
Food Waste Reduction Update



The issue

In the US 35% of food grown for human consumption was not eaten in 2019.

Producing, processing, transporting, preparing, and storing food **waste** in the US generates the CO² equivalent of 42 coal power plants annually.

Food waste that is not diverted is landfilled where it generates methane a GHG 28x more potent than CO².

Globally food waste is 8% of all GHG emissions.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2021/02/25/climate-curious-food-waste/> <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2022/01/24/food-waste-and-its-links-greenhouse-gases-and-climate-changes> landfilled <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/reduced-food-waste> https://refed.org/downloads/refed_roadmap2030-FINAL.pdf?_cchid=a013dff6534d1409dcf3fe652a4691fc



Farm-to-Kitchen Environmental Footprint of U.S. Food Loss and Waste

(excluding impacts of waste management,
such as landfill methane emissions)



GHG Emissions
GHG emissions of
42 coal-fired power plants



Energy Use Fresh Water
Enough water and energy to supply
more than 50 million homes

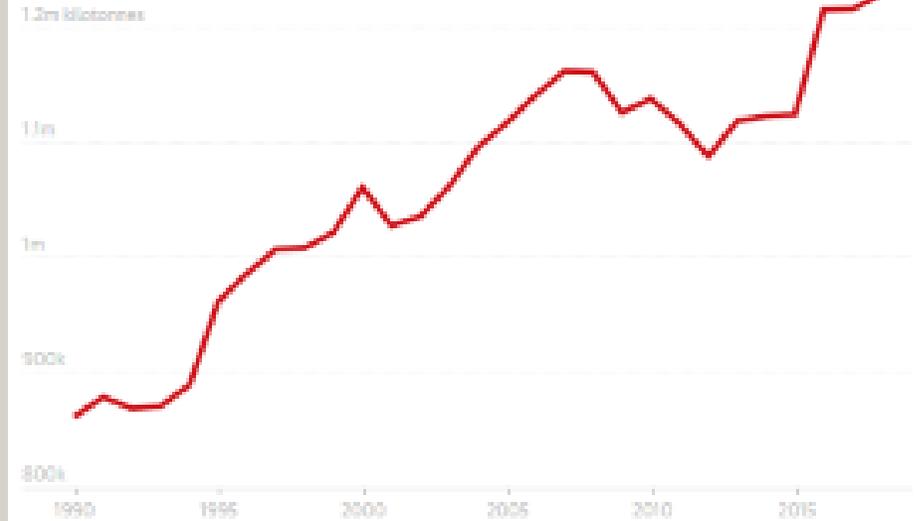


Fertilizer
The amount of fertilizer used
to grow all plant-based foods



Land Use
An area of agricultural land
equal to California and New York

US food emissions from 1990 to 2019



Guardian graphic. Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Food loss has tripled since 1960.

Food loss per capita has increased 6-8% per capita from 2010-19.

US exceeds per capita food loss and emissions of other high-income countries by 1/3.

Up to 20% more land will be needed by 2050 (increased deforestation)

Over 4x enough to feed the 35 million food insecure Americans

Wisconsin Numbers

20.5% of what is landfilled in WI is food waste. About 2x the percent and more than 2x the weight from the 2009 study.

