

Food Waste: What, Why, and How Do We Prevent it?



after the harvest
healthy food for hungry people

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After the Harvest

After the Harvest rescues nutritious fruits and vegetables from going to waste and donates them to agencies that serve hungry people.

- Glean after the harvest, picking what's left in farmers' fields and picking up already harvested leftover produce.
- Raise funds to help secure semi-truckloads of donated produce that might otherwise end up in landfills.



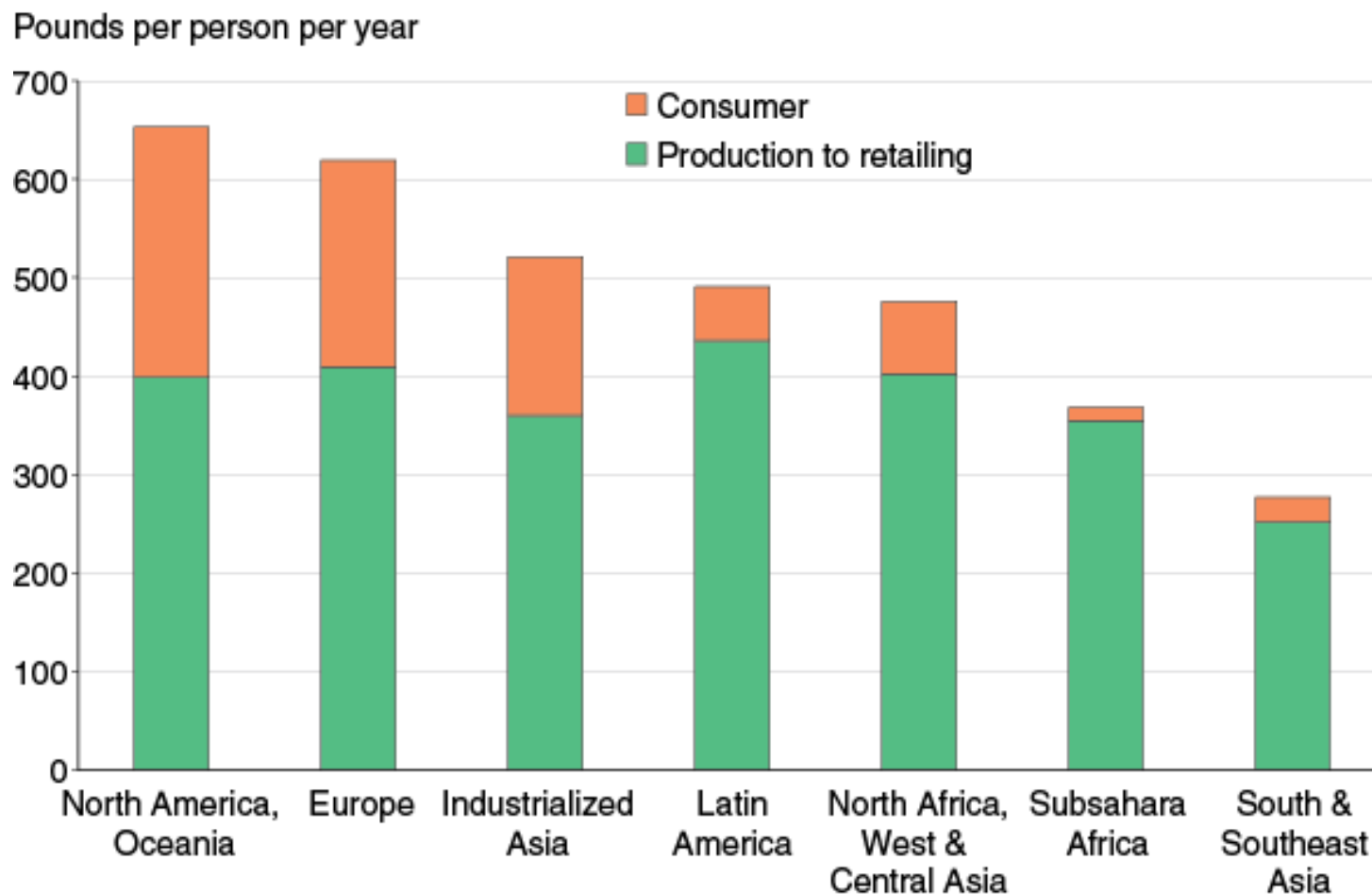
Food Waste in America

- 40% of all food is wasted
- **52% of all fresh fruits and vegetables** grown in the US are wasted before reaching the plate*
- Each year, we throw away more than enough nutritious food to feed each hungry family, senior and child in the U.S.—nearly one hundred billion pounds^
- More food reaches landfills and incinerators than any other single material in municipal solid waste^

*National Resources Defense Council

^USDA

Where is this waste coming from?

