

**Charlevoix County
Materials Management Planning Committee Minutes
October 23, 2025 at 10:00 AM
Charlevoix County Shirley Roloff Center
13513 Division Street Charlevoix, MI 49720**

MMPC Member Attendance			
<i>Victor VanDeventer rep. of a solid waste disposal facility</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Annemarie Conway elected official of the county</i>	<i>P</i>
<i>Kirk Miller rep. of a hauler</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>Robin Hissong-Berry elected official of a township</i>	<i>P</i>
<i>Andre Grobaski rep. of a materials recovery facility (MRF)</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>Tim Nemecek elected official of a city or village</i>	<i>P</i>
<i>Vacancy rep. of a composting facility</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Jonathon Scheel business rep. generating material</i>	<i>E</i>
<i>Mark Bevelhymer rep. of waste diversion, reuse, or reduction</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>Isha Pithwa rep. of the regional planning area</i>	<i>P</i>
<i>Kyra Allen rep. of an environmental interest group</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Josh Chamberlain additional member per part 115</i>	<i>P</i>
		<i>Attendance Key:</i>	<i>P – Present</i>
		<i>A – Absent</i>	<i>E - Excused Absence</i>
Staff in Attendance: Kiersten Stark (Charlevoix County), Josh Cline (Charlevoix County), Mathew Cooke (DPA-Networks Northwest)			

I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Tim Nemecek, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m with the Pledge of Allegiance recited.

II. Public Comment

None.

Motion by Tim Nemecek, supported by Victor VanDeventer to excuse Kirk Miller, Mark Bevelhymer, Andre Grobaski, and Jonathon Scheel from the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Review Proposed Agenda

Motion by Tim Nemecek, supported by Josh Chamberlain, to approve the October 23, 2025 MMPC agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Tim Nemecek, supported by Victor VanDeventer, to approve the September 25, 2025 MMPC Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Good Waste Presentation

Aubree Carlise, Food Waste Specialist from EGLE presented on food waste to the committee (see attached presentation). Discussion generated from the presentation included:

- Increase education overall - food waste, how, why, benefits
 - QR code, digital document, can be print
- Residential, business compost education
- Misfits... collect grade b/c produce
- Food waste collection points for pigs/farm use
- Municipality run anaerobic digester
- Get School food waste resources to schools
 - Free school lunch increases vs. how much is disposed of.
- Food donation guide for businesses
- Hold a meeting with schools on food waste
- EJ school material collection - learn about program
- GT Band fish waste collection
- Deer processing compost
- Seasonal opportunities
- Restrictions that are nonsensical (crop dumping vs donating)
- Review models of food compost programs
- Library programs for composting

VI. Materials Management Planning

a. Process Update

Mathew Cooke provided an update on the MMP process:

- 445 REsident responses in Charlevoix County
- Hayes Township sending survey flyer in winter taxes

- Municipal data collection completion
- Business and LUG survey collection continues, identify non-responding units
- Filling compost vacancy on MMPC
- Review of County Resident Survey Analysis at next meeting

b. MMP Discussion

The MMPC members went through some question and answer prompts using polling software.

1. Is there anything you would like to learn about, relating to materials management, that would assist in the planning process?
 - Upcycler programs nearby School programs
 - Remove models of food compost programs like Emmet County. Tour their facility, learn more about partnerships with farmers and schools.
 - School food waste tracking
 - More info on potential cost of composting facilities.
 - More about composting
 - Farm to table programs
 - Public, food service, farm ed materials
 - Education materials
 - Programs for helping elderly residents with recycling/composting
2. What is one word that describes Charlevoix County materials management?
 - educating
 - ground breaking
 - impactful
 - logical
 - necessary
 - pricey
 - thought provoking
3. What is the largest opportunity for materials management in Charlevoix County?
 - Residential

- Food waste reduction- supported by metrics
 - Learning from best practices
 - Working together to solve our issues
 - Include a new R - Repurpose
 - Schools
 - Farm to table
 - Increased accessibility for recycling and composting
 - Communication
 - Build communication with each other (municipalities)
4. What residential recycling goals do you have for Charlevoix County?
- Better education
 - Increased education and outreach
 - Education that leads to community driven change that's trackable through metrics
 - Teach people how to compost from home.
 - Informing all regarding the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan bill and Blueprint
 - Education campaigns
 - Upcycling opportunities
 - Increasing at home composting
 - Include a new R - Repurpose
 - Increased accessibility for downtown businesses to recycle.
 - Communication about how successful the programs are and how much more successful they could be
5. What commercial recycling goals do you have for Charlevoix County?
- Access
 - Access and education
 - Look for organisations and businesses who potentially might help with these.
 - Better access
 - Collaboration relationships with construction contractors. Up cycle big opportunity
 - Education on handling electronic waste.
 - Make it easy for them to recycle

