



# Food Waste Prevention and Composting

Mississippi Solid Waste and Recycling Conference

Bay St. Louis Mississippi

May 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>, 2018



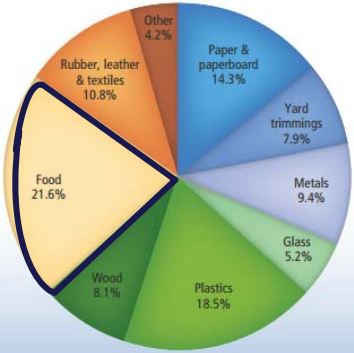
## Overview




- National EPA work and programs
- Region 4 Programs
- School Food waste
- Region 4 ISWM model



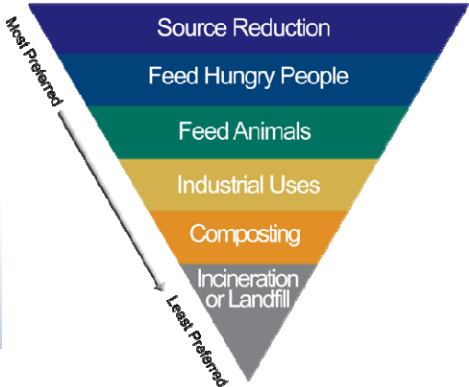
## Why Food waste?



Category	Percentage
Food	21.6%
Paper & paperboard	14.3%
Plastics	18.5%
Rubber, leather & textiles	10.8%
Yard trimmings	7.9%
Metals	9.4%
Glass	5.2%
Wood	8.1%
Other	4.2%



### Food Recovery Hierarchy



Most Preferred

Least Preferred

## Commercial Food Waste Prevention

- Approximately 900 participants nationally
- Includes grocery stores, schools, restaurants, and non-profits











# Community Food Waste Prevention



- Food: Too good to Waste consists of an implementation guide and toolkit that aim to reduce wasteful household food management practices.
- Food: To good to Waste is designed to teach local governments and community organizations how to implement a campaign in their community using the Toolkit.
- The Toolkit, provides behavior change and outreach tools designed to assist individuals and households to implement strategies to reduce wasted food in their homes.



## Excess Food Opportunities Map



<https://wcms.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/excess-food-opportunities-map>



## Building Composting Alignment and Infrastructure Grant



- National effort to accelerate access to composting infrastructure, determine gaps and prioritize initiatives in composting space and to support competitiveness and long-term viability of compost manufacturing
- Assist government, businesses and universities in reducing wasted food residuals and increasing organics recycling
- In partnership with with Green Blue, US Composting Council, and Biocycle



**US** Composting Council®



BioCycle.net  
**BIOCYCLE**  
THE ORGANICS RECYCLING AUTHORITY



## Atlanta Community Based Composting Initiative Grant



- Food well Alliance convened an Atlanta Community-based Composting Council with support from the City of Atlanta and the Georgia Recycling Coalition to advance community-based composting and its nexus with urban farming and community gardens in Metro Atlanta
- In the process of developing a marketing campaign to increase the awareness of the importance of abundant healthy soil



**Georgia Recycling Coalition** INC.



## Institutional Food Diversion



- SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, SC Department of Commerce and EPA Region 4 began identifying other stakeholders that should be at the table
- Other early stakeholders included: US Army's Fort Jackson, the University of South Carolina, Richland and Lexington Counties, City of Columbia, and EPA's Office of Research and Development (EPA ORD)
- Fort Jackson = ~1200 tons/yr of total food waste (2015)
- USC = ~410 tons/yr of total food waste (2015)
- A pilot of LeanPath technology currently underway at two dining facilities at Fort Jackson



## K-12 Schools: Momentum & Opportunity



### Guide to Conducting Student Food Waste Audits

*A Resource for Schools*



November 20, 2017



## School Food Share



- Collaboration with School District, Schools and Local Hunger Relief Organizations
  - Collects whole, packaged uneaten served food
    - ♦ Feed school students
    - ♦ Donate food to locate food banks to fight hunger in communities
- School Food Share Priorities
  - Students eat food that is served
  - Extra food is used to feed the school community
  - Donations to local food banks
  - Anything that can't be salvaged is composted



## School Food Waste Reduction



- Region 4 is working on a grant with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the University of Arkansas to create a guide to help increase awareness of school food waste, and help mitigate waste
- This will build on previous work from the 'Guide to Conducting Student Food Waste Audits'
- Help school administrators, nutrition directors, cafeteria directors, and state-level policy makers identify what laws and regulations could affect post-consumer food recovery options by creating an easy to use single page document in road map format



## Harvard Food Law



- Utilizes expertise in food law and policy to assist communities in understanding and improving the laws impacting the food system.
- Clinic projects aim to increase access to healthy foods, prevent diet-related diseases, assist small farmers and producers in participating in food markets, and reduce the waste of healthy, wholesome food.



## EPA REGION 4 ISWM MODEL

**COMPARES** differences in the amounts recycled and costs of 7 different recycling program scenarios:

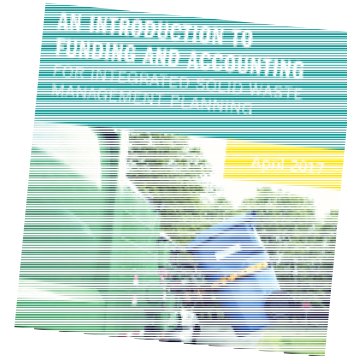
1. Comprehensive Drop-off
2. Dual Stream with Bins, Every Other Week Collection
3. Dual Stream with Bins, Weekly Collection
4. Dual Stream with Carts, Every Other Week Collection
5. Dual Stream with Carts, Weekly Collection
6. Single Stream with Carts, Every Other Week Collection
7. Single Stream with Carts, Weekly Collection



## EPA Region 4 ISWM Toolkit



- ISWM = Integrated Solid Waste Management
- In-depth web training – coming Summer 2018 – attend, promote, host
  - ☐ Funding and Accounting Handbook
  - ☐ Directional Tool - ISWM MODEL



### EPA REGION 4 ISWM MODEL - INPUTS

**INPUTS (You must answer all eleven questions)**

1. Enter community name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Choose your state from this drop down list: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Enter the number of households in your community served by your solid waste program. (Use "Statistics Page" for more information.) \_\_\_\_\_ Please enter a number, not a word.
4. Estimate the level of participation in your recycling program. (Use "Statistics Page" for more information.) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Select your community type. (Use "Statistics Page" for more information.) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Will you be included in single stream recycling? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How "lean" do you think people will recycle in your community? (Use "Statistics Page" for more information.) \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you have your landfill by law? \_\_\_\_\_ If "No" enter your landfill fee per ton here: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you have your recycling program paid for or receive pay back? \_\_\_\_\_ If "No" enter recycling program fee recipient or maximum fee per ton here: \_\_\_\_\_
10. How far is it from your municipality to the "Nearest" Transfer Station, MSW, or other end destination for a direct load by your curbside recycling collection truck? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Do you know the distance to the Materials Recovery Facility you use or would use to process recyclable materials if you built a Transfer Station? \_\_\_\_\_ If "No" enter the fee per ton in the MSW area: \_\_\_\_\_



## Questions and Contact Information



# Thank you!

Contact information:

Laura McMillan

[McMillan.Laura@epa.gov](mailto:McMillan.Laura@epa.gov)

404-562-8584

