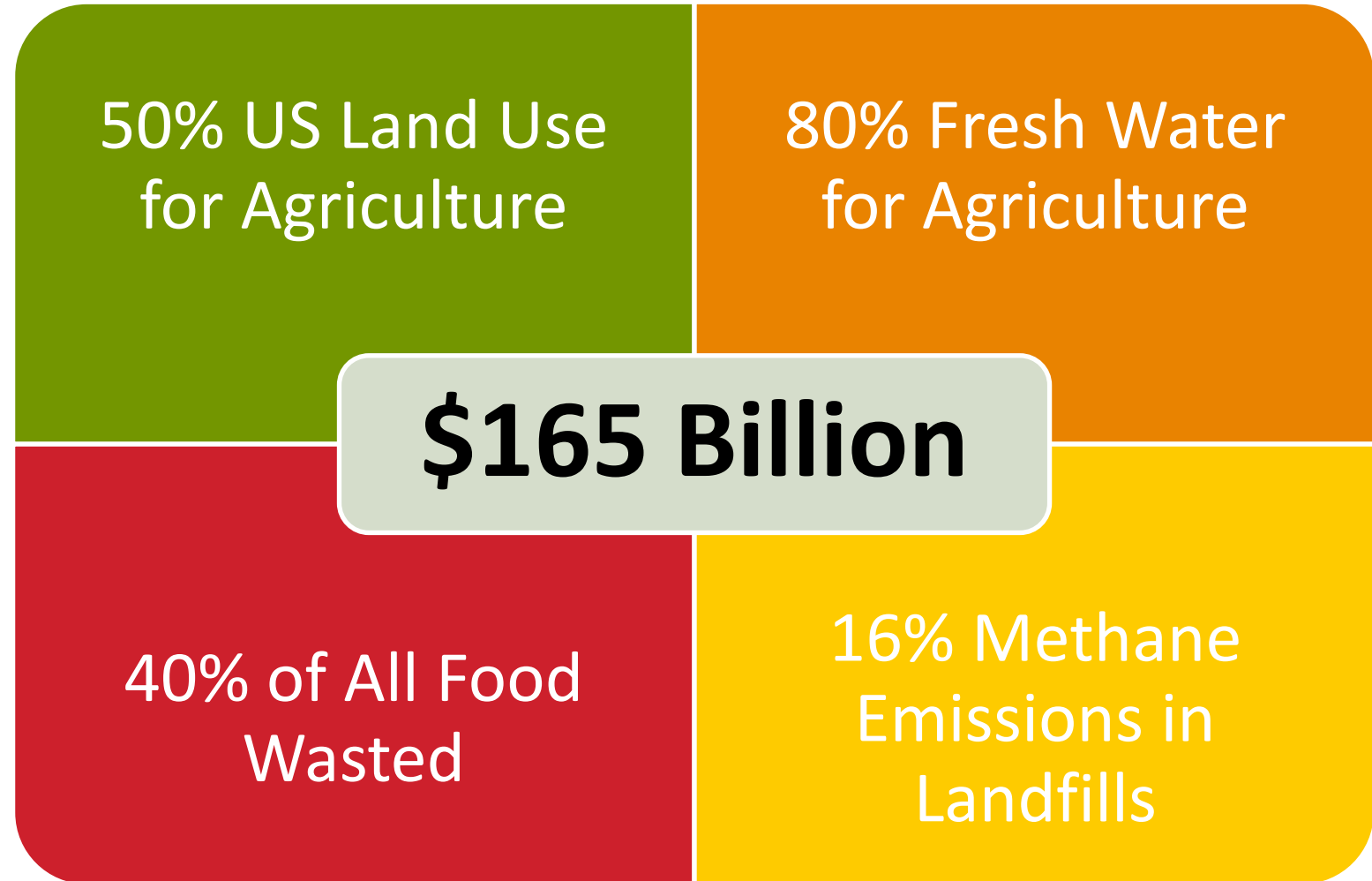


**#1**

Source of municipal  
solid waste in landfills

# Why Food Waste Matters – Economically, Ecologically and Socially

Resources  
Dedicated to Food  
That Is Never  
Consumed (USA)



