Washtenaw Food Policy Council
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Resource Recycling Systems
Sustainable Systems for a Waste-Free Future

GROWING LOCAL ADVOCACY FOR HEALTHY POLICIES AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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WASHTENAW FOOD POLICY COUNCIL (WFPC) - BACKGROUND

- Formed in Spring 2012
- Michigan Food Policy Council initiative: develop Local Food Policy Councils around the state
- Local Council: diverse group of local professionals and concerned citizens:
  - urban agriculture, food service, health care, economic development, public health, and waste management
  - understand how local policy shapes our sustainable agriculture and food systems
  - local networks generate positive influence throughout their communities

EMERGING ISSUES

- Organic food production
  - Lessen environmental and human health impacts
- Grow and buy local
  - Extending growing season
  - Support family and local farms
- Food security
- Sustainable food systems

WFPC - MISSION

Washtenaw County Food Policy Council increases and preserves access to safe, local and healthy food for all residents of Washtenaw County

WFPC - VISION

- Healthy community and thriving local food system that:
  - Provides access to healthy and culturally appropriate food for all residents
  - Values and preserves community land for food production
  - Maximizes the use of local, regional and seasonal food
  - Meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations
  - Promotes a food system that promotes economic development and a local economy within and around the Food System

WFPC - STRATEGIES

- Support a viable, economical and sustainable local food system through multiple strategies including:
  - Strengthening connections between food, health, natural resource protection, economic development and agricultural community
  - Researching, analyzing and reporting on information about the local food system
  - Advocating for and advising on food system and food policy implementation
  - Promoting and providing education on food system issues
  - Supporting the Michigan Good Food Charter

WHAT IS GOOD FOOD?

Good Food Is... (*Adapted from the Michigan Good Food Charter)*

Healthy: It provides nourishment and enables people to thrive.

Fair: No one along the production line was exploited during its creation.

Affordable: All people have access to it.

Sustainable: It was produced in a manner that is environmentally sustainable.

WFPC'S 5 POLICY ACTION TEAMS

- Farmers
- Food access & nutrition
- Food waste and food packaging waste
- Zoning and planning
- Young eaters

FORMING FOOD WASTE AND PACKAGING POLICY ACTION TEAM

- Committee of experts and interested stakeholders
  - City of Ann Arbor's organics group of the Solid Waste Plan Committee
    - City, County, local business and University of Michigan reps
  - Non-traditional stakeholders such as farmers, educators, FoodCorps, food rescue and public health experts
- Open public meetings
  - Central, public location
  - Follow Robert's Rules

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SETTING OUR GOAL

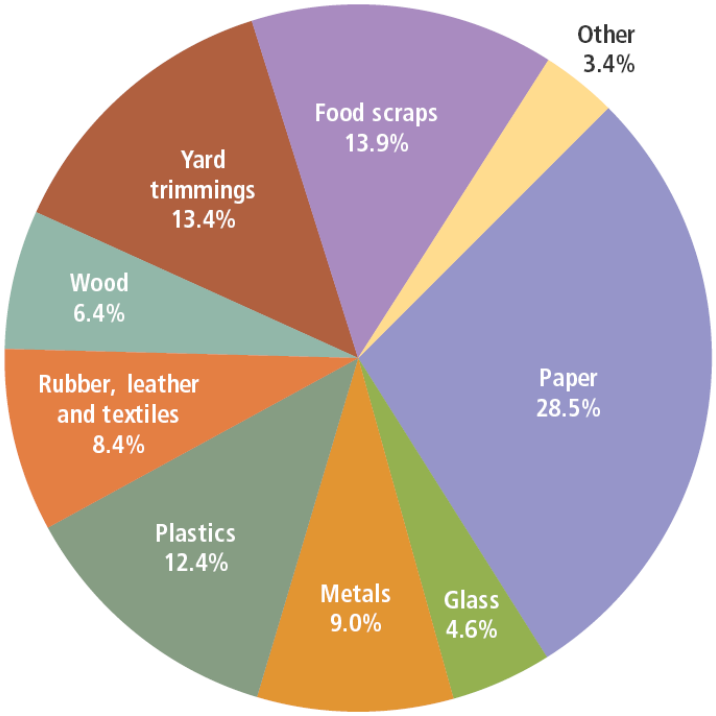
Define appropriate policy and advocacy actions to complement actions carried out at the national and local level;

