



REDUCING THE IMPACT OF FOOD WASTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

NJ Composting Council

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Who We Are

A photograph of four small green seedlings with white stems growing out of a mound of dark brown soil. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting. The text "The NJCC is a 501(C)(6) Industry Association" is overlaid in the center of the image.

The NJCC is a 501(C)(6) Industry Association



Our Mission



To advance compost manufacturing and utilization of organics/ food waste recycling programs to benefit our members, society, and the environment through advocacy, education and research.



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- A large, vibrant pile of various fresh vegetables and fruits. The assortment includes several whole carrots, green and red bell peppers, round tomatoes, and leafy greens like lettuce. There are also some citrus fruits, including a whole orange and a sliced lemon. The pile is dense and colorful, representing a healthy diet.

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The Generators

Estimated Food Waste Generated by Sector. Data in chart is average of surveys conducted in Denver, Nashville, and New York City by NRDC

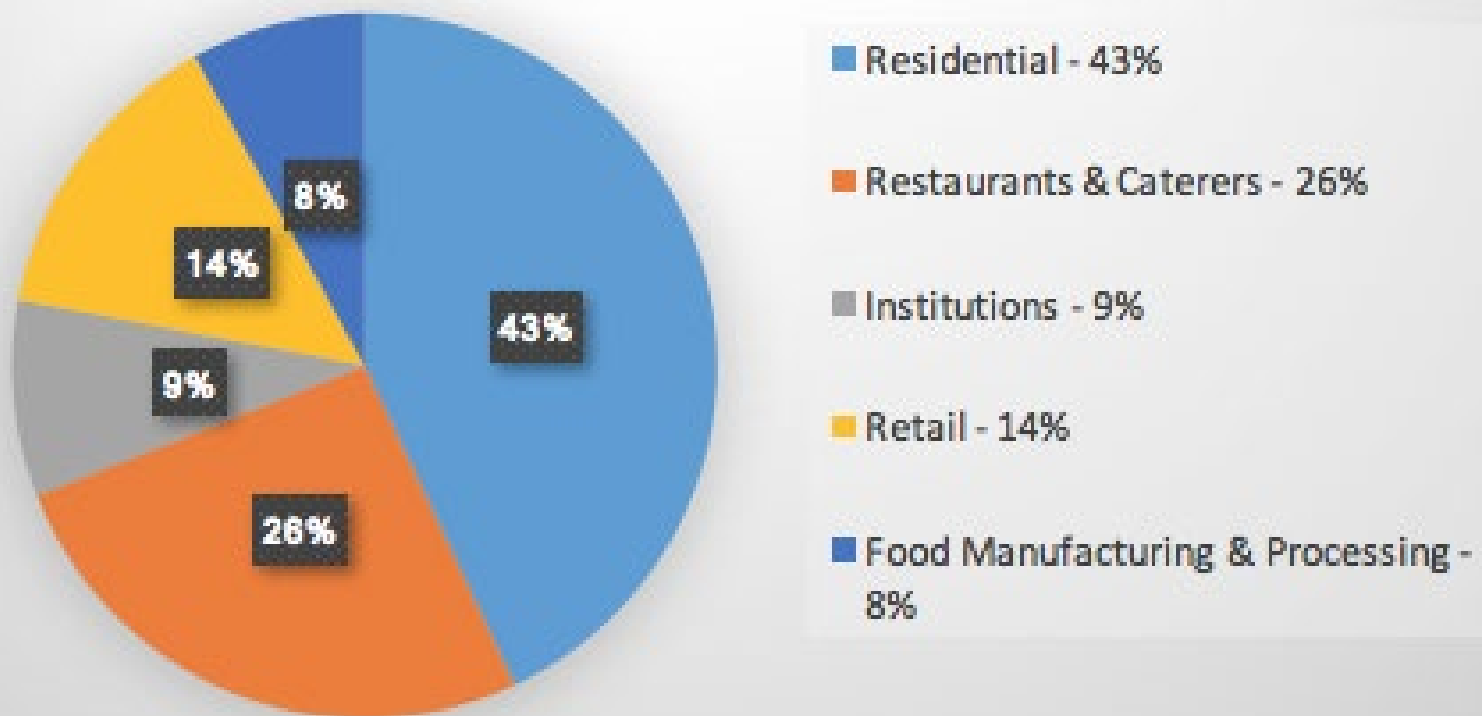


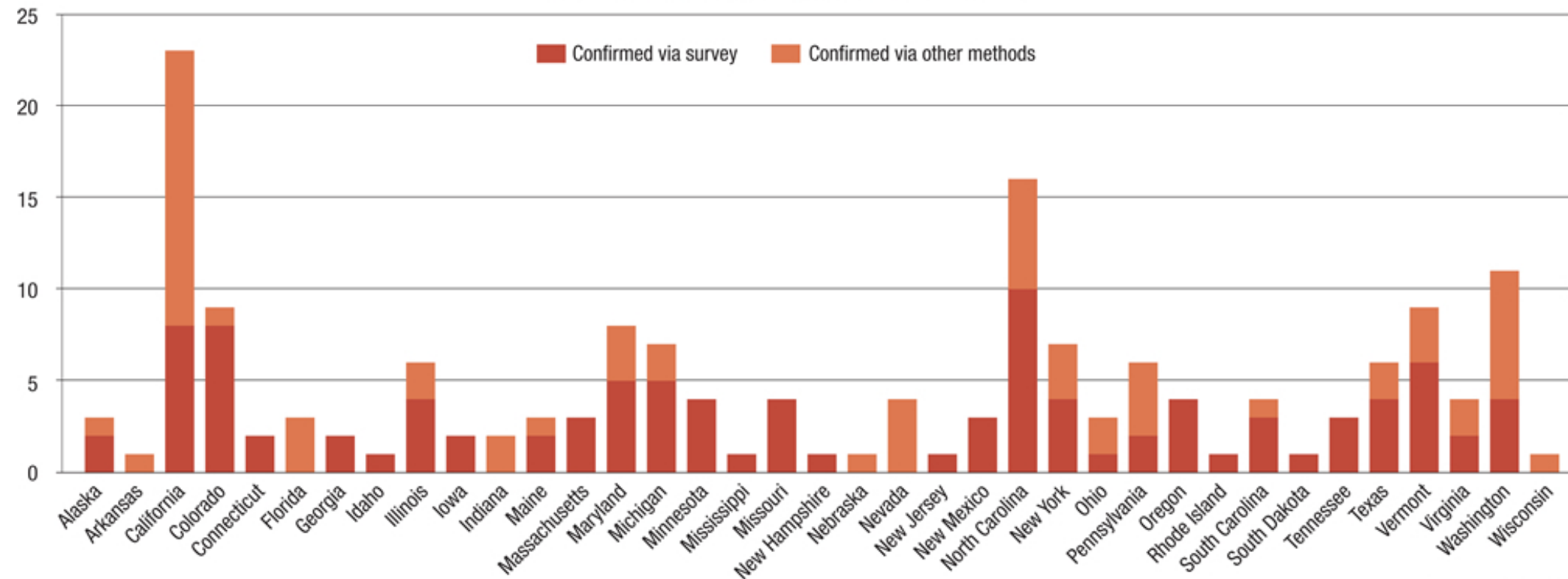