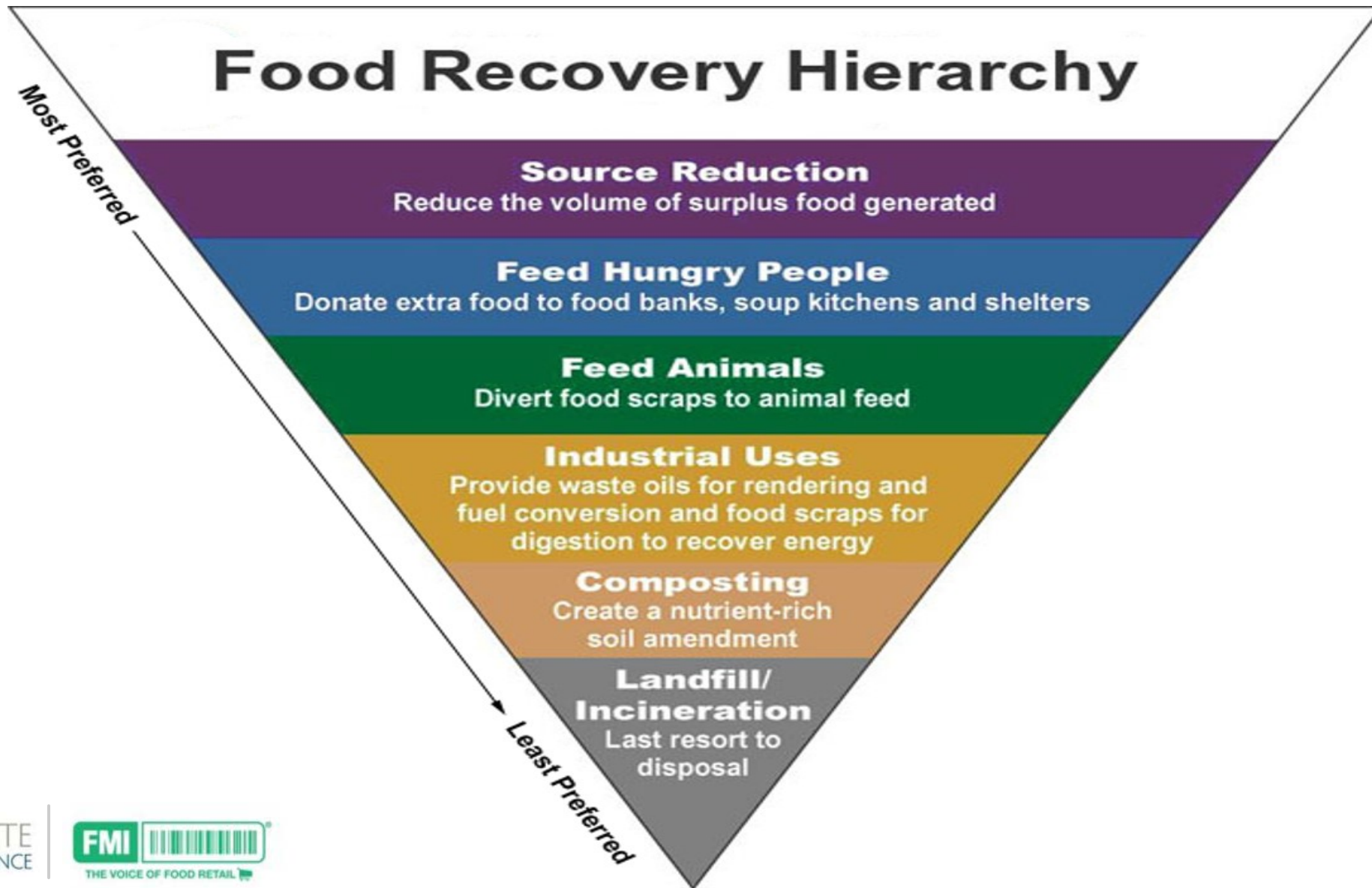
# USDA/EPA Food Waste Reduction Goals for USA



**September 16, 2015**

- Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Environmental Protection Agency Deputy Administrator Stan Meiburg announced the United States' first-ever national food waste reduction goal.
- It calls for a 50-percent reduction by 2030.

# EPA's Food Recovery Hierarchy





---

30 + manufacturing, retailing and foodservice companies, along with expert partners from the anti-hunger community and waste management sector.