Consult stakeholders and experts to identify opportunities at all levels of the food chain to minimize food waste without compromising food safety.

EDUCATING THE COMMITTEE –
WASTE GENERATION IN THE U.S.

- In 2010, 250 million tons of municipal solid waste generated in the US
- Organic materials make up more than 2/3 of the solid waste stream

Figure 5. Total MSW Generation (by material), 2010
250 Million Tons (before recycling)



***Source:** Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Facts and Figures for 2010

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EDUCATING THE COMMITTEE –
SOME FOOD WASTE FACTS

- Toss 14% of the food bought at store
- Cafeterias ~ 0.5 pound of food waste is generated per meal tray
- A sports stadium of 50,000 attendees produces 15,000-25,000 lbs of waste (about 0.3 lbs/person) in one game

***Source:** RRS benchmarks; EPA 2010 facts and figures; Stadium data averaged from University of Colorado and Ohio State University diversion stats/BASF 2012; www.motherjones.com, 'Waste Not, Want Not' by Bill McKibben

EDUCATING THE COMMITTEE –
SOME FOOD WASTE FACTS

- % of food purchases that become waste:
  - 10% of institutional food purchases
  - 25%-50% of food purchases in the home
    - One person in the US produces approximately one ton of waste each year (about 5 lbs a day)
  - 50%-80% of food in groceries and restaurants
- 4%-10% food purchases become waste before ever reaching the customer

EDUCATING THE COMMITTEE –
MORE FOOD WASTE FACTS

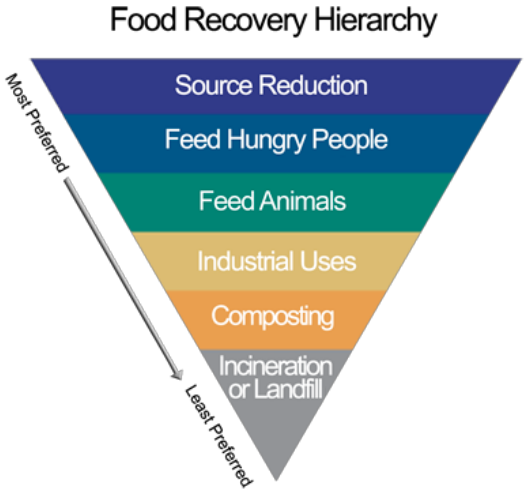
- 40% of US food today goes uneaten
  - Americans throw out equivalent of $165 billion/year
  - Uneaten food is the single largest component of MSW and accounts for almost 25 percent of U.S. methane emissions
- Reducing food losses by just 15% would be enough food to feed more than 25 million Americans every year

***Source:** NRDC Issue PAPER, August 2012 iP:12-06-B

EDUCATING THE COMMITTEE

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE OR WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH FW?

- Reduce purchasing volumes and packaging
- Educate on food preservation and expiration dates
- Donate to a food bank
- Send residuals to a hog farm
- Compost or anaerobic digestion
- Recycle the packaging



BRAINSTORMED INITIATIVES FOR ADVOCACY

- Zero Waste
  - Sports events
  - Municipal events
  - Public space composting
  - Waste-free school lunches
- Public Education
  - Purchase less (households)
  - Backyard composting
  - Food Donation
- County-wide guidelines/ incentive system
- Standards for take-out containers
- Product Bans/Green Purchasing Policies
- Commercial composting expansions/AD options
- Partnering with our other Policy Action Teams