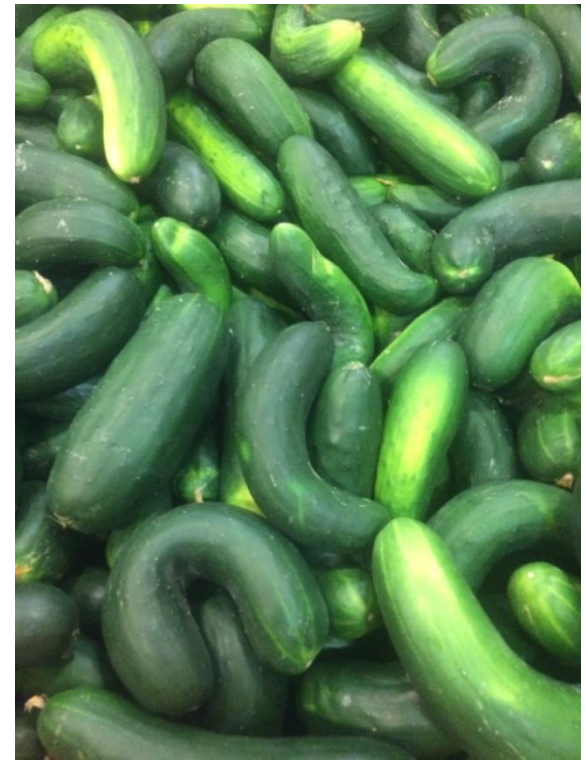


Source: Food and Agriculture Organization 2011 report by Gustavsson et.al., figure 2.
Converted by USDA Economic Research Service authors from kilograms to pounds and bars rearranged.

Food Loss: Farm 33%



Food Loss: Postharvest, Processing, and Distribution: 21%



Food Waste: Retail 8%



Two vehicles, 10 dumpsters, 4 hours in Lancaster PA

Food Waste: Consumption 39%



Waste in the Face of Hunger



- In the KC region, 1 in 7 people in our region is food insecure.
- Nearly 50% are children and seniors
- Don't know where next meal is coming from

Environmental Concerns

- Food is #1 contributor by weight to American Landfills.
 - 37 million passenger vehicles worth of methane
- 21% of US Agricultural Water Usage
- 18% Farming Fertilizer