- Multi-family - ways to increase recycling access
 - Number one category is C and D
 - Upcycling from C and D
 - People don't realize they can resell C and D stuff
6. What food waste/organics goals do you for Charlevoix County?
- Better composting
 - Bringing composting into more homes
 - Get the community involved with composting and how can they help each other.
 - Get more schools and other facilities involved.
 - School food waste- goal every school in the county enrolls in MI green schools. Measurable metric, weight of food waste tracked. Know funding has increased by 80%+
 - Look into programs like too Good to Go" where individuals can buy discounted food items from restaurants at the end of the day instead of the items being thrown away.
 - Outlining trackable metrics on Goals and Objectives work sheet
 - Boyne Mountain Falls/USA - Model of food waste collection.
7. Outside of Public Outreach and Education, which of the following topics should be the highest priority for materials management initiatives?
- Increasing recycling/diversion rates - 3
 - Contamination reduction - 2
 - Installing organics collection - 1
 - Expanding drop-site access - 0
8. Outside of funding, what is the biggest barrier to increased recycling participation?
- Education
 - Unwilling participants
 - Available resources
 - Accessibility
 - Education- when people know better, they are driven to do better...
 - Education!

VII. Committee Member Comments

None.

VIII. Public Comment

None.

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Tim Nemecek, supported by Victor VanDeventer, to adjourn the October 23, 2025 meeting at 12:29 pm.

Thursday, October 23, 2025

To: Charlevoix County MMPC
Fr: Mathew Cooke, Community Planner
Re: MMP Update

MMP Process Update

We continue to seek out survey responses for the County Resident Survey and Business Survey with Charlevoix County having 445 responses to the County Resident Survey. Hayes Township will be letting us include the MMP Flyer in their winter tax bills, and others have been asked about other avenues to spread the survey. We have also posted in many “Overheard in...” social media groups and an MMP article will be released for World Recycling Day (November 15). On November 8th, we are planning to visit recycling drop-off sites to distribute survey cards. Business and economic development organizations, including schools, have been contacted for the business survey and a press release was sent out to news organizations. The non-responding local units of government have been emailed, with a letter prepared for a further follow up.

We intend to wrap up municipal data collection by the end of this month, with the data being analyzed to further consider the County recycling and diversion rates. The detailed facilities inventory will also be completed with that being sent for your review and comments. Lastly, the vacancy for the composting representative should be filled in the next month.

MMP Next Steps

At the November meeting, we will have a first review of an analysis of the County Resident Survey responses received so far. Please recall an updated analysis will be done in January following the close of the survey. We aim to have the Local Units of Government Survey and Business Survey analysis for December’s meeting. As we review these results, we should also begin discussing the goals and objectives of the plan. Attached you will find a Goals and Objectives Worksheet. Please take note that these are observations from prior meetings and are meant for us to revise and edit. I would expect there to be much configuration of these as we move forward.



Lastly, as part of the meeting today, we will use polling software which will utilize your phone or computer. Any answers given are anonymous, and we hope everyone will answer at least once per question, but more are encouraged. Please scan the QR Code below to access or go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and enter: 11010925



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Food Waste Reduction in Materials Management Planning