DISCUSSED POTENTIAL POLICY ISSUES/BARRIERS

- Contamination
  - How to reduce & EDUCATE
  - Outside Vendors
  - Bio-compostables
- Regulations
  - Compost sites
  - Use of food waste as animal feed (USDA)
  - Health department rules around reusable take out containers
- Location/Space
  - New waste streams and containers
  - Planning/zoning
- Collection/Transportation
- Costs
- Data collection and tracking

IDENTIFIED POSSIBLE PARTNERS

- City of Ann Arbor - Solid Waste Plan
  - Setting zero waste events goals for 2014
- Michigan Recycling Coalition
  - 2011 State of Recycling Report
  - Setting goals and Guidelines
- MI Green Schools program
  - Waste-free lunches and composting
- Community Gardens
- Green Sports Alliance
- Restaurants and Groceries
- Food Service Providers
- Food Gatherers
  - local food rescue organization
- Institutions (hospitals, universities, colleges)
  - Healthy food and zero waste goals, on-site composting
- Farmers and Growers
- City/WeCare Organics and other composting sites
- County Road Commission
  - Compost use guidelines

CASE STUDIES AND BASELINE DATA

- What are others doing to advocate change?
  - Universities
  - Hospitals
  - Municipalities
  - Sports Stadiums
  - Restaurants/Dining
  - Groceries
- How much do these sectors generate?
- What impact do these have on the initiatives?

IDENTIFIED IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY

- Reduces waste to landfill
- Ease of implementation
- Cost-saving potential
- Positive community perception
- Timely response based on need, opportunity
- Addresses food security
- Helps achieve regulatory compliance
- Educates the public on waste reduction, reuse, composting

IDENTIFIED IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY

- Supports other sustainable practices
- Encourages producer responsibility, green purchasing policy, green packaging
- Produces a useable product
- Supports local economy
- Environmental benefits, climate change
- Community health, physical health

PRIORITIZED INITIATIVES AND SET GOALS

- Impacts/criteria ranking and rating
- Prioritize initiatives by the weighted criteria
- Select top initiatives and set goals

PRIORITIZED IMPACT AREAS

Criteria	Rating Average (1 = Most Important, 5 = Least Important)	Rating Average, Reversed	Rank in order of priority (1 = most important, 15 = least important	Ranking, Reverse	Sum of Rating and Ranking	Weightin
Reduces waste to landfill	4	1	5	10	11	9.4%
Ease of implementation (buy-in, leadership support, available infrastructure, upfront costs)	4	1	8	7	8	6.8%
Cost-saving potential (waste disposal/processing costs for generators, processers and customers)	5	0	4	11	11	9.4%
Positive community perception, visibility	3	2	10	5	7	6.0%
Timely response based on need, opportunity	4	1	13	2	3	2.6%
Addresses food security	4	1	6	9	10	8.5%
Helps Achieve Regulatory Compliance; Helps Achieve State or Local recovery or recycling rates	4	1	7	8	9	7.7%
Educates the public on waste reduction, reuse, composting	5	0	3	12	12	10.3%
Supports other sustainable practices	4	1	12	3	4	3.4%
Encourages producer responsibility, green purchasing policy, green packaging	3	2	14	1	3	2.6%
Produces a useable product	4	1	11	4	5	4.3%
Supports local economy	4	1	9	6	7	6.0%
Environmental benefits, climate change	5	0	1	14	14	12.0%
Community health, physical health	5	0	2	13	13	11.1%
					117	100.0%

1) Environmental Benefits
2) Community Health
3) Educates public on waste reduction, reuse, composting
4) Reduces waste to landfill
5) Cost saving potential
6) Addresses food security

