

# Illinois Counties Solid Waste Management Association (ILCSWMA)

November 2, 2018



## Educator Roundtable

Illinois K-12 School Food Waste Reduction Toolkit  
Municipal



Seven  
Generations  
Ahead

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Seven Generations Ahead  
Illinois Food Scrap Coalition

Illinois Wasted Food Solutions Task Force



## Food:Land:Opportunity

Localizing the Chicago Foodshed



### Project Name:

Building Illinois' Local Food Shed Through  
Advancing Food Scrap Composting



### Funder:

Funded through the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust, Food:Land:Opportunity is a collaboration between Kinship Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust.



### Partners:

Illinois Food Scrap Coalition, Illinois Environmental Council, Illinois Wasted Food Solutions Task Force



# Wasted Food Solutions Task Force

## Mission and Vision

To develop a working strategy and action platform that makes Illinois a leader in reducing wasted food by connecting and building on current wasted food initiatives, education, and policy in unified ways that holistically promote source reduction; food recovery for hunger relief and other uses; and recovery of food scraps for composting and creating healthy soil.

### **MEMBERS**

The Task Force includes Illinois schools, institutions, organizations and government agencies working together to share knowledge and resources around food waste reduction and composting.

# Wasted Food Solutions Task Force

## Our Values

**Collaboration:** We build strong connections and engagement among rural and urban stakeholders in the Illinois food system, including support for the Illinois agriculture community.

**Education:** We strive to develop replicable and scalable models that educate statewide stakeholders on best practices for reducing food waste.

**Good Stewardship and Sustainability:** We value the links between reducing food waste and increasing healthy agricultural practices that are good for the soil, farmers, and food.

**Equity:** We value a community that is not only inclusive and respectful, but also strives to create economic opportunities for underserved populations and communities.

# Working Committees

1. **SCHOOL TOOLKIT:** A group has been convened to develop a statewide toolkit for schools with information on reducing food waste, recovering and donating food and composting. This group includes collaboration across a number of different silos, including food service, schools, food pantries
2. **FOOD WASTE REDUCTION PILOT:** Seven Generations Ahead (SGA) has continued to partner with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to conduct a series strategic meetings and food waste audits to identify opportunities for reducing food waste and recovering food to be donated to local partners.
3. **ASSET MAPPING:** project working to identify assets in Illinois related to food waste reduction, food recovery and donation and food scrap composting. The group is looking for opportunities for mapping these assets to encourage collaboration across silos.
4. **TECHNOLOGY:** committee identifying technology solutions to connect food donors to transportation to food bank/pantry to donor agencies.
5. **POLICY:** committee addressing policy related to food waste reduction, food recovery and donation and food scrap composting.

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# How Can Schools Make a Difference?

K-12 schools have a special role in not only **reducing**, recovering/**donating**, and recycling/**composting** food waste on their premises, but also in **educating** the next generation about recovering wholesome excess food for donation and about reducing food waste to conserve natural resources.

Schools can set an example for their communities and save money through reductions in labor and food costs.