## GOALS

Reduce the amount of food waste generated

•

Increase the amount of safe, nutritious food donated to those in need

•

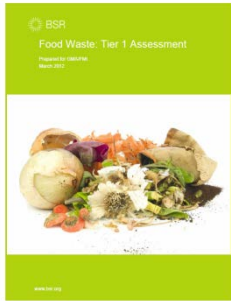
Recycle unavoidable food waste, diverting it from landfills



---

In order to accomplish these goals, FWRA's efforts are divided into four workstreams:

- Assessment – Measuring Food Waste
- Emerging Solutions
- Policy
- Communications & Stakeholder Outreach



March 2012 - Food Waste: Tier 1 Assessment



April 2013 - Analysis of U.S. Food Waste Among Food Manufacturers, Retailers, and Wholesalers



2014 - Analysis of U.S. Food Waste Among Food Manufacturers, Retailers, and Restaurants



2016 - Analysis of U.S. Food Waste Among Food Manufacturers, Retailers, and Restaurants

# FWRA Studies Produced



# Talking Food Waste on Capitol Hill



*"We work hard to get unsaleable products donated. Last year, Publix rescued 78 million pounds of food and through our partner agencies, it was donated to families in need. Less than ten years ago, most of this product would have been destined for landfills."*

--Michael Hewett  
Director of Environmental and Sustainability Programs  
Publix Super Markets, Inc.

