

# **Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Activity**

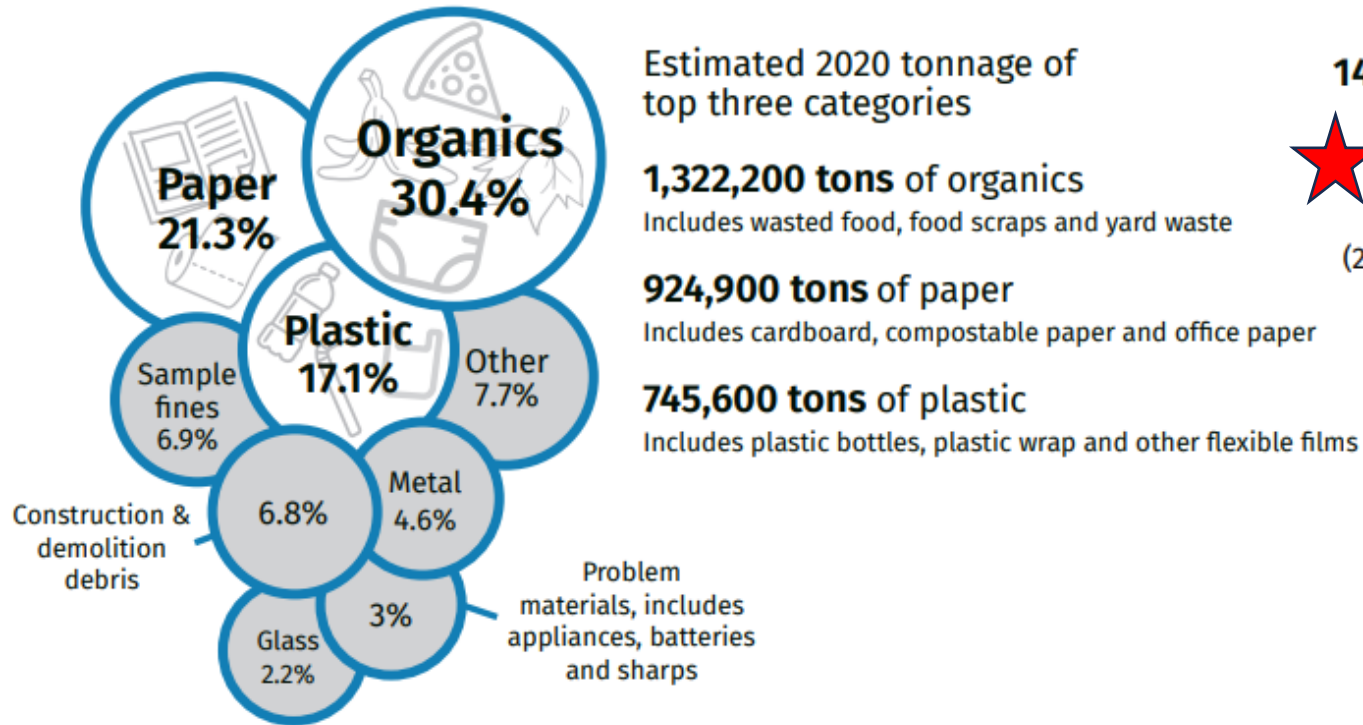
Wisconsin Council on Recycling

Friday June 6, 2025

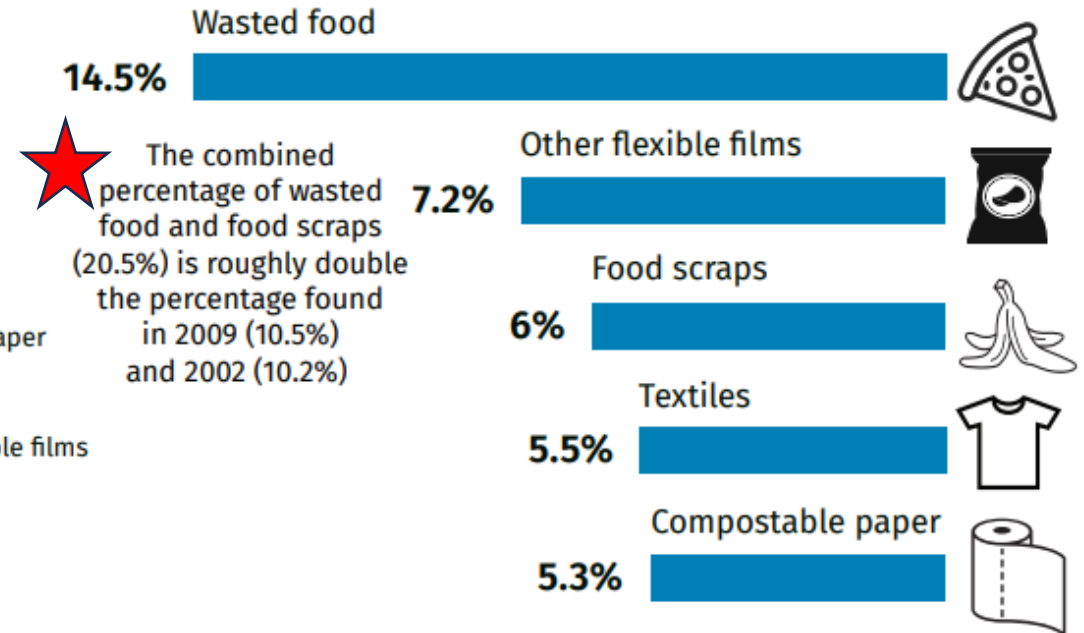
# DNR 2020-2021 Statewide Waste Characterization Study

## What's Ending Up in Wisconsin Landfills?

### Statewide waste categories



### Top five waste components statewide



## 2023 Estimated Food Waste in MSW

- 4,473,700 tons of MSW disposed in Wisconsin landfills in 2023\*
