BCUA FOOD RECYCLING WORKSHOP

FOOD WASTE REDUCTION & DIVERSION PROGRAMS

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY INITIATIVES

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BAYSHORE RECYCLING

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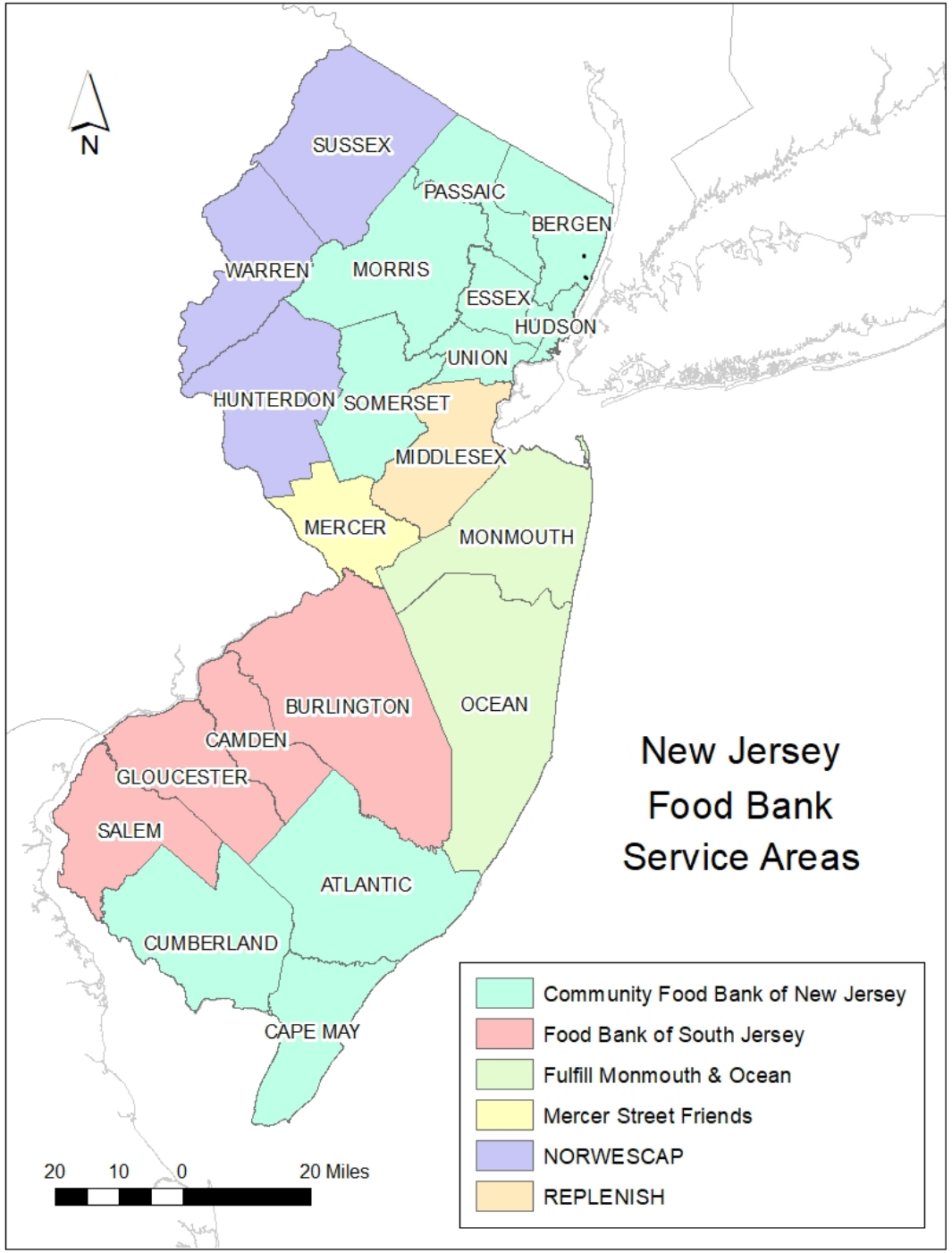
FOOD PROBLEM STATEMENT