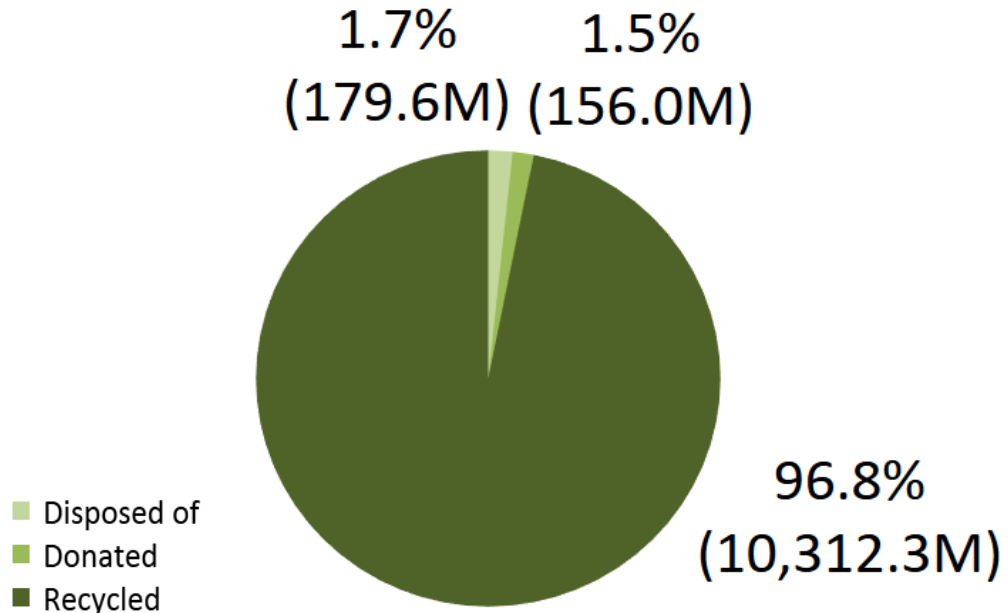


# May 25, 2016 – House Agriculture Committee Hearing “Food Waste from Field to Table”

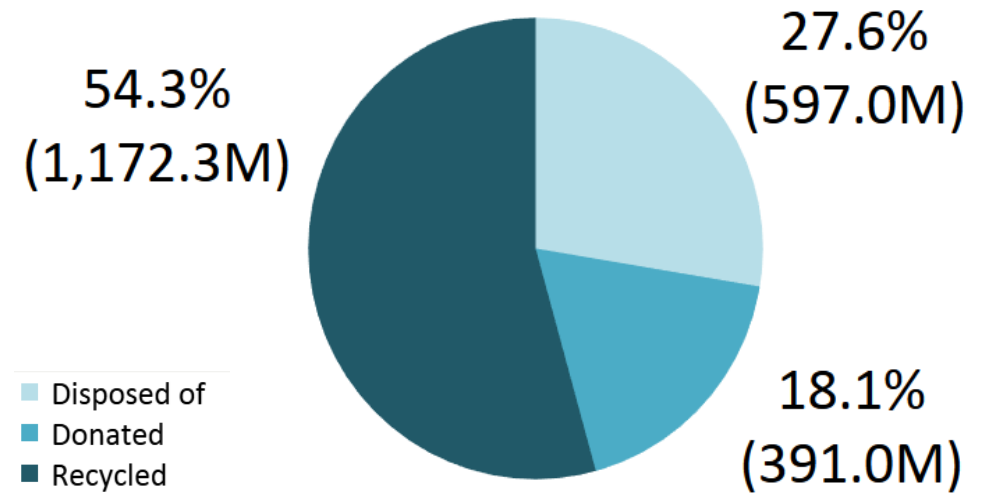


# Destination of Food Waste

## Manufacturing



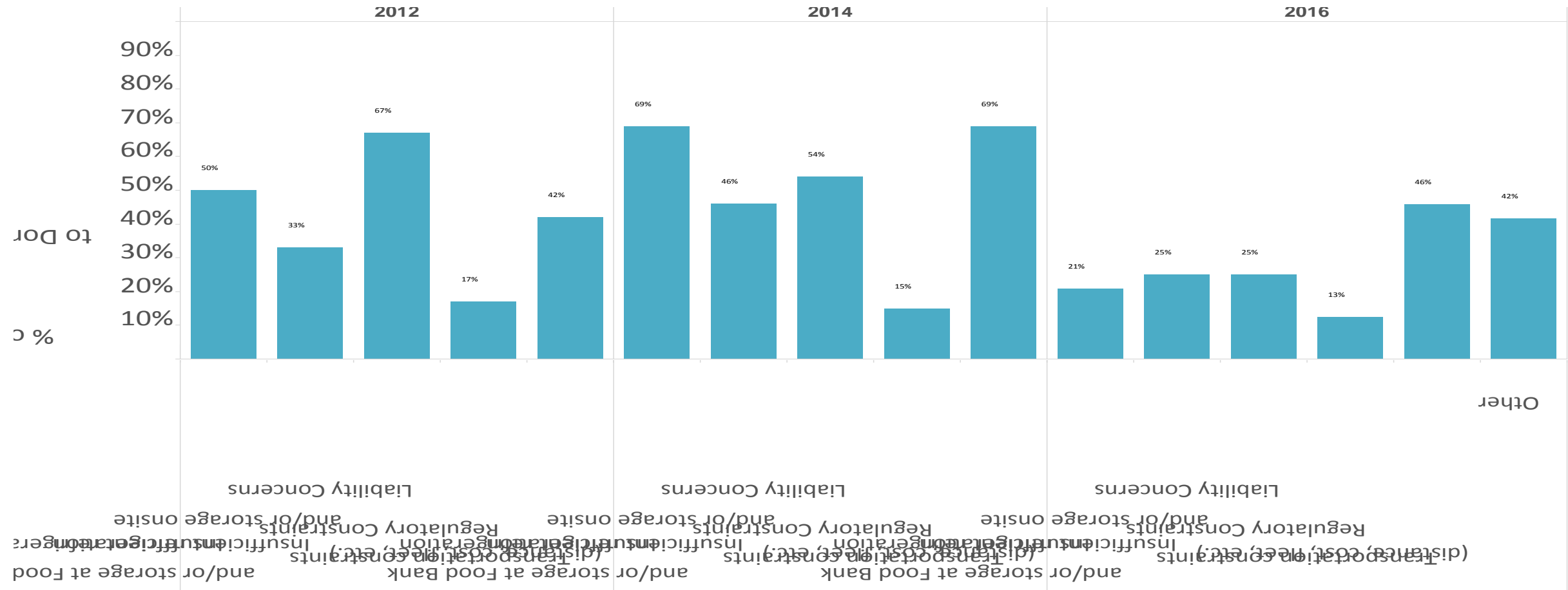
## Retail





of respondents were unable to provide data regarding the quantity of food waste their companies disposed

# Retail Barriers to Donation





# Incentives:

## Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act

- Protects donors from liability issues when contributing to a non-profit with the exception of gross negligence or intentional misconduct