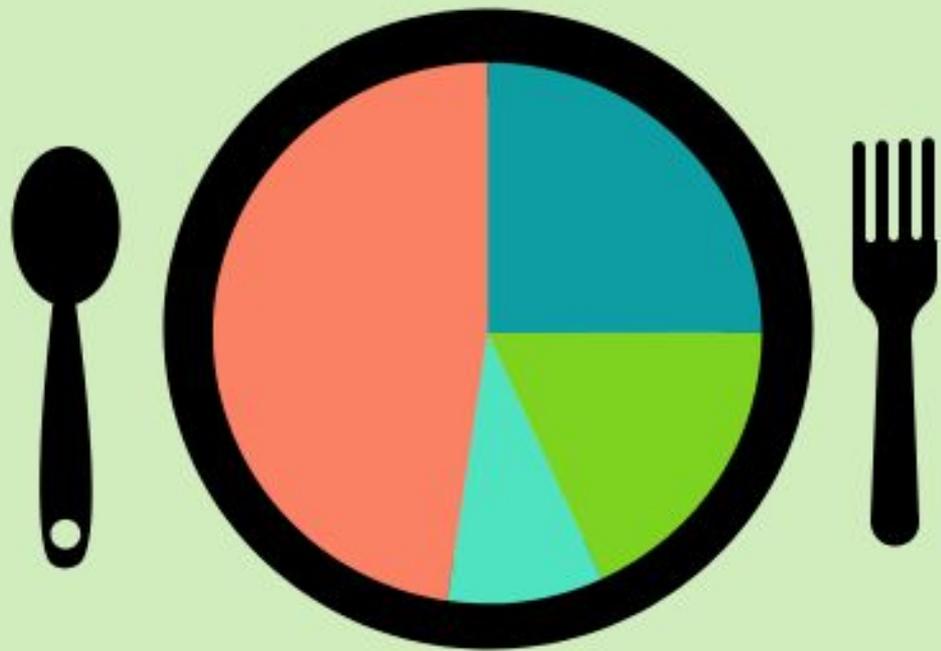
# Benefits of Reducing Wasted Food



- Saves money from buying less food.
- Reduces methane emissions from landfills and lowers carbon footprint.
- Conserves energy and resources, preventing pollution involved in the growing, manufacturing, transporting, and selling food (not to mention hauling the food waste and then landfilling it).
- Supports your community by providing donated untouched food that would have otherwise gone to waste to those who might not have a steady food supply.



# Lunch - middle school - 983 students



**52%**  
OF SERVED FOOD  
WENT UNEATEN

■ Completely uneaten food & milk (24.99%) ■ Food scraps (18.16%)  
■ Leftover liquids (9.19%) ■ Consumed food & milk (47.66%)

# What Can Your Schools Do?

Schools across the country are stepping up to the challenge with innovative programs such as:

- self-serve and self-portion
- ample time to eat
- recess before lunch
- sharing table
- donate excess food to food pantries
- use excess foods for classroom cooking projects
- compost food waste for school gardens
- collaborate with local farmers/hauler/compost processor on composting food-scrap
- EPA Food Recovery Challenge - measure and reduce food waste

Scheduling **recess before lunch** can reduce plate waste by as much as 30%

**Extending lunch periods** from 20 to 30 minutes reduced plate waste by nearly a third.



# So What Now?

So many options...

So little time...

So many questions...

DRAFT

# Illinois K-12 School Food Waste Reduction Toolkit



DRAFT

# Partners & Goals



- **Collaborate** with leading organizations connected to school food waste to create toolkit.
- **Research** to identify resources, best practices, and policies that can be used to inform the toolkit.
- **Develop online/PDF toolkit** and collaborate with IEPA to host toolkit on website.
- **Pilot** food waste reduction strategies from the toolkit.
- **Market and train** educators on using the toolkit





# Illinois K-12 School Food Waste Reduction Toolkit

## Toolkit Contents



### CHAPTERS

1. Introduction
2. Measuring and preventing food waste
3. Food recovery and donation
4. Food scraps for animal feed
5. Food scrap composting
6. Education and student engagement
7. Communicating and celebrating success



### APPENDICES

- Appendix A - Glossary
- Appendix B - Green Lunchroom Challenge
- Appendix C - US Food Waste Challenge



# Educator Roundtable Discussion

1. What do schools in your county need to support reducing wasted food, donating food and composting food scraps?
2. Are there resources you have that should be included/linked to in this toolkit?
3. Do you know of any schools that should be highlighted as case studies?
4. Who else needs to be part of developing this toolkit?



# We Need Your Help

- Share case studies of schools doing one or more food waste reduction options
- Share resources or tools to be linked through the toolkit
- Offer to be on the review committee for the toolkit (spring-summer 2019)
- Sign up to pilot the toolkit in one or more schools (Fall 2019)
- Join our team developing the toolkit

Next meetings/calls:

**School Toolkit Committee** - Tues, Nov 6th @ 1-2 pm

**Illinois Wasted Food Solutions Task Force** - Tues, Nov 6th @ 2-4pm

Call in: (646) 749-3122, Access code 211-653-133

In person: The Chicago Community Trust, 225 N Michigan Avenue, #2200, Chicago

# Encouraging Municipal Food Scrap Composting in Illinois Counties



# Job Creation

- New industries: **urban food scrap processors** and **rural compost spreaders**. Opportunities for in-state manufacturing, locally sustained jobs, and increased revenue that will remain within Illinois.
- On a per-ton basis, composting in Illinois **employs 5 times more workers** than landfilling.
- For every 12,250 tons of organics processed, **1 new business** will be created and will sustain **18.3 employees annually** with an average salary of \$50k.