- The NRDC estimates that 40% of all food grown in the USA is wasted;
- New Jersey is the 3rd most affluent State (median household income) in the US which is the most affluent industrialized nation on earth;
- Three New Jersey Counties are in the "Top 15" most affluent in the United States:
  - #13 Hunterdon
  - #14 Morris
  - #15 Somerset
- **Despite our relative affluence, 11% of New Jersey's population and 15% of kids 18 years of age and younger are food insecure;**
- Wasted food is landfilled. Landfills are the 3rd largest source of human-related methane emissions in the US - some **15.1% of these emissions;**
- **Our goals are to dramatically advance food recovery systems while driving food waste away from landfills and to small and large-scale composting facilities.**

NEW JERSEY FOOD ASSET RECOVERY SYSTEM

- National Oversight Organization – “Feeding America”
- Recognized “Food Banks” in New Jersey:
  - Community Food Bank of New Jersey
  - Food Bank of South Jersey
  - Fulfill Monmouth & Ocean
  - Mercer Street Friends
  - NORWESCAP
  - REPLENISH
- 843 Food Pantries Statewide (solid estimate)
- 150 Soup Kitchens Statewide (solid estimate)



Who Generates the Food?

- **Composition Estimate From NRDC:**
  - 43% Residential
  - 26% Restaurants
  - 14% Retail Supermarkets
  - 9% Institutions (Hospitals, Prisons, Schools)
  - 8% Food Manufacturers & Processors

FWG Sector	*Inventory Total*
Food and Beverage Manufacturers	1,872
Wholesalers and Distributors	977
Supermarkets and Supercenters	6,047 (Supermarkets) 67 (Supercenters)
Hospitality	1,596 (Hotels) 110 (Casinos)
Restaurants and Food Service	18,321 (Full Service) 2,449 (Limited Service)
Colleges and Universities	165
Elementary and Secondary Schools	2,558 (Public Schools) 716 (Private Schools)
Correctional Facilities	13
Healthcare Facilities	110 (Hospitals) 858 (Long-term Care Facilities)
Major Private Employers (>500 employees)	743
Event Venues	1,005
Farms	688
Farmers Markets	131
Food Banks	9

FOOD LEGISLATION & POLICY

New Jersey Food Waste Reduction Act: July 2017
- Goal to Reduce Food Waste by 50% by 2030
- DEP to Prepare State "Food Waste Reduction Plan"
- Link: https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2016/Bills/AL17/136_.PDF

State Food Waste Reduction Plan adopted October 2023
- Sector Based Approach
- Link: https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/food-waste/food_waste_reduction_plan.pdf

Food Waste Recycling Act: Adopted April 2020
- Disposal Ban Legislation First Developed through ANJR October 2014
- Law Became Effective October 14, 2021: Two major projects pending!
- Link: https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/food-waste-recycling-law/pl_2020_c24_fw.pdf

Other Important Developments and Proposals:
- Created a first-ever State "Office of Food Security Advocate"
- County Food Recovery Planning Act Pending
- Small Scale Composting Exemption Bills Pending: Community Gardens/Schools

COUNTY FOOD REDUCTION PLANNING

- **A2090/S2426** pending in Senate & Assembly Environment Now
- ***Requires each solid waste management district to develop and implement a strategy in solid waste management plan to reduce food waste within 2 years. (Full County Plan Amendment or by Administrative Action.)***
- This is a follow-up to the NJ Food Waste Reduction Act of 2017 (S3027);
- DEP published its final Food Waste Reduction Plan 10/23
- County involvement in food reduction planning is coming!
- Ongoing baseline work being done to help!