SCORED TOP INITIATIVES

Initiatives	Sectors Influenced	Reduces waste to landfill	Ease of implementation (buy-in, leadership support, available infrastructure, upfront costs)	Cost-saving potential (waste disposal/processing costs for generators, processers and customers)	Positive community perception, visibility	Timely response based on need, opportunity	Addresses food security	Helps Achieve Regulatory Compliance; Helps Achieve State or Local recovery or recycling rates	Educates the public on waste reduction, reuse, composting	Supports other sustainable practices	Encourages producer responsibility, green purchasing policy, green packaging	Produces a useable product	Supports local economy	Environmental benefits, climate change	Community health, physical health	Total Score (weighted)
Criteria Weighting Percentage		9.4%	6.8%	9.4%	6.0%	2.6%	8.5%	7.7%	10.3%	3.4%	2.6%	4.3%	6.0%	12.0%	11.1%	
		Note 1		Note 2				Note 3								
		Score (1=poor, 2=below average, 3=average, 4=above average, 5=excellent)														
1. Waste-free school lunches	K-12 Schools	2	3	4	5	3	2	3	5	5	4	5	1	4	5	3.64
2. Food waste prevention e.g. EPA toolkit, plant based diets, home composting	All Sectors	4	4	4	4	4	2	2	5	5	3	5	2	4	5	3.82
3. Food donations (feed people and feed animals)	Operations, Schools, Farmers,	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	2	3	3	5	5	5	5	3.91
4. Residential biweekly trash collection, weekly compostable collection assumes large scale options available	Municipal, Residential, Commercial, Institional	5	2	4	4	3	1	5	5	5	3	5	3	5	2	3.74
5. Containers (Reusable/Compostable/Recyclable take-out food containers)	Institutions, Food Service Operations	4	2	3	5	3	1	4	5	5	5	1	1	3	2	3.06
6. Zero Waste	Public Events, Sports Events	4	4	3	4	4	2	5	5	5	5	4	3	5	2	3.81

1) Food donations
2) Food waste prevention campaign
3) Zero waste
4) Residential bi-weekly trash/weekly compostable (w/infrastructure for composting)
5) Waste-free school lunches
6) Containers (reusable, compostable, recyclable take-out containers)

PRESENTATION OUTLINE TO FOOD POLICY COUNCIL & COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Food waste facts
- Context for action
  - Model initiatives and actions
- Role of the food waste and food packaging waste subcommittee
  - List subcommittee experts involved
- Initiative presentations
  - Initiatives overview
  - Initiative-by-initiative goals
  - Targeted stakeholders/sectors
  - Impacts and opportunities identified
  - Short and long term actions

SETTING GOALS FOR INITIATIVES

EXAMPLE: BI-WEEKLY TRASH FOR WEEKLY COMPOSTABLE COLLECTION

Type of Initiative:	Advocacy for Collection and Infrastructure Changes
Stakeholders/Sectors Targeted:	Institutions, Food Service Providers, Hospitality, Grocers, Restaurants, Residents
Major Impacts:	Waste reduction, waste diversion from landfill, improved infrastructure and promotion of other sustainability initiatives (away from home recycling, energy generation)
Short Term Actions and Targeted Implementation Date:	Fall 2013. Action Plan of goals; identify obstacles and barriers; market development with food density, collection and infrastructure map, end-market/compost usage workshops
Long Term Actions and Implementation Date:	2014-2016. Develop facility and collection infrastructure 2016. Regulatory Reform; Implement Organics Ban
Initiative Goal:	Increase composting and recycling volumes

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize Initiative Short and Long-Term Goals
- Tie into other Council Policy Action Teams
  - Farmers
  - Food Access & Nutrition
  - Zoning and Planning
  - Young Eaters

- Prepare and present recommendations to the full Food Policy Council and County Commissioners

NEXT STEPS

- Secure Council funding beyond 2013
- Continue to provide insight and knowledge to advocate for county-wide change and establish guidelines for stakeholders as they supply Washtenaw County with locally grown and produced food – bringing the concept of food growth and recovery full circle

THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?

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