- Assuming that the composition of the waste disposed is similar to the 2020-2021 study, approximate volume of food related waste disposed in Wisconsin landfills:
  - 649,000 tons of wasted food
  - 268,000 tons of food scraps

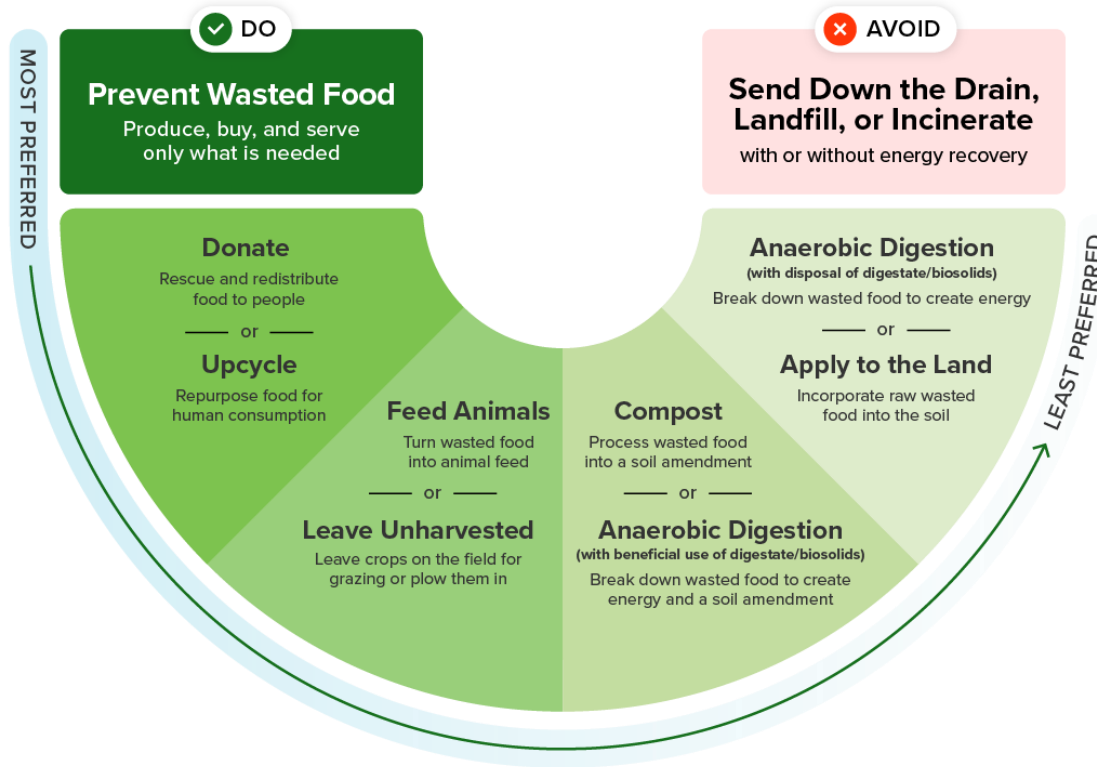
[\\*https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Landfills/Fees.html](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Landfills/Fees.html)