Charlevoix MMPC meeting

October 23, 2025

Aubree Carlisle

Recycling Unit, Materials Management Division

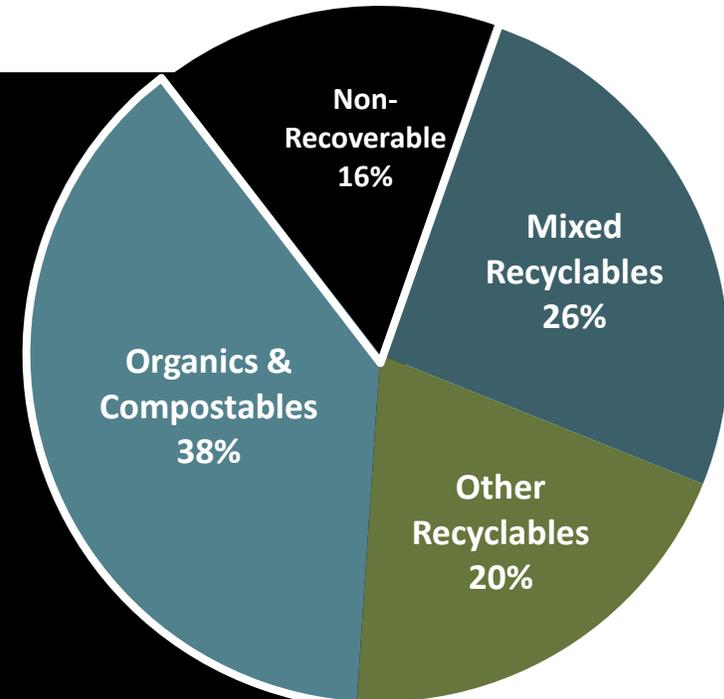
CarlisleA3@michigan.gov

Michigan Municipal Solid Waste Composition

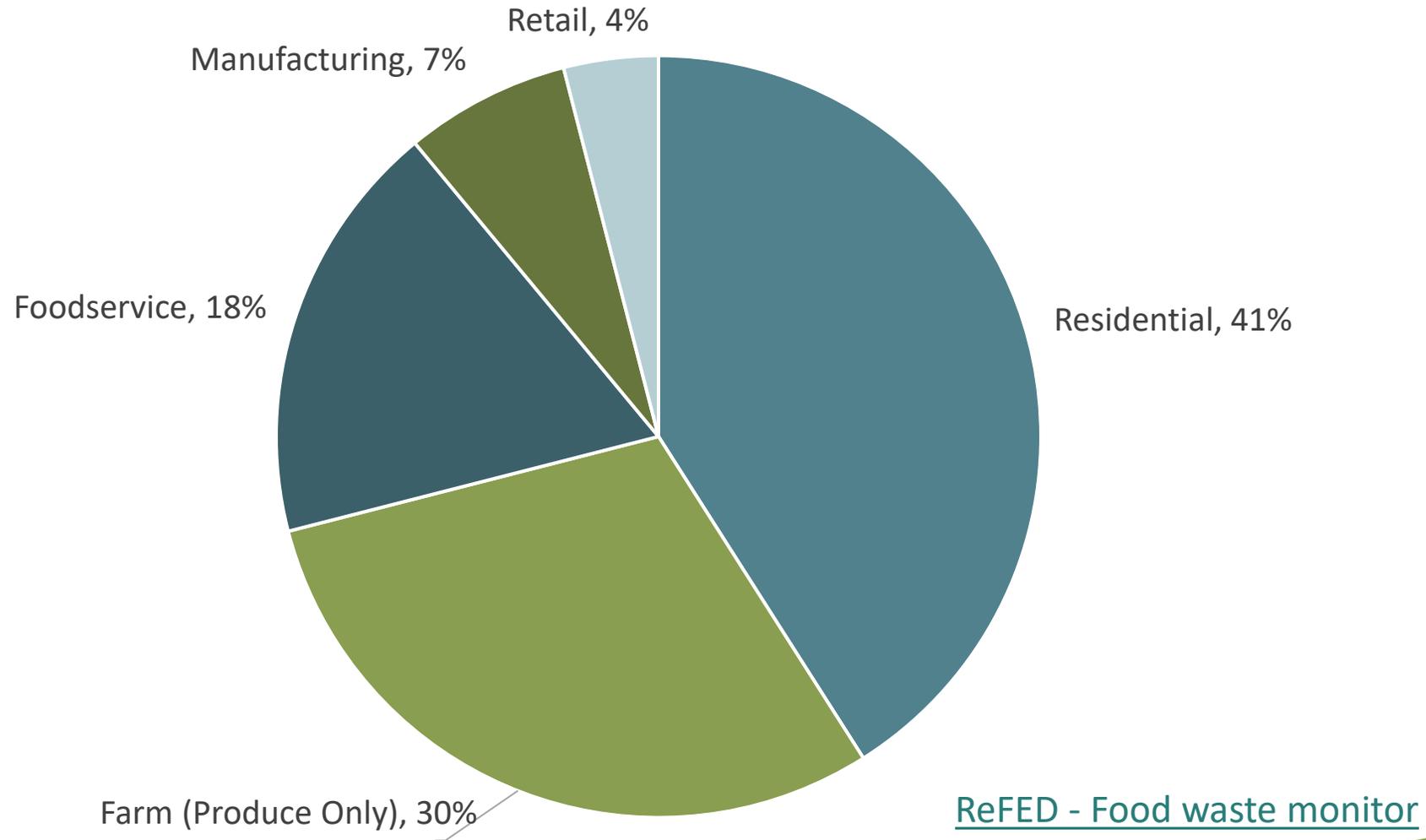
MIXED RECYCLABLES - paper, glass and plastic bottles and jars, plastic tubs and containers, and metal cans

OTHER RECYCLABLES - textiles, appliances, scrap metal, electronics, bulky plastics, and plastics films

ORGANICS & COMPOSTABLES - yard and food waste as well as compostable paper and compostable food service packaging



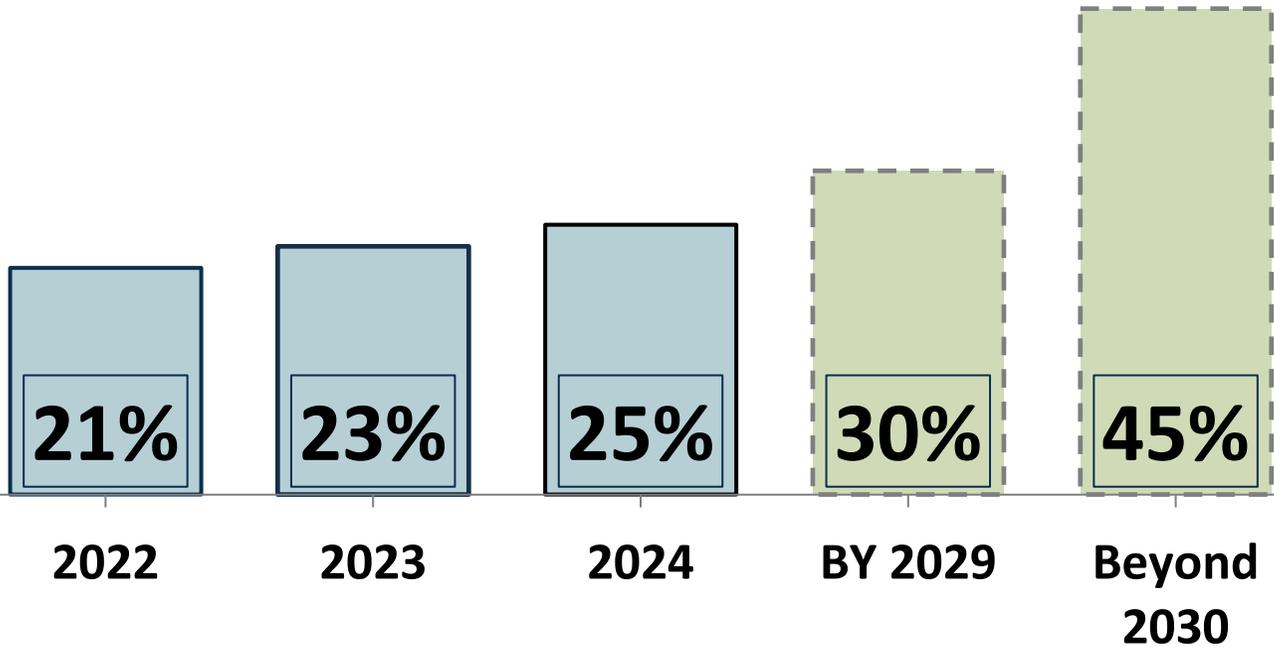
2023 Percentage of Food Waste by Sector in Michigan - ReFED



