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

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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

Source: FWRA
Why Food Waste Matters – Economically, Ecologically and Socially

Resources Dedicated to Food That Is Never Consumed (USA)

- 50% US Land Use for Agriculture
- 80% Fresh Water for Agriculture
- $165 Billion
- 40% of All Food Wasted
- 16% Methane Emissions in Landfills

Source: US EPA
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

**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

*Most Preferred*

*Least Preferred*
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
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**
- 96.8% (10,312.3M)
- 1.7% (179.6M)
- 1.5% (156.0M)

**Retail**
- 54.3% (1,172.3M)
- 27.6% (597.0M)
- 18.1% (391.0M)
of respondents were unable to provide data regarding the quantity of food waste their companies disposed
Retail Barriers to Donation

- Insufficient refrigeration and/or storage onsite
- Liability Concerns
- Regulatory Constraints
- Transportation constraints (distance, cost, fleet, etc.)
- Insufficient refrigeration and/or storage at Food Bank
- Other

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Insufficient Refrigeration and/or Storage onsite</th>
<th>Liability Concerns</th>
<th>Regulatory Constraints</th>
<th>Transportation Constraints</th>
<th>Other</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note: The percentage of barriers is not directly provided in the image, but it can be inferred from the chart.
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
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:

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