[2020-2021 Statewide Waste Characterization Study](#)



# Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



October 2023

# Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant

Period of performance: October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026

## Three Main Goals:

1. Develop a statewide food waste management plan related to the National Food Loss and Reduction Goal to **cut food loss and waste by 50% by 2030.**
  - HDR Engineering started project July 2024 and will finish-up July 2025.
  - Data shared as it's made available

#1. **Food Waste Management Evaluation & Plan** is intended to:

- 1. Document the amounts, types and sources of food waste**
2. Provide data and analysis to help WDNR and local governments document the capacity of existing food recovery and recycling infrastructure
3. Assess potential capacity and identify barriers between existing capacity and potential capacity to divert food waste from landfills
4. Assess and rank the impact of waste diversion initiatives, including consideration of economic factors
5. Inform policy decisions on food waste reduction and recycling methods and goals
6. Analyze where additional investment, technical assistance and education may be needed.

# Estimates of Wasted Food Generation

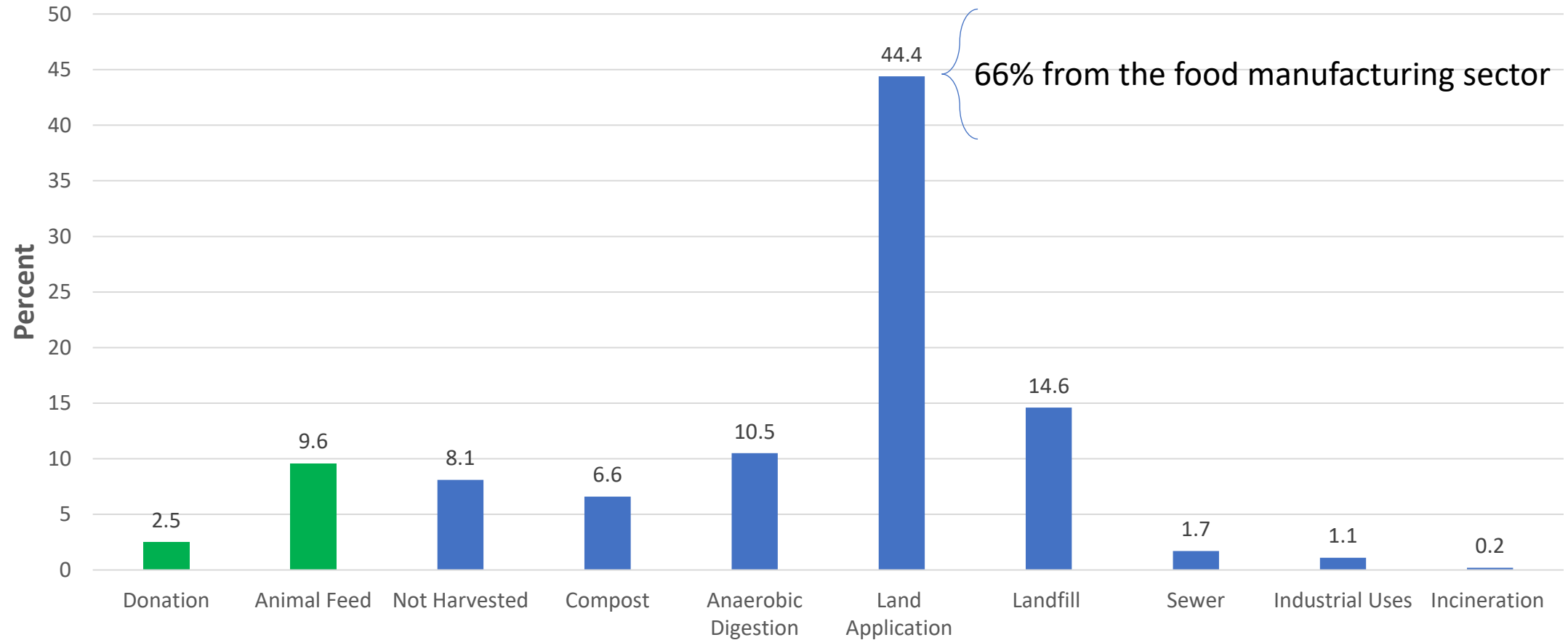
1. DNR 2020-2021 waste characterization study<sup>1</sup> applied to 2023 MSW landfill tonnage data
  - ~917,000 tons of food waste from residential, industrial, commercial, institutional entities going to landfills
2. [EPA Excess Food Opportunities](#)<sup>2</sup>
  - ~ 387,788 to 1,159,505 tons from all sectors *except residential*
3. ReFED Food Waste Monitor<sup>3</sup>
  - ~3,075,300 tons from across the supply chain - residential, food service, retail, manufacturing and farm sectors

