

Food Recovery Challenge

Wasting food is hurting more than your bottom line! **Rethink!**

EPA is working with organizations including grocers, universities, stadiums, and other venues to rethink business as usual. Through the Food Recovery Challenge (FRC), they are learning to purchase leaner and divert surplus food away from landfills to hunger-relief organizations and to composting. When food waste is disposed of in a landfill, they decompose and produce methane - a greenhouse gas over 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Methane emissions have been linked to climate change, and landfills contribute nearly one quarter of all methane emissions in the U.S.

Benefits of Joining the Challenge

- **Improve** your bottom line through cost savings from reduced purchasing and waste disposal fees.
- **Support** your community by using surplus food to feed people, not landfills.
- **Reduce** the effects of climate change by shrinking your environmental footprint and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Take** advantage of EPA's technical assistance and resources.
- **Receive** recognition for your achievements.



Why **Rethink?**

More than 37 million tons of food waste was generated in 2013 - 95 percent of which was thrown away into landfills or incinerators.

In 2013, 14.3 percent of U.S. households were food insecure, meaning all household members did not have access to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle at some time during the year. (Source: USDA). Much of the wasted food that is discarded in landfills is actually not waste but safe, wholesome food that can be used to feed those in need. Food and food scraps that are not fit for consumption or donation can be used to feed the soil by composting food waste into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Compost can reduce the amount of chemical fertilizer, pesticides and water needed in agriculture or landscaping.

Since 2011, FRC participants have reported diverting nearly 2.2 million tons of food through a variety of activities - that's like taking 380,000 cars off the road!

Join the Challenge

Sign Up

Register as a participant or endorser at <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-challenge-frc>.

Assess It

Conduct a comprehensive food waste assessment with tools on the FRC website, and input your data within 90 days of joining the challenge.

Commit to It

Set a goal for reducing the amount of wasted food reaching landfills through food waste prevention, food donation and/or composting in your own operations, or set a goal to help others do that through EPA's endorser program. Please refer to the website for specific requirements.

Do It

- Change food purchasing practices — both quantity and timing.
- Change food production and handling practices.
- If serving food, reduce excessive portion sizes through portion control, tray-less dining practices, and modifying menus to eliminate uneaten sides.
- Feed people, not landfills, by donating to those in need.
- Compost food waste or use anaerobic digestion.
- Educate others on reducing their food waste

For more information, please contact:

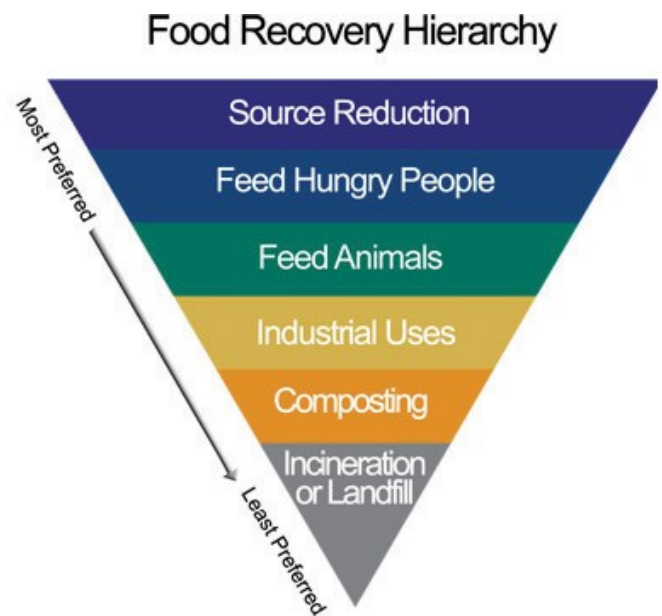
<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/forms/contact-us-about-sustainable-management-food>

Track It

Measure and track your annual progress on EPA's website.

Receive Recognition

Accomplish your committed goals and receive EPA recognition.



Use the Food Recovery Hierarchy to find a preferred option to make the most of excess food.

The FRC is part of EPA's Sustainable Materials Management Program. The Program seeks to reduce the environmental impact of materials throughout their entire life cycle, including how they are extracted, manufactured, distributed, used, reused, recycled, and disposed.