[ReFED - Food waste monitor](#)

STATE OF MICHIGAN GOALS

Recycling Rate



Food Waste Reduction

50% total reduction
of food loss and waste

Based on a 2021 baseline

MI Food Waste Reduction Goals



EGLE's MI Healthy Climate Plan Food Loss & Waste Reduction Goal

Drive clean innovation in industry: Cut food waste in half by 2030



USDA, EPA, and FDA: Federal Interagency Collaboration to Reduce Food Loss & Waste

Joint initiative to reduce the amount of food leaving the human food supply chain by 50 percent by 2030



United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12.3

By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

Impacts of Food Waste

- ◆ Financial
- ◆ Social
- ◆ Environmental

Environmental Impacts of U.S. Food Waste: EPA

What resources go into a year of food loss and waste in the U.S.?

*excluding impacts of waste management, such as landfill methane emissions



Greenhouse gas emissions of more than 42 coal-fired power plants

Enough water and energy to supply more than 50 million homes



The **amount of fertilizer** used in the U.S. to grow all plant-based foods for U.S. human consumption

An **area of agricultural land** equal to California and New York



Learn more: www.epa.gov/land-research/farm-kitchen-environmental-impacts-us-food-waste

~30 -40%
of food
produced is
never eaten

Food Waste in Landfills

Municipal solid waste landfills are the third-largest source of methane emissions from human activities in the United States. (EPA)



Why Divert Food Waste?

Methane accounts for 11% of global emissions and traps more heat in the atmosphere than CO₂.

Methane & biogas capture systems are not the most efficient solutions for capturing harmful emissions generated by food waste in an anaerobic environment.

Landfilling food waste does not promote a circular economy

Food waste diversion increases the life of landfills and impacts our land, water, air, & communities.

Economic opportunities: Sustainability and economic viability can go hand in hand.



Materials Management Planning – Setting Food Waste Goals

County and CVT Food Waste Reduction Template

1. Understand the Food Waste Landscape

- Identify gaps & existing efforts

2. Program Support & New Program Development

- Food waste by sector (school, commercial, residential, etc.)
- Food rescue/donation and upcycling initiatives
- Food scrap processing, collection, & accessibility
- Provide support for municipalities, business, and non-profits