FOOD COMPOSTING CAPACITY

- Existing Facilities in Operation Today:
  - Trenton Renewables, 450 Tons Per Day, Duck Island Near Trenton, Anaerobic Digestion Technology
  - Waste Management CORe, 500 Tons Per Day, Elizabeth, NJ Operate a "Macerator" and Truck Liquified Food Waste to Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority

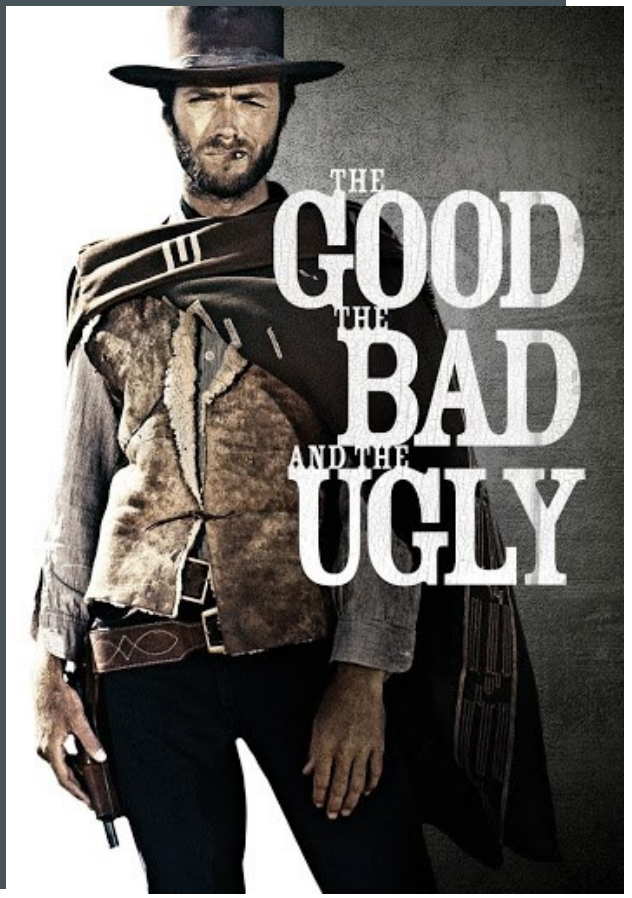
- Facilities Under Construction or in County Plans:
  - Linden Renewable Energy Project by South Jersey Industries and RNG Energy, 1,450 Tons Per Day Anaerobic Digestion Facility Under Construction at Trembly Point, Linden 2025
  - Bioenergy Devco, 500 Tons Per Day Anaerobic Digestion Facility in Gloucester County Plan in Mantua Township on Rowan University Campus – Under Permit Review

- Small In-Vessel Systems at Community Colleges and Companies: Bergen, Ramapo, Merck

- Desperate Need for Small Scale Composting Exemptions and Reforms for Municipalities Community Gardens and for Composting in Schools – Ag Choice Example in Andover Twp.

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY!

- **The Good:** DEP Effort & Support of Sustainable Food Waste Management
  - Substantial Funding Through Recycling Enhancement Act
  - Implementation of Food Disposal Ban Legislation (P.L. 2020 Ch. 24)
  - Food Waste Reduction Plan Adoption, October 2023
  - USEPA "Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling" (SWIFR) Grant
  - USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Focus on Food
  - Food Waste Website & New Toolkit
  - Purchase of the "Recycle Coach App" for All Towns & Counties
- **The Bad:** Oppressively Stringent Composting Regulations!
- **The Ugly:** Failure to Enact Small Scale Composting Exemptions!