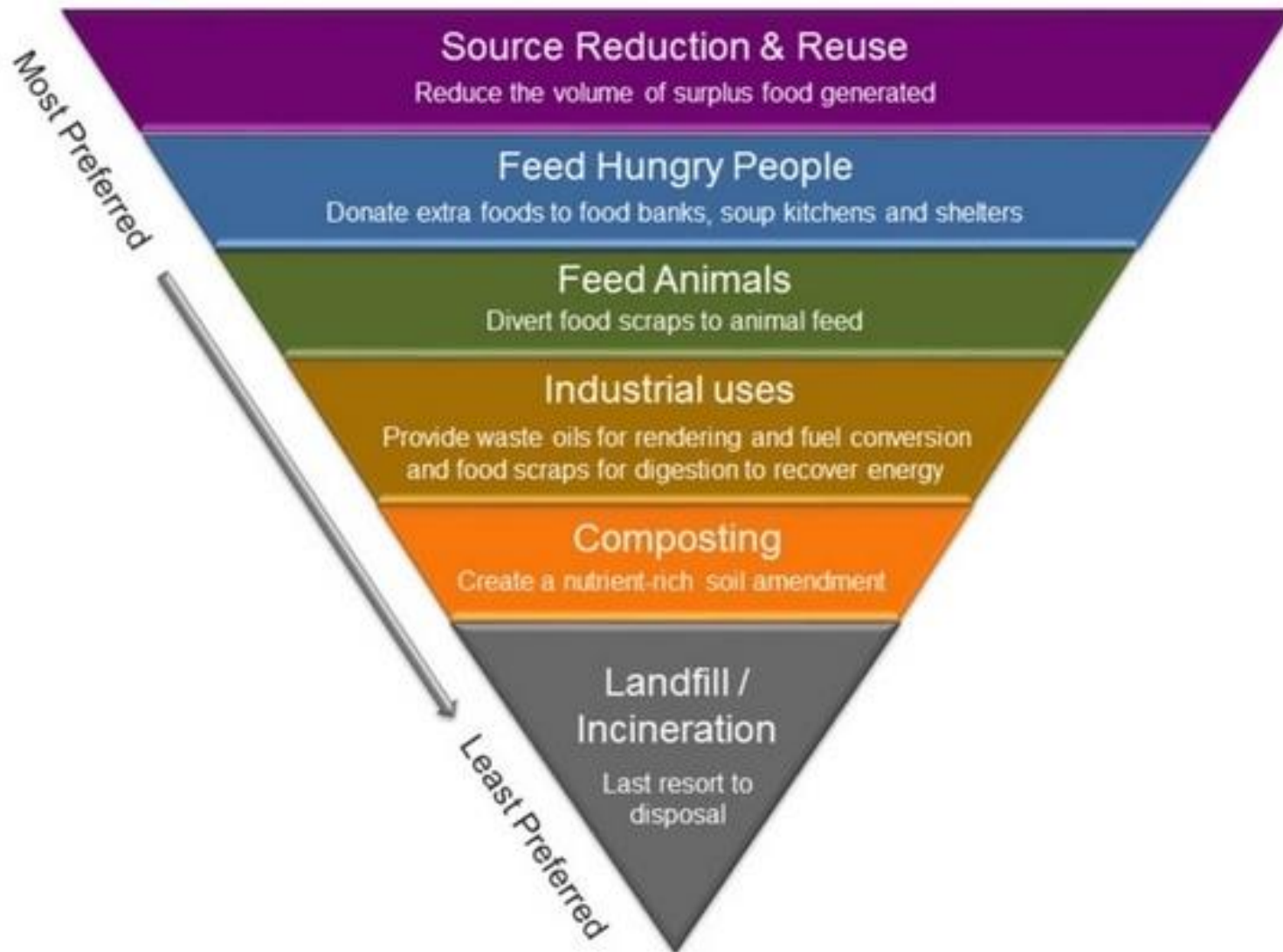
Economic Concerns



- It is estimated that at the retail and consumer levels in the United States, food loss and waste totals \$161 billion dollars.(EPA)
- Average family throws out \$130-\$230 worth of food a month.



Food Recovery Hierarchy



Solutions

- UglyFruitandVeg
 - Petitions stores to sell “ugly” produce
- New Businesses
 - Imperfect Produce

Redefining beauty in produce.
Because all fruits and veggies deserve to be loved.



IMPERFECT™
produce

#loveuglyfood

New Tech and Businesses

- Apps for Food Waste
 - Connect excess food with those in need or willing to purchase for a discount

MealConnect™ FEEDING AMERICA



Global Efforts

- **France-** New law prohibits supermarkets from throwing away surplus food.
- **South Korea-** Pay-by-weight system for organic waste disposal
- **United Kingdom-** Waste Resources Action Program awareness campaign.



Locally

- Composting
 - City of Lawrence sells bins at discounted rate
 - Smaller groups in KC- Jerusalem Farm, Urbavore Urban Farm
- Missouri Organics
 - Every year they divert 32 million pounds of food waste from landfills.
- KU
 - Pre-Consumer food waste collection
 - Center for Community Outreach -Sustainability



Gleaning with After the Harvest

- **Rescuing produce from Farms and Orchards**
 - Glean May through November
 - Mornings
 - All ages
 - Within 1- 1.5 hours of KC
- In 2017- 5.1 million pounds
 - 132 gleanings
 - 243 farm pickups
 - 118 truckloads
- Sign up online at www.aftertheharvestkc.org



THANK YOU. QUESTIONS?

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Policy Changes

- Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act-1996
- Federal Food Donation Act-2008
 - Federal contracts over \$25,000 w/food include language encouraging donation of surplus
- Enhanced tax incentives for food and produce donations
- Efforts to improve food labels
 - Walmart went from 47 different phrases on store brand products to 1 in 2016