<sup>1</sup> <https://widnr.widencollective.com/portals/9locxp5m/SolidWasteinWisconsinLandfills>, accessed April 2025

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-08/EFOM%20V3%20Technical%20Methodology%2008.03.2023.pdf>. Accessed February 2025.

<sup>3</sup> [ReFED Food Waste Monitor](#), accessed March 2025

# Where does Wisconsin's wasted food go?

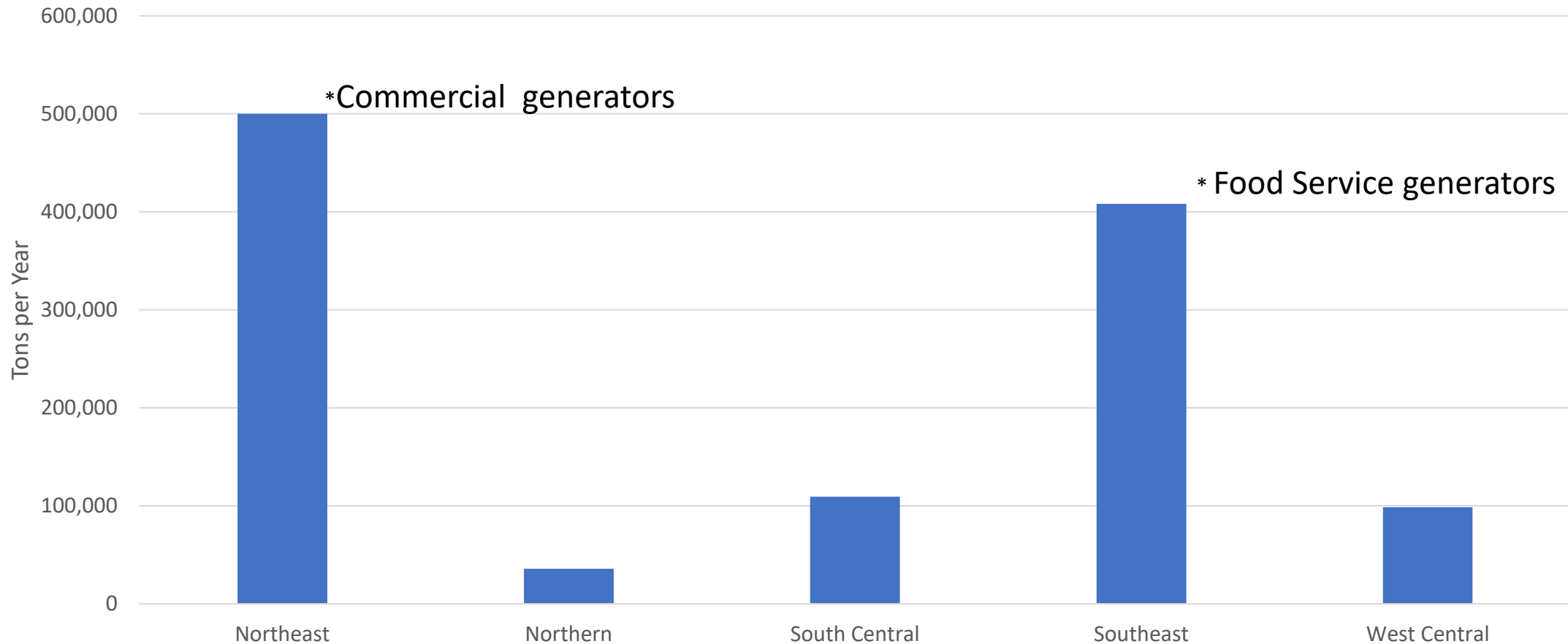