3. Community Engagement

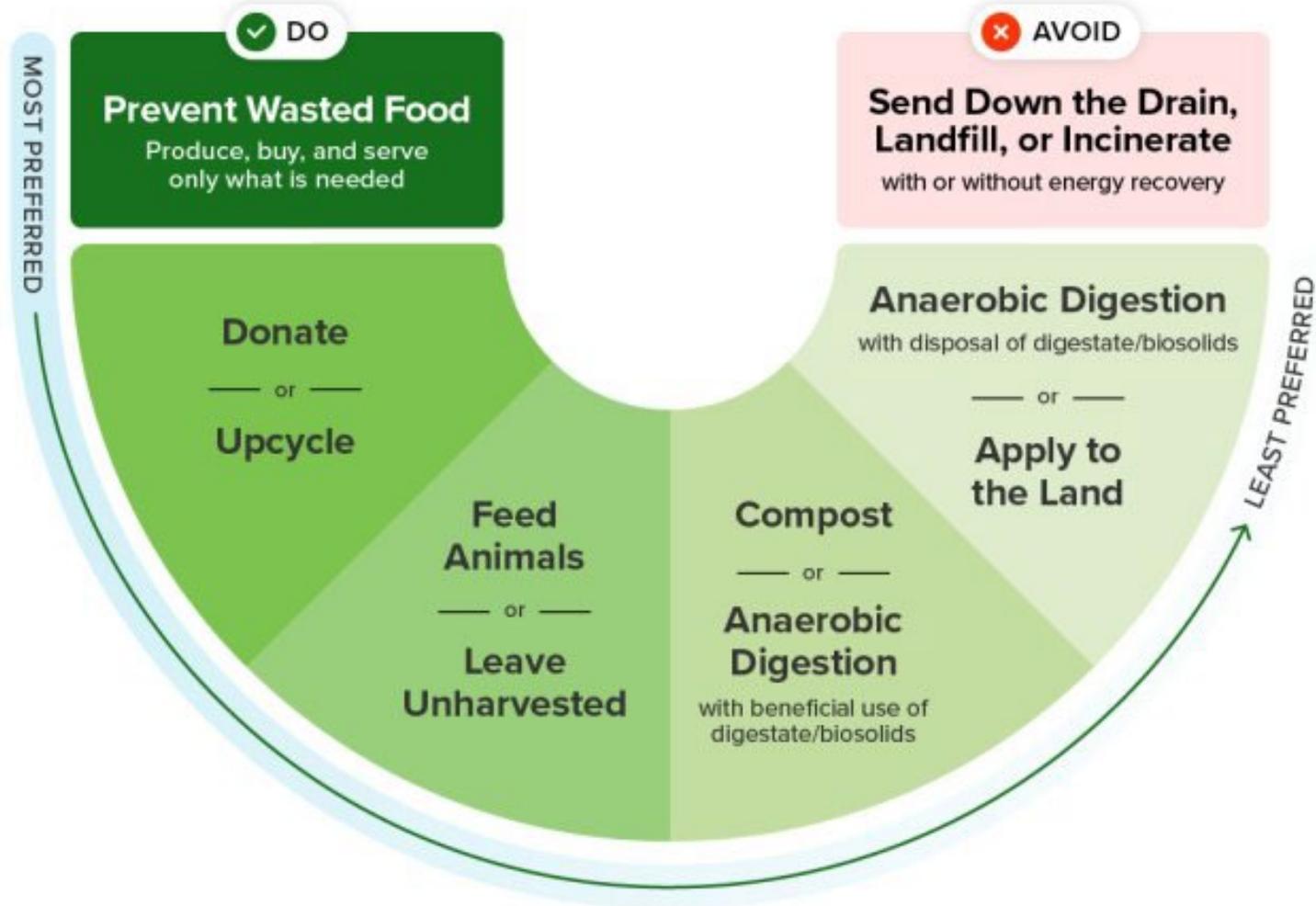
- Food waste education & awareness efforts
- Lead by example at the county level
- Receive community feedback





Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



Prevent Food Waste

- **Public Education Campaigns:** Promote smart shopping, storage, and leftovers use
 - [EPA Food Too Good to Waste Campaign](#)
 - [NRDC Save The Food Campaign](#)
- **Support waste audits** for schools, residents, etc.
- **Support Local Businesses:** Offer toolkits and incentives for waste prevention
- **Engage Community Partners**

Of the food waste we throw away...



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, 2019

Donate – or – Upcycle

- Food Rescue/Donation
 - Food Banks, Food Pantries, Soup Kitchens
 - Larger Food Rescue organizations serving Charlevoix County
 - [Manna Food Project](#)
 - [Goodwill Northwest Food Rescue](#)
 - [Feeding America West Michigan](#)
 - [The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act](#)
 - [Good Samaritan Act FAQs](#)
- Low cost or wholesale avenues
- Upcycling



Feed Animals – or – Leave Unharvested



- Many foods can be fed to chickens, turkeys, pigs, and cattle
 - Grains and Vegetables
- Must be recovered and handled properly
 - [Harvard Legal Fact Sheet - Michigan Food Donation: Food Scraps for Animals](#)
- Fed directly or reprocessed first
- Puts food materials back into the food chain