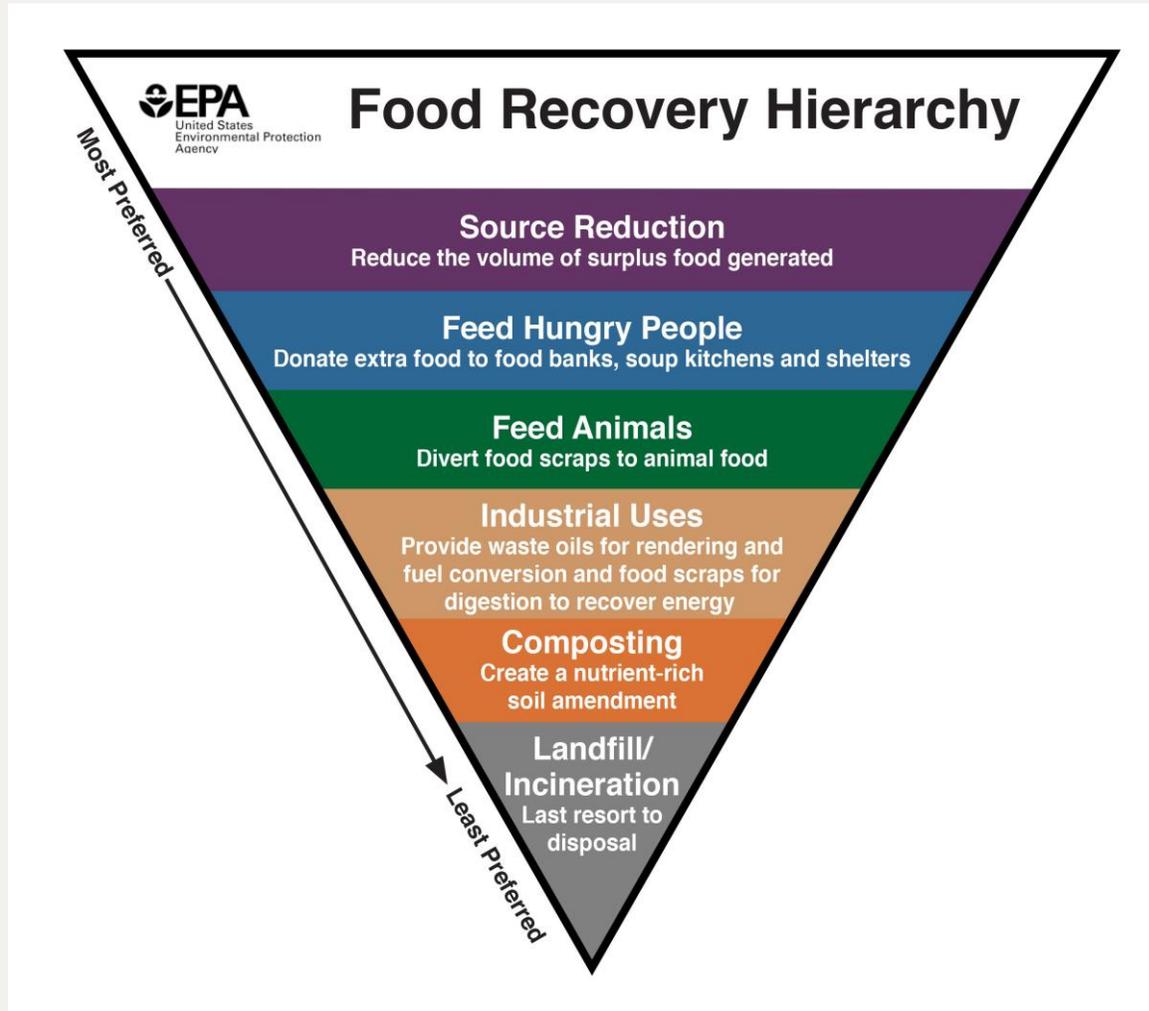
Over 70% of landfilled food waste is wasted food, food that was previously edible (14.5% of landfilled MSW). The largest category of landfilled waste by weight.

30% are food scraps (6% of landfilled MSW).

Source reducing wasted food and composting the scraps in Wisconsin would reduce the GHG equivalent of taking 592,035 passenger vehicles off the road each year.



