







Prevention of Food Waste A Key Piece of the Puzzle



Melissa Pennington
US Environmental Protection Agency

Food Waste Reduction Strategy



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

Definition of Prevention

"Change in behavior or practice that results in LESS waste."

Prevention Effects all Life Cycle Stages



GROWING

PREPARING



SELLING





DISPOSING 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

Melissa Pennington
U.S. EPA Region 3
Office of Materials Management
215-814-3372

pennington.melissa@epa.gov