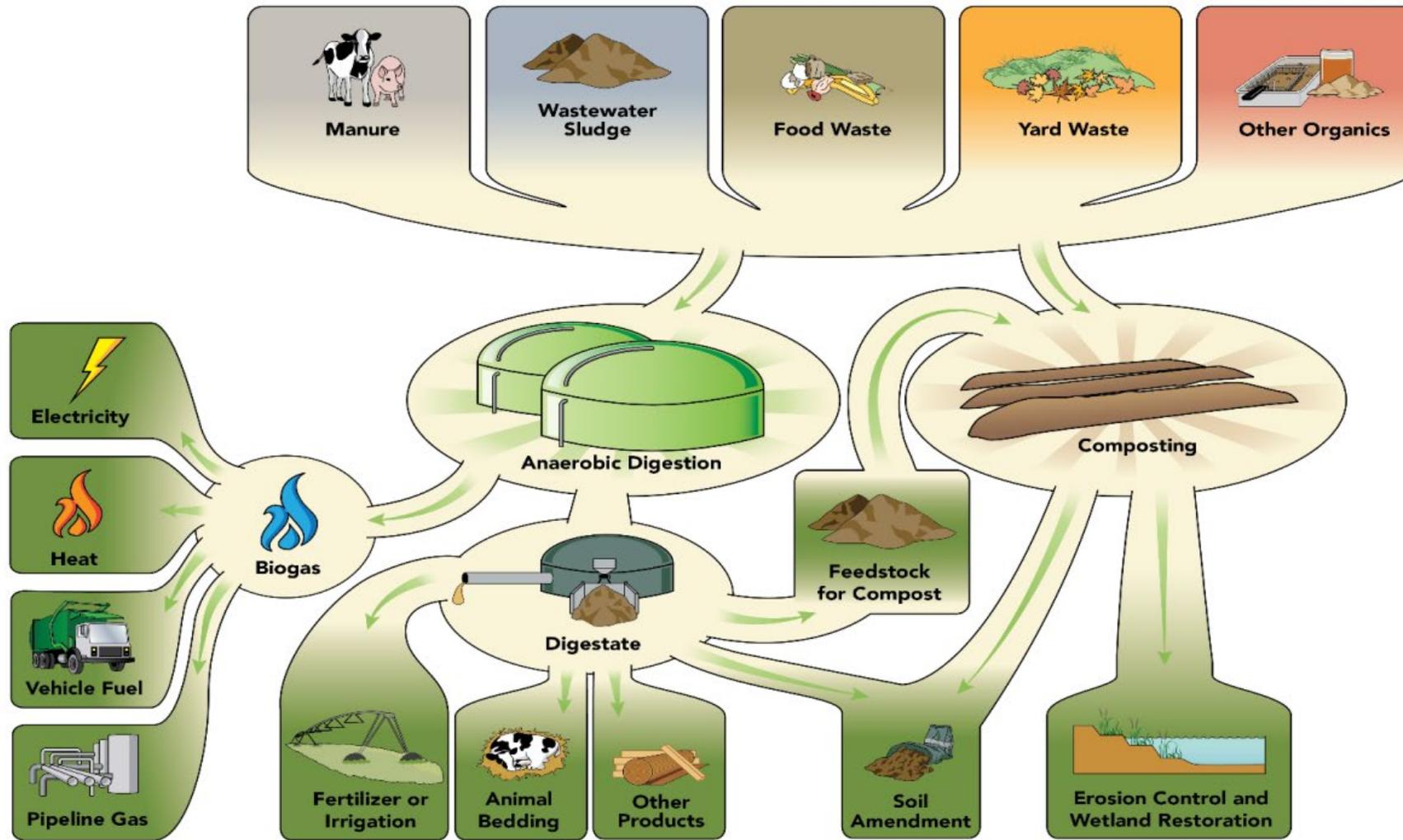


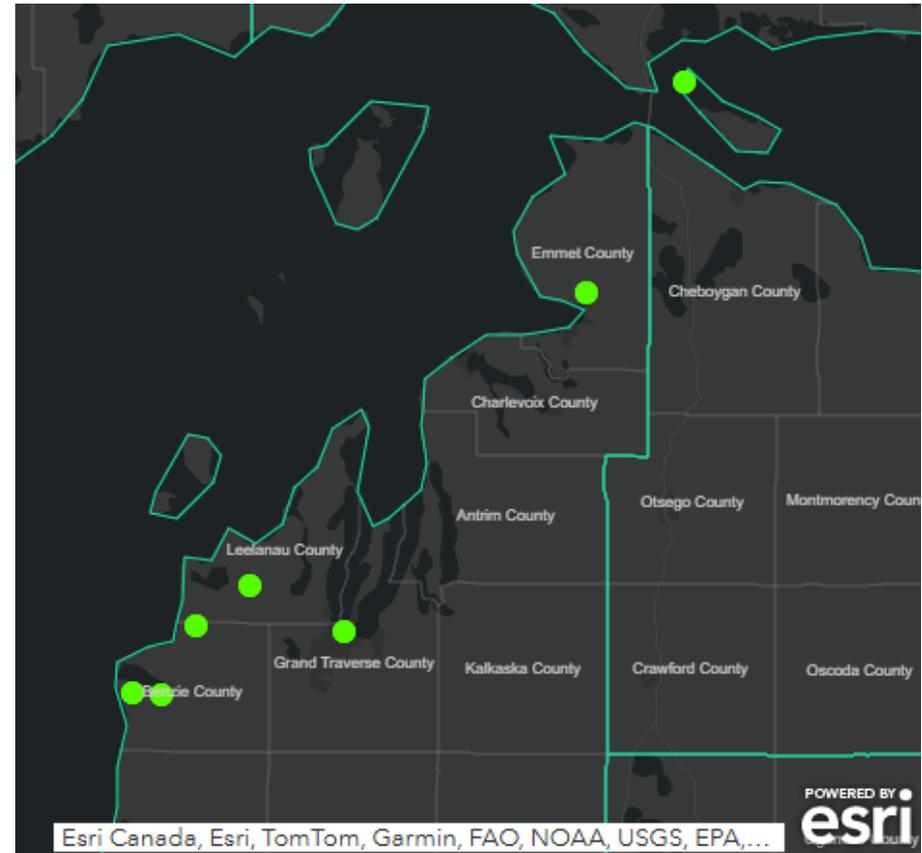
Figure 4-1. Byproducts and Beneficial Uses of Diverted Organic Waste.