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- A **"Tiered Regulatory System"** is needed:
  - Small-scale facility exemptions are essential:
    - Community Garden Composting
    - Regional In-Vessel Composing in Schools
    - Backyard Composing
  - Streamlined County planning provisions under N.J.A.C. 7:26-6.10 and 6.11
  - Use of registrations, general permits and permit-by-rule where appropriate

- DEP leadership to **assess wastewater treatment plant digester capacity** to accept food waste (Waste Management CORe and Rahway Valley Template)

- Expansion of **"Recycle Coach App"** to coordinate real-time food recovery from New Jersey Restaurants

- Advancing **"Waste Reduction"** holistically with recommendations of the Plastics Advisory Council

THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY MOVEMENT

MUNICIPAL PROGRAM START: FEBRUARY 2009

- 466 (85%) NJ MUNICIPALITIES PARTICIPATING
- 91% OF NJ'S POPULATION LIVES IN THESE COMMUNITIES

SCHOOLS PROGRAM START: OCTOBER 2014

1,194 (67%) NJ'S SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING

COMBINED IMPACT

- 28,000 DISCRETE "ACTIONS" IMPLEMENTED
- $8.1 MILLION IN GRANTS GIVEN TO TOWNS & SCHOOLS

SUSTAINABLE STATES INITIATIVE: 14 STATES

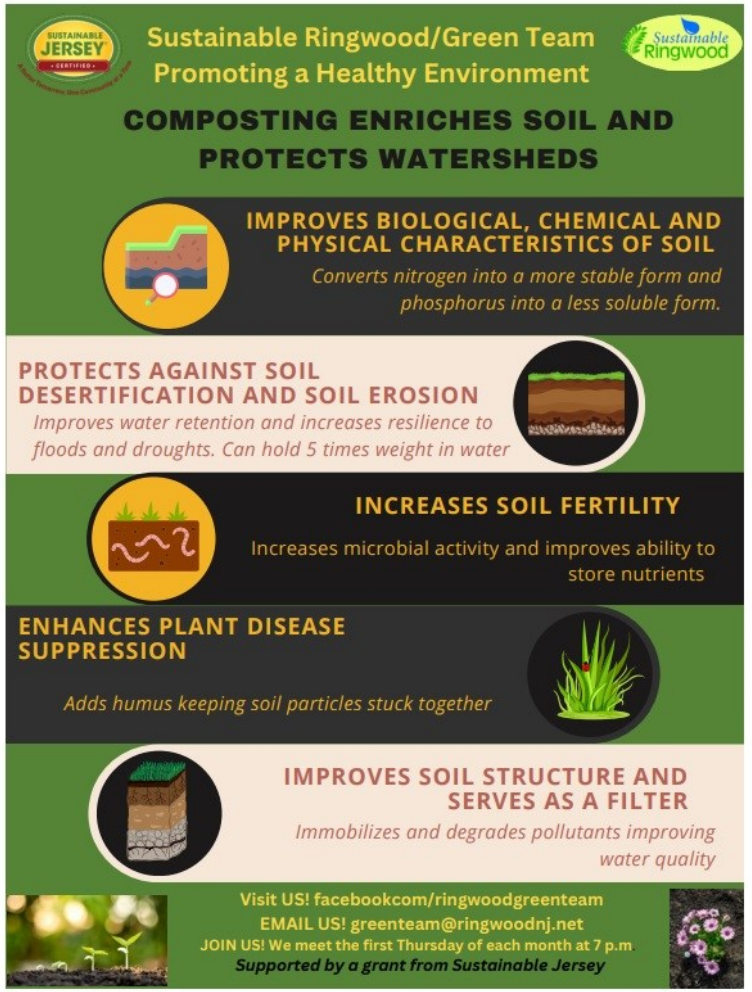
SCHOOL & MUNICIPAL FOOD WASTE ACTIONS

School Program Actions	Municipal Program Actions
Waste Reduction & Recycling	**Waste Management**
Waste Audit	Food Waste
Campaign to Reduce School Food Waste	Backyard Composting Program
Food Recovery – Share Tables & Donation	Food
Food Service Training & Best Practices to Reduce Food Waste	Community Food Pantry/Bank & Soup Kitchen
Food Waste Recycling or Composting	Promoting Safe Food Donation for Food Security

BACKYARD COMPOSTING PROGRAM

5 Points

- Develop a comprehensive backyard composting program which can include developing handouts and other educational materials, holding presentations / workshops, backyard composter giveaways, etc.
- Programs must be ongoing



Ringwood composting workshop & flyer supported by Sustainable Jersey grant

FOOD WASTE

10 Points

- Active food waste recycling program – pilot programs qualify if less than 2 years old.
- Describe how program started, sources of food waste, how food waste is collected, collection schedule, and identify food waste recycling market.
- Provide education & outreach to the community.