# 2023 Sources of Wasted Food in Wisconsin Landfills

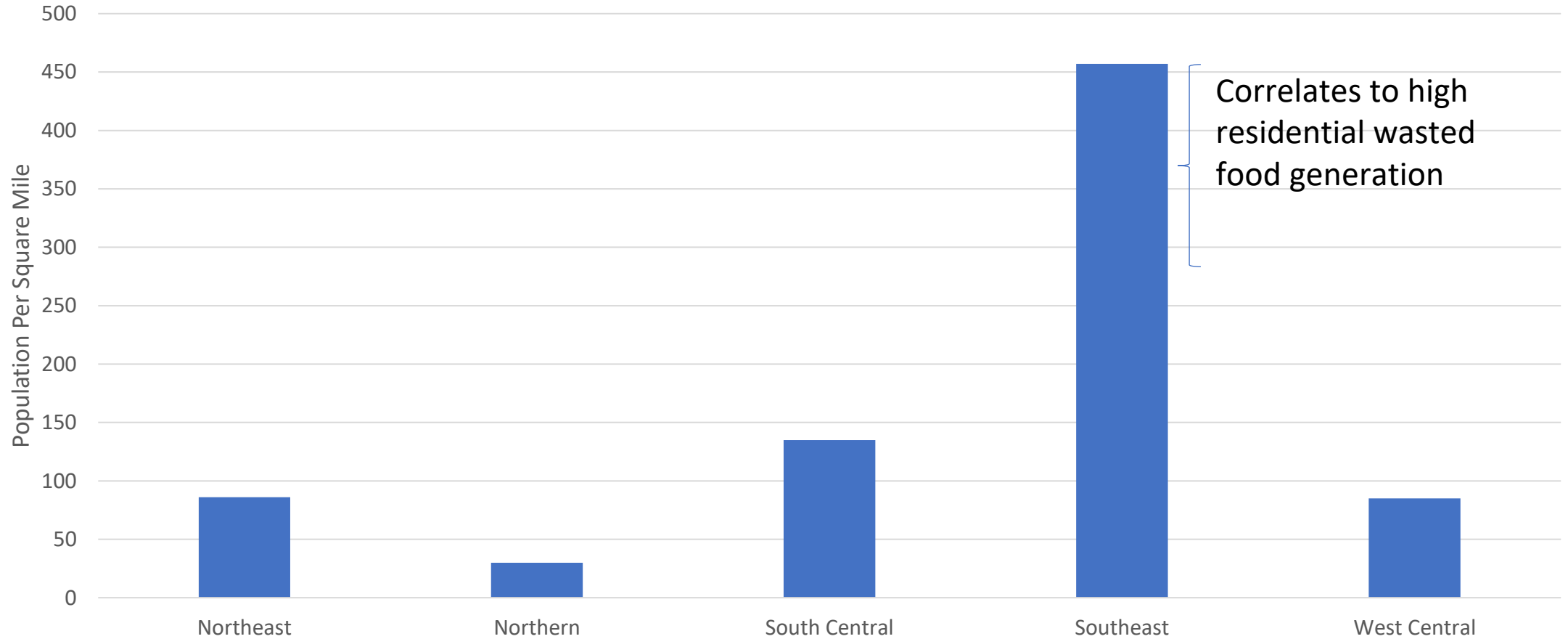
Sector	Tons Wasted Food	Percent of Wasted Food to Landfill	Tons Wasted Food to Landfill
Residential	401,000	52.2	209,000
Food Service	185,000	98	182,000
Manufacturing	2,050,000	1.3	25,800
Retail	69,400	33.7	23,400
Farm (produce)	363,000	2.4	8,580
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,070,000</b>		<b>448,780</b>