Compost Facilities

Accepts yard waste



Accepts food waste



- [Organics Map — NEXTCYCLE MICHIGAN](#)
- [EGLE Michigan MaterialsManagement Facilities map](#)

Pre-processing Technology



POWER KNOT LFC-70 BIODIGESTER,
FUJITSU CAMPUS CAFETERIA, SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA

- Grinders
- Biodigesters
- Pulpers
- Dehydrators
- Aerobic In-Vessel Units

Pros:

- ✓ Reduces volume & weight
- ✓ Reduces odors
- ✓ Enables diversion of food from landfills and can produce a usable by-product.
- ✓ On-site processing can reduce transportation emissions



DT-ENVIRONMENTAL ENVIRODRUM AEROBIC IN-VESSEL UNIT

Cons:

- High upfront costs
- Requires source separation, depackaging, & staff training
- Not all outputs are usable by-products
- Some systems discharge to sewer and have other environmental impacts
- Some systems require other inputs
- Maintenance and operational oversight required

Stakeholder Engagement & Resources

- [NextCycle](#)
- [EGLE Food Waste & Recycling Technical Assistance](#)
- [Grant Funding](#)
- [EGLE Food Waste Website](#)
- [MI 2030 Food Waste Coalition](#)
 - [MI Food Rescue Network](#)
- [Michigan Sustainability Conference \(MISCON\)](#)
- [Catalyst Communities](#)
- [MDHHS SDOH & Food Donation Initiatives](#)
- [Michigan Agricultural Surplus Systems \(MASS\) Funding](#)
- [MDARD Food Donation Guide for Businesses](#)
- [Michigan Green Communities & Michigan Green Schools](#)
- [MDE School Food Waste Resources](#)



APPLY NOW

ORGANICS SOLUTIONS COHORT

Seeking projects focused on organic waste streams - reduction/recovery of materials, composting and anaerobic digestion systems, and expanding organic material end markets.

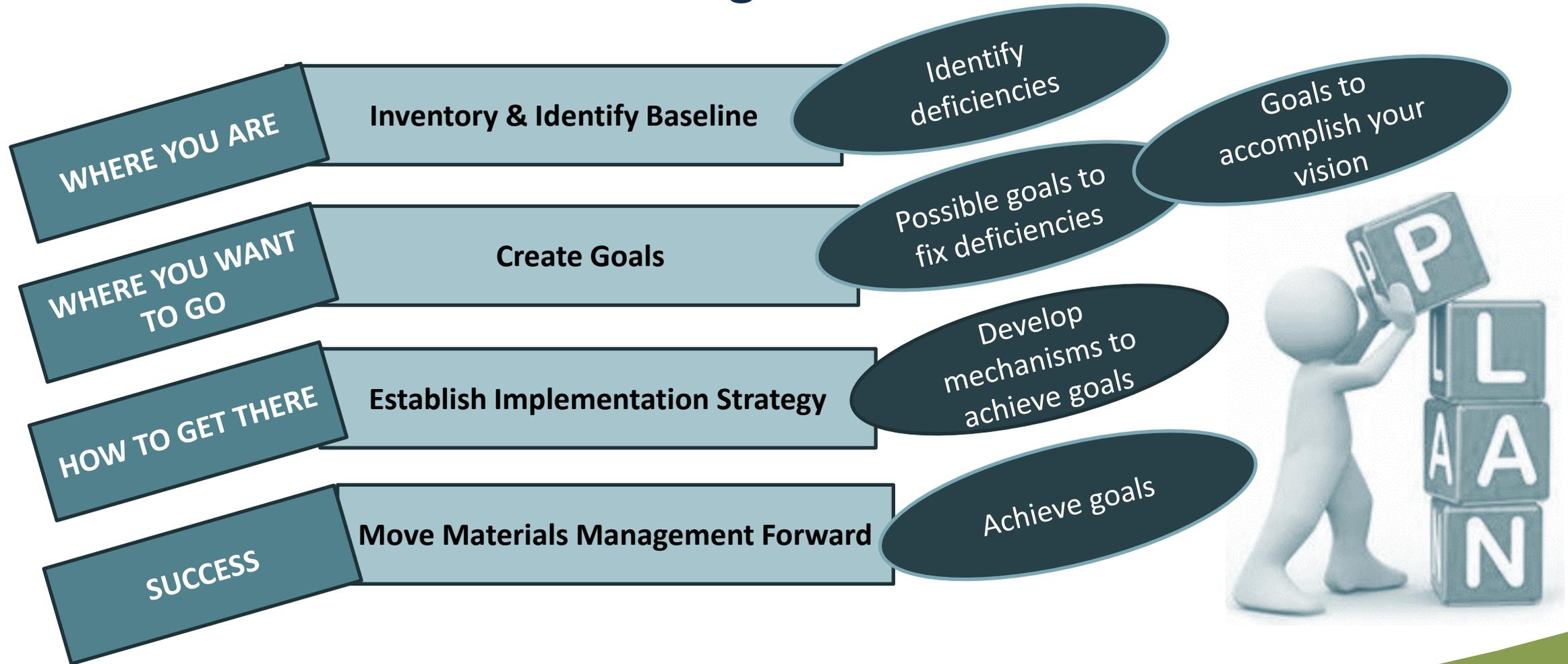
DEADLINE: OCT 29

 NEXTCYCLE MICHIGAN

EGLE Funded Grant Projects



Materials Management Planning Goal Setting Overview



MMP Format: Materials Management Goals

Implementation Strategy:

Goal 1

- Description:
- Resources Needed:
- Education and Outreach Programs:
- Implementation Timetable:

+ *Responsible Party:*

+ *Action Steps:*

Example

GOALS
INDICATE
DIRECTION



Increase School Recycling

OBJECTIVES
SHOW
PROGRESS



- Increase awareness of the WHY
 - ✓ Met with school administration
 - ✓ Held school assembly(ies)



- Determine starting point & progress
 - ✓ Surveyed materials needing managed
 - ✓ Surveyed progress at 6 months & 1 year



- Design a best program for the school
 - ✓ Created GreenTeam
 - ✓ Determined types of materials, space needed, education
 - ✓ Add to School District solid waste/recycling contract

Outlining Trackable Metrics

- **Set short term and long-term targets that focus on:**
 - Food waste reduction at the source
 - Increasing food rescue/food donation
 - Increasing food scrap recycling
- **Develop a plan for ongoing assessment of progress toward goals.**
- [Measure results](#)

Example target metric areas:

- Residential
- Commercial
- County
- Waste Diversion Rate
- Tonnage of Food Waste Collected
- Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions
- Cost Savings
- Food Rescue metrics
- Composting Outputs



Setting Food Waste Goals

County and CVT Food Waste Reduction Template

1. Understand the Food Waste Landscape

- Identify gaps & existing efforts

2. Program Support & New Program Development

- Support efforts focused by sector (school, commercial, residential, etc.)
- Increase food scrap collection and processing infrastructure & access (composting/processing capacity, hauling services, etc.)
 - Expand yard waste facilities to include food waste
- Support food rescue/donation and upcycling initiatives
- Connect with and support local and regional solutions including municipalities, business, non-profits, etc.

3. Community Engagement

- Build public awareness and education on food waste reduction & diversion
- Understand community needs & interest
- Lead by example at the county level
- Ensure food waste services are accessible to all communities





Example Goal Area: Establish and Expand Food Waste Processing Capacity

- Initiate and encourage the development of food scrap recycling sites, digesters or other food waste reduction sites
- Explore yard waste expansion to include food waste
- Develop food scrap recycling drop off programs for communities over *(example)* 5,000 residents
- Develop food scrap recycling curbside programs for communities that have demonstrated interest
- Pilot and scale composting programs

Example Goal Area: School Food Waste

- Encourage schools to commit to reducing food waste and provide guidance for schools to:
 - Donate food or use share tables
 - Track food waste through cafeteria waste audits and kitchen food waste logs
 - Implement food scrap collection in the cafeteria and kitchen
 - Incorporate changes to reduce food waste through menu planning and procurement, Breakfast in the Classroom, or rescheduling lunch
 - Incorporate food waste education into curriculum
 - Participate in Michigan Green Schools.



Example Goal Area: Residential Food Waste

- Food Scrap Drop off sites
- Curbside pickup
- Backyard & community composting
- Food Waste reduction
Education/Outreach programs



**LIME GREEN BINS
READY FOR YOUR
FOOD SCRAPS!**

Collect your food scraps
at home then drop
them in one of the 10
conveniently located
bins around the city.



portagemi.gov/933

Example Goal Area: Awareness & Education

- Build public awareness and education on food waste
 - Public education campaigns, social media, workshops, composting courses, community feedback
- Support municipalities, businesses & nonprofits education & outreach efforts
- Include food waste and local food donation information available on county websites.





MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

THANK YOU!

Aubree Carlisle – Food Waste Specialist
CarlisleA3@michigan.gov

More Resources for School Food Waste

- MI Dept of Ed [Solutions to Reduce Food Waste in Schools](#)
- [EGLE Classroom](#)
- [Michigan Green Schools](#)
- MDE Share Table [Food Service Admin Memo](#)
- EGLE [School Resources](#) for compost
- MDE Production Record Template
- MDE Offer Versus Serve Online Training Module
- MDHHS Food Donation webpage
- Requirements for Advisory Boards and Student/Parent Input in School Nutrition Programs for FSMCs Memo

- National Resources
- [NRDC: Wasting Less Food in K-12 Settings](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund: Fighting Food Waste in Schools](#)
- USDA: [Schools | Home](#)
- EPA: [Food Tips for K-12 Schools](#)

More Resources for Residential Food Waste

- [FoodKeeper App | FoodSafety.gov](#)
- [NRDC Save The Food Campaign](#)
- [EGLE Food Waste and Recovery](#)
- [AMAZING WASTE Cookbook - 50 recipes to use food scraps, repurpose leftovers, and reduce food waste](#)
- [Love your leftovers | Love Food Hate Waste](#)
- [Eat or Toss? Is it OK to eat?](#)
- [We Don't Waste At-Home Food Waste Audit](#)
- [What is Community Composting? \(Video\)](#)
- [MDHHS SDOH Food Donation page](#)

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