# Projected Benefits in Illinois

If Illinois can achieve the midpoint organics diversion goal of diverting 65%, this will annually create:

- **3,185 jobs** paying an average salary of \$50k
- **\$290 million in economic output** for the state
- **\$10.5 million** in local and state **tax revenue**
- Over **2 million tons of diversion** away from landfills
- Over **800k MTCO<sub>2</sub>e** in GHG emissions reduction



# Food Scrap Composting in Illinois



## 50 IEPA permitted compost processors

- 12-14 of these accept food scraps

## 187 We Compost partners

restaurants, institutions, businesses, schools  
and municipalities compost food scraps

## 25 Municipal food scrap programs

State policies enacted to support hauling  
and processing of food scraps



# Municipal Guide to Commercial Food Scrap Composting

A Municipal Guide is in development to document and share strategies and resources to encourage municipal food scrap composting

- Contract language and partner collaboration
- Overview of existing policy
- Education and engagement strategies
- Case studies of existing programs
- Compost procurement guide
- Comprehensive survey of existing municipal programs

# Compost One Day Drop Offs

## ILLINOIS

### One Day Drop Off

- Need permission from the municipality or county in unincorporated areas
- Need to notify the solid waste coordinator for the county 30 days before
- No permit is needed from IEPA and no notice needs to be given to IEPA

### Permanent Drop Off

- Container only 10 cubic yards at any one time
- Must be emptied every 7 days



# Illinois Composting Permit Exemptions

## ILLINOIS

- Any community garden or other site in the state to accept up to 25 cubic yards of off-site materials both landscape waste and additives such as food scrap or coffee grounds without a permit. Provided the final product can not be sold and is used on site. That 25 cubic yards is restriction on the total amount landscape waste plus additives that can be on site at any one time and is not an annual restriction.
- On site food scrap composted at an on site composting system with the end product used on site.



# Backyard Composting

## LOCAL

- Typically no more than 5 cubic yards
- May consider small setbacks (less than 3 feet from property line)
- Enclosure of vessel used for composting
- Requirement that the pile be nuisance free.
- Prohibition of materials: Cat/dog waste, Meat, dairy, fats/oil/greases



# Urban Farm Composting

## ILLINOIS

A garden or farm is allowed to compost off-site landscape waste and up to 10% additives. Size of operation can be up to 2% of the size of the property. The property has to be principally devoted to agriculture and the growing of crops.

- The finished product cannot be sold and must be used on-site and applied at agronomic rates.
- A tipping fee cannot be charged for the acceptance of off-site materials.
- The composting cannot occur within a flood plain or 200 feet from a flood plain.
- The operation must register with the IEPA, annually report the amount they are composting and certify that they are complying with the restriction laid out above.
- **In addition, there is a 1/4 mile set-back requirement from residences but municipality in the state can through an ordinance create a set-back that is lower than 1/4 of a mile.**



# Food Donation Policies

## FEDERAL

- Federal Food Donation Act of 2008 – Requires food service contracts to have a clause encouraging donation.

## ILLINOIS

- SB2606 – requires all state agencies to have a food donation policy and list of soup kitchens and food pantries available to all staff.



# Possible Municipal Ordinances and Practices

- Create a **waste reduction policy or goal** for city government (procurement, energy, waste diversion goals, recycling, composting)
- Create a **food donation policy** for city government cafeterias, events, conferences
- Provide **incentives to businesses** that donate leftover food
- Conduct a **waste audit** of any local government institutions to identify opportunities to reduce, donate, recycle and compost



# Using Compost at Home and at Work

**WHERE?** Use compost as mulch around shrubs, trees, or flowers, and on paths; as a top-dressing for lawns or indoor plants

**HOW?** Use compost as a soil amendment to break up clay-type soils or to add substance and water retention to sandy soils;

**WHY?** Compost used as a soil amendment provides plant nutrients, supports beneficial soil life, reduces soil diseases, increases water retention, adds drainage, and promotes weed and erosion control.

## COMPOST

Completely decayed organic matter. It is dark, odorless, and rich in soil benefits. Compost is created from the decomposition of yard and food wastes.

**vs.**

## MULCH

Covering for soil. Mulch should not generally be mixed into the soil, it is not a fertilizer or soil amendment.

# Opportunities in Illinois Counties

1. Include compost in county procurement and landscaping RFPs
2. Require the use of compost in development projects in your county
3. Learn from other counties and municipalities
4. Identify key partners
5. What do your residents want? What do your institutions and businesses want?
6. Track your hauler contract and those of your municipalities - what services are being provided and at what cost?
7. What are the costs and benefits?

# Thank You!



## **Jennifer Nelson**

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Founding Member, Illinois Wasted Food Solutions Task Force



**PlantGreen**

OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

