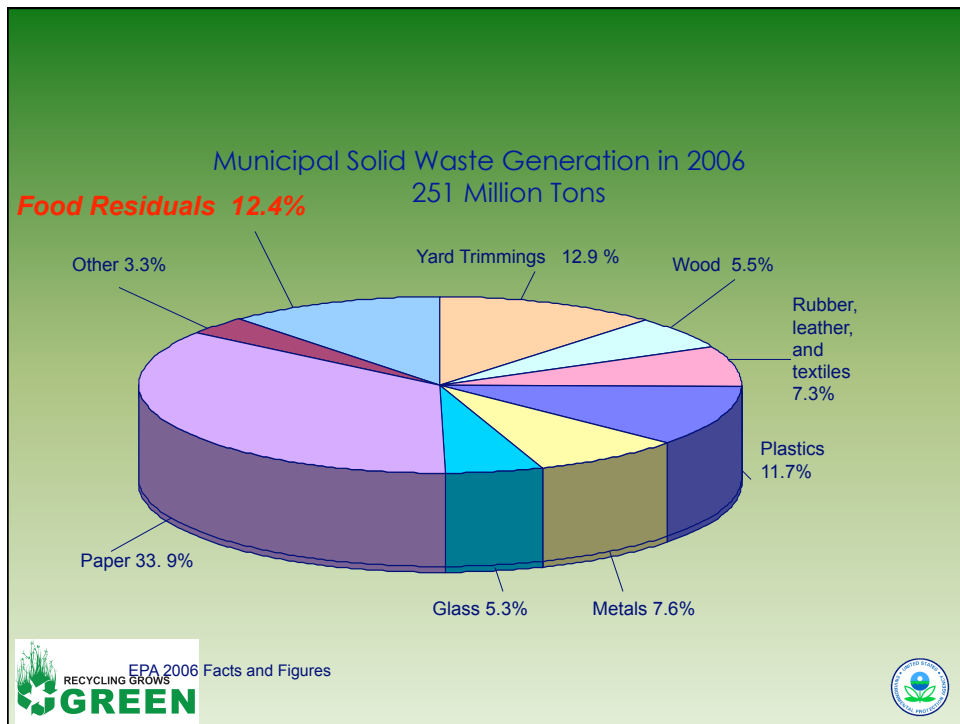




Green Waste Can Be Zero Waste

Mary Beth Van Pelt
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4

RECYCLING GROWS GREEN



EPA Food Waste Strategy



EPA is focused on working in partnership with States, Associations, non-profit organizations, and local governments on major sectors contributing to food waste to develop and implement sustainable food waste diversion options.

Restaurants
Grocery Stores
Universities & Colleges
Hospitals



- Economics:
 - ◆ It Pays to Reduce & Recover Food Scraps

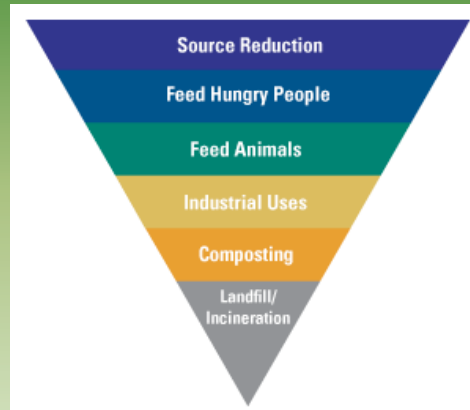
- Environment:
 - ◆ Saving Resources & Reducing Waste

- Social:
 - ◆ Attitudes are changing



Surplus food can be beneficially used in a variety of ways.

The food waste recovery hierarchy prioritizes methods of reducing surplus food.



Food Waste Management Cost Calculator

- <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/organics/food/tools/index.htm>
- Estimates the cost competitiveness of alternatives to food waste disposal, including source reduction, donation, composting, and recycling of spent grease
- Develops an alternative food waste management scenario based on:
 - ◆ Your waste profile;
 - ◆ Availability of diversion methods; and
 - ◆ Preferences, and
- Compares cost estimates for a disposal versus an alternative scenario.



Sustainable Services Partnership

- Group is conducting research on commercial-scale foodservice packaging and composting systems.
- Pilot project in Charlotte, NC



To Recover Food Residuals or Not . . .

Why do it?



OR

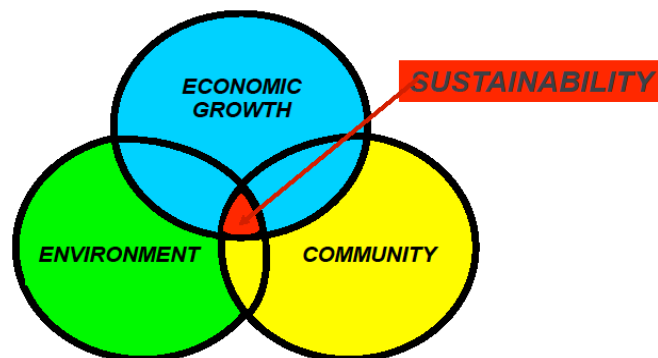


What about Yard Trimmings?

- Provides the necessary carbon feedstock in compost recipes
- Saves landfill space
- Decompose anaerobically in landfills, generating methane gas and acidic leachate



Objective: Sustainable Development



Thank You!

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