How to Prioritize Reduction

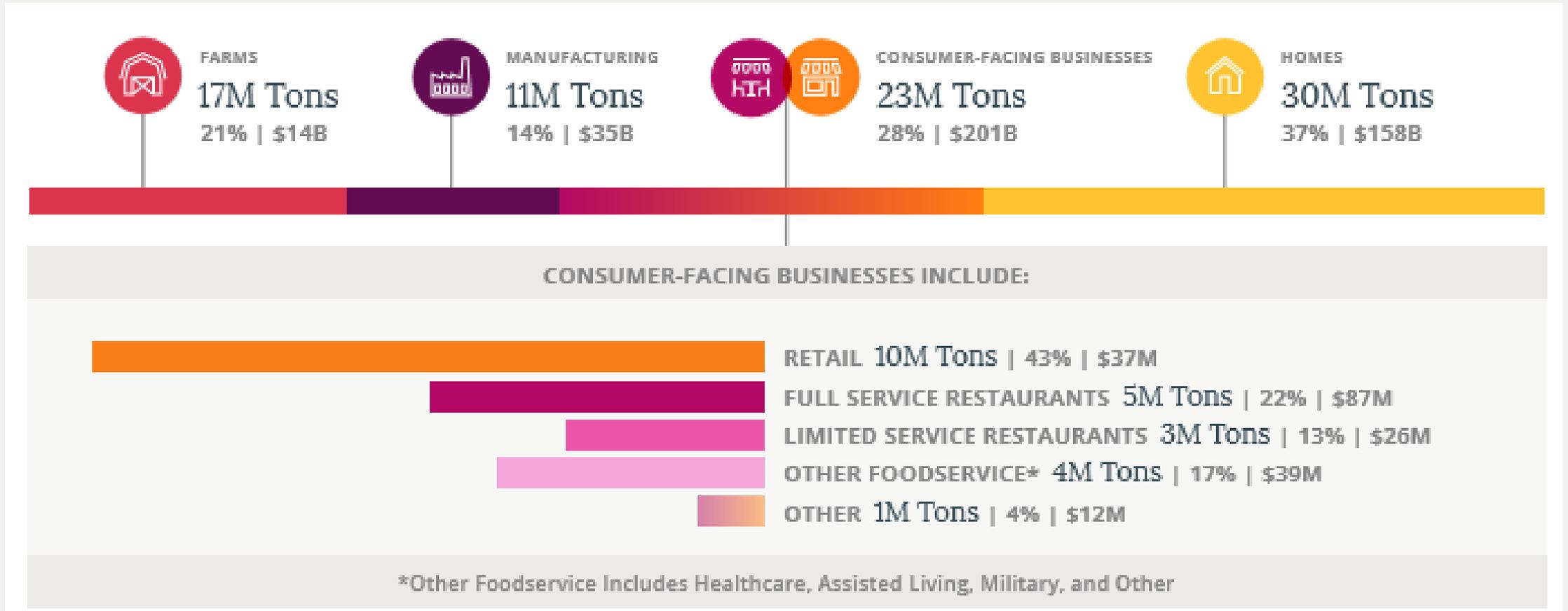


The major categories of food emissions: waste



Guardian graphic. Source: Crippa, M., et al. Nature Food (2020)

Where is food waste happening?

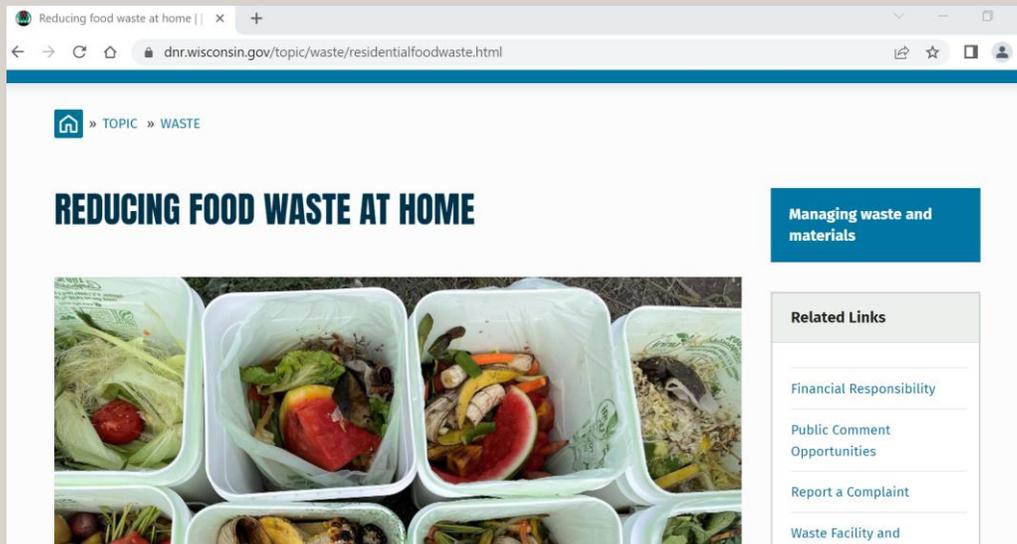


(Cost estimates are based on an annual food surplus value of \$408 billion).

1/3 of the groceries bought by the average American household are thrown away (\$1,866/household). Lowest food waste per household still 8.7%.

Waste Program Priorities for 2022

1. Increase public awareness of the concerns with food waste, the amount of food waste that is generated from households and solutions to food waste
2. Publicize reducing food waste as a business opportunity and a way to save money for business generators and a way to expand operations for transporters, transfers and processors.
3. Increase interest in offering food waste compost at the municipal level as a public service
4. Explore/pursue legislative and regulatory action



Actions – Public Awareness

end food waste.

Did you know food waste and scraps are the #1 type of waste sent to Wisconsin landfills? Not only does this waste take up valuable space in our landfills, but it also breaks down and creates greenhouse gas emissions.

How you are preventing food waste? If you need some tips on how you can take on food waste and divert it from the landfill, check out our new page on reducing food waste at home: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/waste/residentialfoodwaste.html>



- [Residential webpage](#)
- Compost [subscription service provider list](#), [WI Recycling Markets Directory](#)
- Advertising campaign, [press releases](#), social media campaign for new resources
- Research potential for survey work to track progress

Actions – Publicize Business Opportunity



- Assemble examples of positive business experiences.
- Create catalog of methods effectively used by businesses.
- Educate haulers on potential markets for hauling separated food waste.
- Create guidance on how to submit a plan mod to add separated food waste to transfer facility operations.

Actions – Increase Municipal Interest

- Create guidance on transitioning a yard residual compost facility to SSCM.
- Create an RFP template for municipalities that want to provide food waste collection.



Compost Changes:

<20,000 cy yard residuals
→
<5,000cy source separated compostable material

Casey Lamensky – DNR Solid Waste Coordinator



WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Actions – Explore Legislative and Regulatory Actions

- Explore food waste reduction initiatives in budget proposals.
- Share information and potential actions with external partners WMMSG, SWIP and COR.
- Work with EPA for food waste reduction opportunities for distributing infrastructure law funding.
- Determine NR 544 code updates that could require some food waste actions by RUs.

Looking Ahead

- Department has set a food waste reduction goal of 50% by 2030.
- These are 2022 goals. Intend to make an action plan each year.

Questions?