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY/BANK & SOUP KITCHEN

10-15 Points

- Directly operate a food pantry or soup kitchen, or partner to provide food assistance
- An extra 5 points for delivering food or transporting residents to food assistance outlets

PROMOTING SAFE FOOD DONATION FOR FOOD SECURITY

10-15 Points

- Train health inspectors on value of food donations and best practices for ensuring their safety and quality
- Conduct outreach to food businesses
- Establish policy that requires training and outreach
- An extra 5 points for data on food donations

WASTE AUDIT

(10-20 points): Measure the amount and types of waste generated in the school and/or cafeteria, including tray waste, to help design a waste reduction plan.

An audit is an assessment of the school's waste in terms of quantity and origin. To earn points a school must complete either:

- A general waste audit, including waste from classrooms, offices, and other areas of the building and grounds, and/or
- A food waste audit of cafeteria waste that includes tray waste from the school's meal service.

The audit must have been completed in the **current or previous school year**. Schools may earn 10 points for each type of audit (with a maximum of 20 points).

View action at: https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/#open/action/78

CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE SCHOOL FOOD WASTE

(10 points): Run a school-wide campaign to educate students and staff and encourage behavior changes to reduce the amount of waste generated (food, packaging, single-use utensils) during school meals.

Campaigns may include challenges such as Trashless Tuesdays and Meatless Mondays or competitions between classes or lunch periods to generate the least amount of waste. To earn points, the school must show that it has done the following in the current school year:

- Set a goal for the food waste reduction campaign and track progress towards the goal.
- Run a school-wide campaign to reduce food waste.
- Promoted the campaign and shared the results with the school community

View action at: https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/#open/action/121

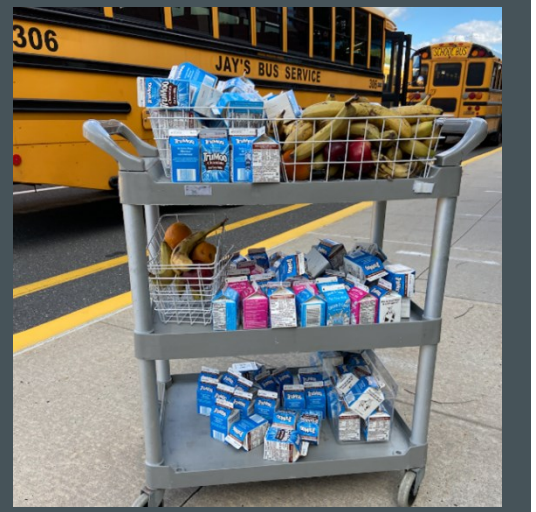
FOOD RECOVERY - SHARE TABLES & DONATION

(10-20 points): Set up a share table or a food donation program to feed hungry students or community members with recovered excess food rather than throwing it out.

A **share table** is a designated area in the cafeteria where students can place unwanted and unopened food and beverage items during their lunch period. A cooler bin or refrigerator would be needed if collecting dairy or other perishable items. The share table items should be made available to students at no cost during meal times, or as snacks during the school day, after-school activities, or sent home with students.

For a **donation program**, the collected items are donated to an external organization, such as a food pantry or soup kitchen.

To earn points, the school must show that it ran an **on-going** share table (10 points) and/or donation program (10 points) in the current school year and promoted the program and its benefits to the school community. A school with both a share table program and a food donation program may earn 20 points.



