



Join EPA's Food Recovery Challenge

And...Take A Bite Out of Food Waste!



Save money, get recognized, and reduce your environmental footprint by joining EPA's **Food Recovery Challenge (FRC)**.

What is the Food Recovery Challenge?

A new EPA initiative under the Sustainable Materials Management Program where participants commit to reducing food waste reaching landfills through prevention, donation, composting and/or anaerobic digestion.

Why Join?

- ✓ **Improve your bottom line** through cost savings from reduced purchasing and waste fees
 - Financially, wasted food costs America more than \$100 billion annually
 - Approximately 30% of all food purchases end up as waste
- ✓ **Support your community** by feeding people, not landfills
 - 50 million Americans (or 14% of American households) were food insecure in 2009
 - Much of the excess food discarded in landfills is safe, wholesome food that can feed people
- ✓ **Reduce your environmental impact** and greenhouse gas emissions
 - Food is the most disposed material in the U.S. with over 33 million tons reaching landfills each year
 - American waste enough food to fill the Rose Bowl stadium every day
 - Food production impacts water quality, soil productivity, and contributes to about 13% of greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ **Get recognized** for your innovative work – Help brand recognition!
 - Formal recognition/Awards – will be awarded to top performers annually at a national level
 - Informal recognition
 - Be featured in webinars, case studies, and on EPA website – facilitate peer learning
- ✓ **Receive technical assistance** to complete baseline assessment and undertake food waste reduction activities
 - ReTRAC - EPA's free waste tracking system (<http://www.epa.gov/osw/partnerships/wastewise/retrac/htm>)
 - Reporting system as well as way to compile and analyze waste management data
 - Generates instant reports on performance and trends, and calculates GHG emission reductions
 - EPA's Food Waste Management Cost Calculator (<http://www.epa.gov/osw/consERVE/materials/organics/food/tools/>)
 - Estimates cost competitiveness of alternatives to food waste disposal
 - Sustainable Food Management Webinar Series
 - Highlights partner success, provides training and success stories on technical issues
 - Clearinghouse of information on food waste reduction and recovery activities on EPA website
 - EPA is in the progress of creating more tools to help producers of food waste reduce food reaching landfills. Feedback from partners appreciated.

Who Can Join? Levels of Participation...

Participant: Any entity that generates food waste.

- National focus on universities/colleges, sports venues, and grocers.

Endorser: An entity that helps recruit participants, such as a states/local governments, food rescue organizations, and industry trade organizations.

How to Join?

Note: Assistance in signing up and reporting is available from EPA staff or ReTRAC contractors.

1. **Sign Up** in WasteWise (<http://www.epa.gov/osw/partnerships/wastewise/join.htm>)
 - Once you are a WasteWise partner, you can join the *Food Recovery Challenge* by signing into WasteWise [Re-TRAC](#), clicking on “Organization Information”, and selecting the “Food Recovery Challenge” checkbox
2. **Assess It!** Enter your baseline food waste data into ReTRAC within 90 days of joining
3. **Commit to It!** Set a three year goal for reducing the amount of food waste reaching landfills
 - **Year One:** At least a 5% increase in at least one of the three food diversion categories (prevention, donation, and composting)
 - **Years Two and Three:** Site-specific numerical targets based on opportunities at your facility
4. **Do It!** Undertake food recovery activities to meet your goals and reduce food reaching landfills
5. **Track It!** Report progress annually using EPA’s waste tracking system, ReTRAC

Sector-Specific Information

Grocers

Partial List of Grocers in Food Recovery Challenge:

Big Y Foods	Harris Teeter	Wakefern
Boston Organics	New Seasons	Whole Foods (Northeast and South Regions)
Hannaford Bros.	Supervalu	

Other Program(s) for Grocers:

GreenChill – Advanced Refrigeration Partnership (<http://www.epa.gov/greenchill/>)

- Goal to reduce refrigerant emissions and decrease impact on ozone layer and climate change

Universities/Colleges

Partial List of Universities/Colleges in Food Recovery Challenge:

UC Merced (R9)

Harvard	Rutgers University	University of Missouri- Kansas City
Middlebury College	St. John’s University	Colorado State University
MIT	Marshall University	

Other Program(s) for Universities/Colleges:

RecycleMania (<http://recyclemaniacs.org/>)

- Goal is to promote waste reduction activities at universities and colleges
- Schools compete against each other

GameDay Challenge (<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/wastewise/challenge/gameday/index.htm>)

- Goal is promote waste reduction at collegiate football games thru EPA’s WasteWise Program

Venues

Partial List of Venues in Food Recovery Challenge:

San Diego Padres (R9)	Warner Bros. Entertainment (R9)	Georgia World Congress Center
MGM Resorts (R9)	Seattle Mariners	Atlanta Braves
Chumash Casino (R9)	Minnesota Twins	Philadelphia Eagles

Other Program(s) for Venues

Green Sports Alliance (<http://greensportsalliance.org/>)

- Non-profit to help sports teams, venues, and leagues enhance their environmental performance
- Green Sports Alliance is helping promote the Food Recovery Challenge
- EPA was a founding partner of the Green Sports Alliance

Questions?

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Visit <http://www.epa.gov/foodrecoverychallenge>