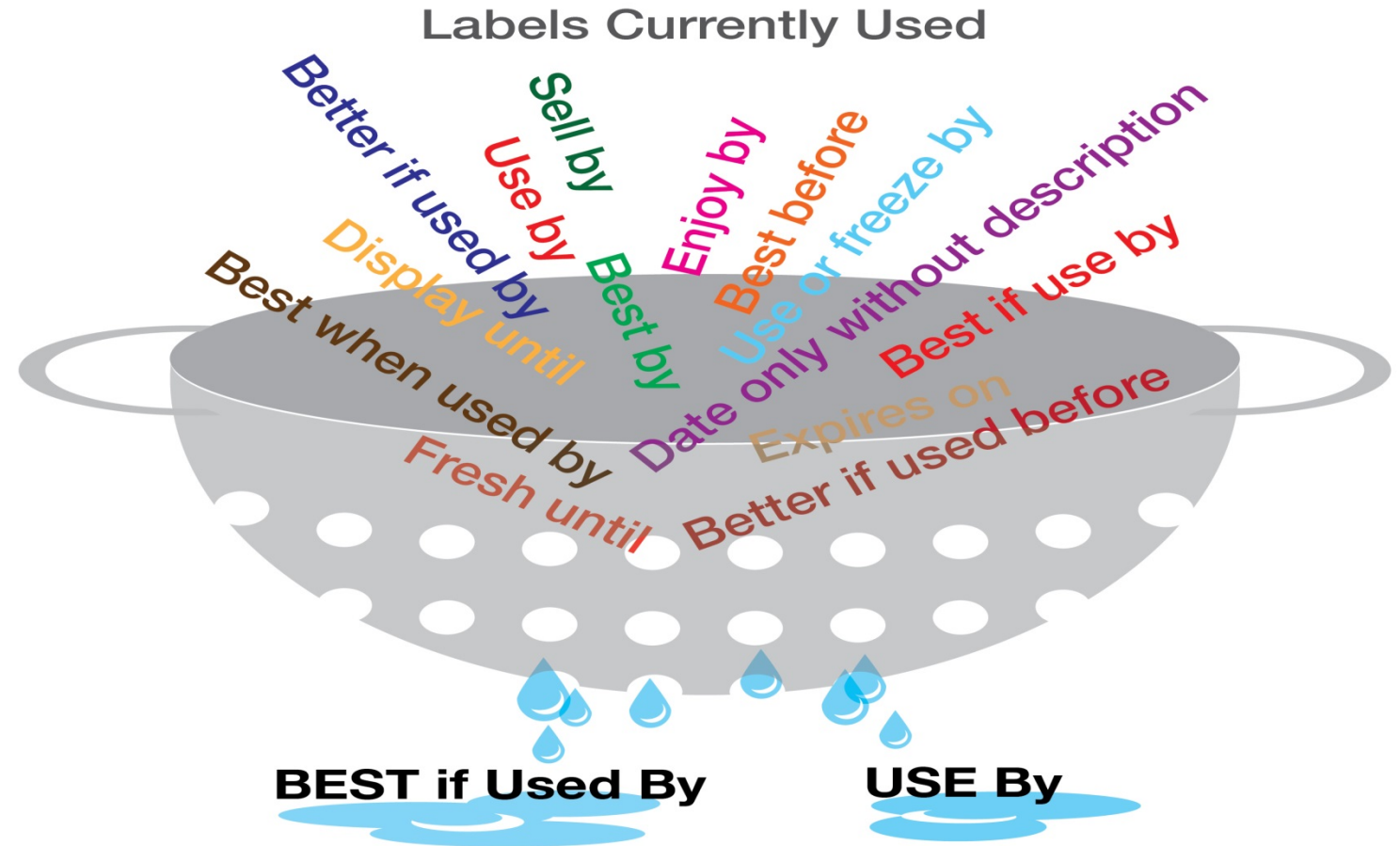
## Food Donation Tax Deduction

- Covers cost of carrying food
- Does **not** make you whole
- Document: fair market value, and cost of food production



## Simplifying Product Code Date Labeling

# Other Industry Initiatives



Find more information at:

<https://www.fmi.org/industry-topics/labeling/product-code-dating>



# Key Takeaways

## ► MEASURE!

### **Need to strive to constantly improve tracking**

- Work with third parties to help
- Implement internal tracking systems to collect and house all waste stream data in a central location

## ► Reach Out to Partners in the Supply Chain

## ► Build Food Waste Reduction into the DNA of the Company

- Dedicate teams internally to develop and 'own' tracking and measurement systems



# Thank you!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have:

Andrew S. Harig

202-220-0628

aharig@fmi.org



**THE VOICE OF FOOD RETAIL**

Feeding Families  Enriching Lives