View action at: https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/#open/action/123

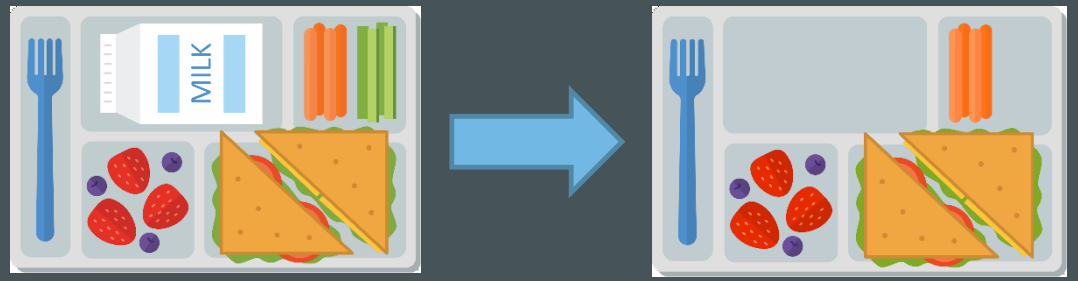
FOOD SERVICE TRAINING & BEST PRACTICES TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE

(10 points): Train food service staff and implement food service best practices to reduce food waste and promote healthy eating in the cafeteria.

Practices include purchasing and producing food in smaller batches, practicing Offer versus Serve, and deploying Smarter Lunchroom Movement strategies to increase students' intake of healthy foods and reduce waste.

To earn points, the school must have done the following in the current school year:

- Trained food service staff in techniques and strategies to reduce food waste
- Implemented some of the best practices in the cafeteria.



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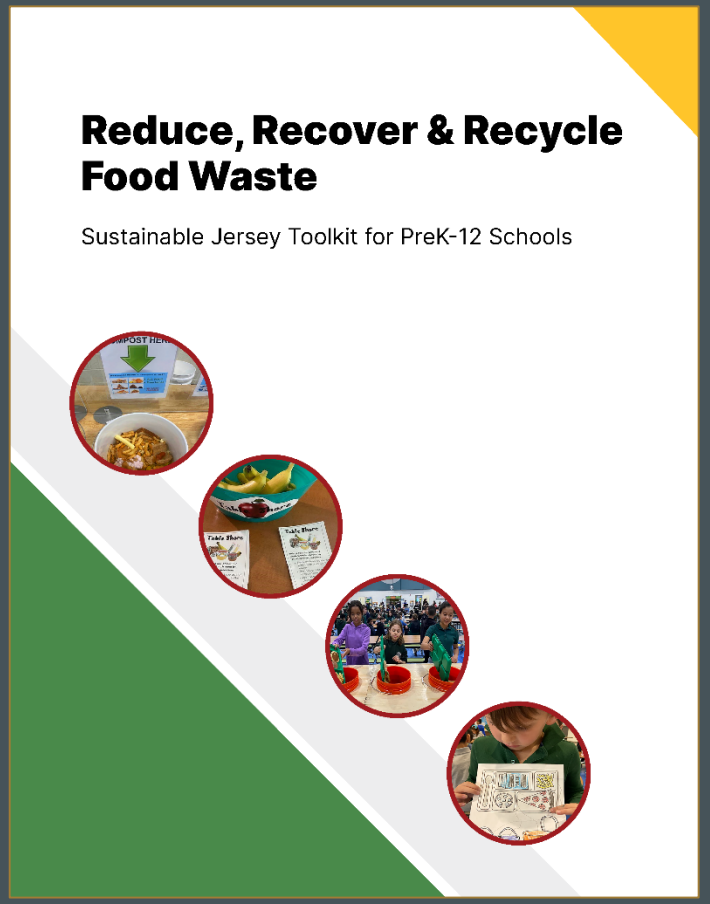
REDUCE, RECOVER & RECYCLE FOOD WASTE

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY TOOLKIT FOR PREK-12 SCHOOLS



https://bit.ly/FoodWasteToolkit