Prevention of Food Waste
A Key Piece of the Puzzle

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Food Waste Reduction Strategy

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

www.epa.gov/foodscraps
“Change in behavior or practice that results in LESS waste.”
Prevention Effects all Life Cycle Stages

- **GROWING**
- **PREPARING**
- **SELLING**
- **DISPOSING**
- **EATING**
- **PROCESSING/MANUFACTURING**
Reducing Food Waste is Challenging

- Change the way people think about food
- Pieces of the Puzzle
- Iterative process
- Change is slow – Causes frustration
What Areas to Target?

- Businesses
- Institutions
- Households
Better Purchasing

- Buy only what you need
- Identify what you waste
- Change practices as you gain knowledge
Food Waste Management Tools

- Food Waste Audit Log
- Cost Calculator

http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/organics/food/fd-res.htm
Food Preparation

- Waste generated while preparing food
- Excess prepared food
- Secondary uses of excess food
Q & A

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