# EPA Excess Food Opportunities by DNR Region



\*EPA does not include the residential sector.

# Wisconsin Population Density



# Food Waste Generator Survey

- Over half surveyed track data regarding food waste generation
- Most were diverting a portion of food waste
- Common wasted food items are
  - Produce
  - Spoiled/unharvested items
  - Bread and grain
- Causes
  - Overproduction
  - Spoilage
  - Date label concerns

## **Barriers to diversion include, lack of:**

- Time
- Financial resources
- Personnel
- Storage space
- Technology to track and plan to reduce food waste
- Knowledge of ways to divert wholesome food and food waste
- Knowledge of liability protection for donating food
- Knowledge of tax incentives for donating food

# Goal 2 SWIFR

- State-wide, non-regulatory technical assistance for projects that prevent or divert wasted food
  - Using information from the Wisconsin Food Waste Management Evaluation plan
  - Draft RFP to address large volume wasted food generators and to reduce barriers

# Goal 3 SWIFR DNR Work

- **Develop and implement a plan for guidance and outreach**
  - Building awareness
    - Events, social media, news releases, interviews with TV and radio, DNR webpages and publications
  - Provide Resources
    - DNR [Reducing Food Waste](#) & [Composting](#) websites
    - Webpages for business sectors and communities for food waste prevention and landfill diversion – up this summer!
    - New e-newsletter, Organics Management News, multi-sector audience on prevention and diversion of wasted food and organics. Monthly updates on opportunities, training resources and funding opportunities. Providing connections to solutions. [Subscribe here](#).
    - Consumer resources – *Home Composting: Reap a Heap of Benefits, WA-072* updated and now in English & Spanish
  - Work continues throughout grant

- **Provide technical assistance and plan review to new food waste haulers and processing facilities**
  - [Fact Sheet: Composting Food and Other Source-Separated Compostable Materials at Yard Residual Facilities \(WA-2046\)](#)
  - Reviewed by stakeholders
  - Shared at 2025 Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference
  - Work continues throughout grant

## **Partner with other state agencies and universities on advancing food waste reduction and composting projects**

- Initiated the Composting in Corrections Peer Network group
- Provided input on food waste reduction & composting grant applications
  - UW Extension – FoodWise Program
  - UW Steven’s Point – Wisconsin Institute of Sustainable Technology
- Department of Public Instruction & DNR Green & Healthy Schools
- Work continues throughout grant



## **Collaborate with other agencies, organizations and cities on advancing food waste reduction and diversion**

- Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin: Organics Reduction and Compost Committee
- US Compost Council – Wisconsin Chapter
- DATCP Retail Food Safety Advisory Council – provided wasted food awareness and resources for grocery stores & restaurants
- FEED MKE Project (2024 recipient of USDA Composting & Food Waste Reduction grant)
- Rooted In LLC Green Bay – wasted food prevention, food rescue and redistribution
- Work continues throughout grant

# Contact Information

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