

Food Waste Reduction

Master Planning Summary Fact Sheet

S A I N T P A U L – R A M S E Y C O U N T Y P U B L I C H E A L T H

Facts

- 40% of food in the United States goes to waste (Natural Resources Defense Council).
- Food waste is the most prevalent material in both residential and commercial waste at 20% and 22.4% respectively (Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Board, 2014).
- Organic material (e.g., food and non-recyclable paper) comprises 40% of Minnesotan's waste (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 2013).
- Decomposing food in landfills releases methane, a major greenhouse gas.
- Hunger is an issue for many Americans.
 - In Ramsey County, the food insecurity rate is 13.5%.
 - Food insecurity: "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods" (USDA).

Food is wasted at every step from farm to table.

This includes steps, such as:

- Farming
- Processing
- Transportation
- Retail handling
- Inadequate storage and planning by consumers
- Uneaten and thrown away food at home and restaurants.

What is being done to reduce food waste?

National Goal

The USDA and EPA have established the Food Loss Waste Reduction Goal to cut food loss and waste by 50%.

- **2010 baseline** = 218.9 pounds of food waste per person per year.
- **2030 goal** = 109.4 pounds of food waste per person per year.

National Legislation

Two pieces of legislation to address food waste have been introduced.

- The **Food Recovery Act** takes comprehensive steps to reduce food waste at farms, stores, institutions and homes (H.R.4184).
- The **Food Date Labeling Act** aims to make food date labels more consistent and less confusing (H.R.5298 and S.2947).

Facts on Food Waste

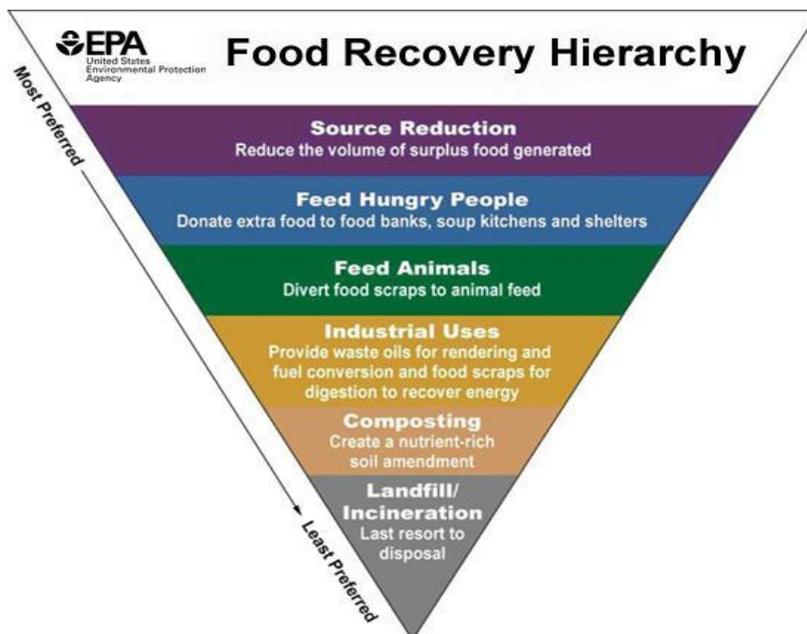
What is happening in Ramsey County?

The county supports food to people, food to livestock, organics recycling and consumer education by:

- Contracting with Second Harvest Heartland to collect produce, dairy, deli, meat, bakery and grocery items, which prevents food waste.
 - The food is distributed to food shelves, soup kitchens and shelters.
 - These efforts fed over 532,000 people in 2016.
- Partnering with public schools to implement the Food-to-Hogs program.
 - Students separate their food waste, which is later fed to pigs.
 - 30,000 tons of food waste is feed to pigs annually.
- Providing funding to businesses to start and expand organic waste recycling programs via the Recycling & Energy Board's BizRecycling program.
 - 117 businesses in Ramsey County were awarded grants in 2016.
- Supporting 7 organic waste collection sites.
 - 551,990 pounds of organics was collected at the 7 sites in 2016.
 - Up to six new satellite sites may be opening in 2017.
- Participating in the Ad Council / Natural Resources Defense Council's Save the Food campaign.
 - Ads will be placed in the Metro transit system, billboards and other channels.
 - Information will be distributed in 2000 organics kits handed out at yard waste sites.

The Food Recovery Hierarchy

The Food Recovery Hierarchy shows strategies from the most preferred to the least preferred methods for dealing with food waste.



Get involved:

- SaveTheFood.com
- RamseyRecycles.com/masterplan
- Share your ideas on Facebook at Ramsey County Minnesota, #rc rethinkstrash