Table 1: NJDEP Draft Food Waste Reduction Plan

FRAMING THE PROBLEM

The WHERE

Figure 1. Number of full-scale facilities in the U.S. taking food waste

103 total survey responses, 82 confirmed via alternative methods



Source: BioCycle



EXISTING & PROPOSED NJ FACILITIES

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MUNICIPALITY</u>
Waste Management COrE	Existing	843 Flora Street	Elizabeth
Trenton Renewable Power, LLC	Existing	1600 Lumberton Road	Trenton
Linden Renewable Energy	Approved for Construction	4900 Tremely Point Road	Linden
Bioenergy Devco Mantua Township	Proposed	Rowan University	Gloucester County



FRAMING THE PROBLEM



- From 1990-2020 methane emissions from landfilled food waste **increased by 295%!**
- In 2020, landfilled food waste was responsible for emitting the equivalent annual GHG emissions as **15 coal-fired power plants.**

(source:NJDEP)

Wasted food causes
58%
of methane emissions from
municipal solid waste landfills.

In landfills, wasted food breaks down relatively quickly, generating methane – a powerful greenhouse gas – before landfill gas collection systems are in place.

Keeping food out of landfills helps tackle climate change.



FRAMING THE PROBLEM

The Problem is HUGE

The Problem is NOW

The Problem is US



ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM

Technologies

Policies

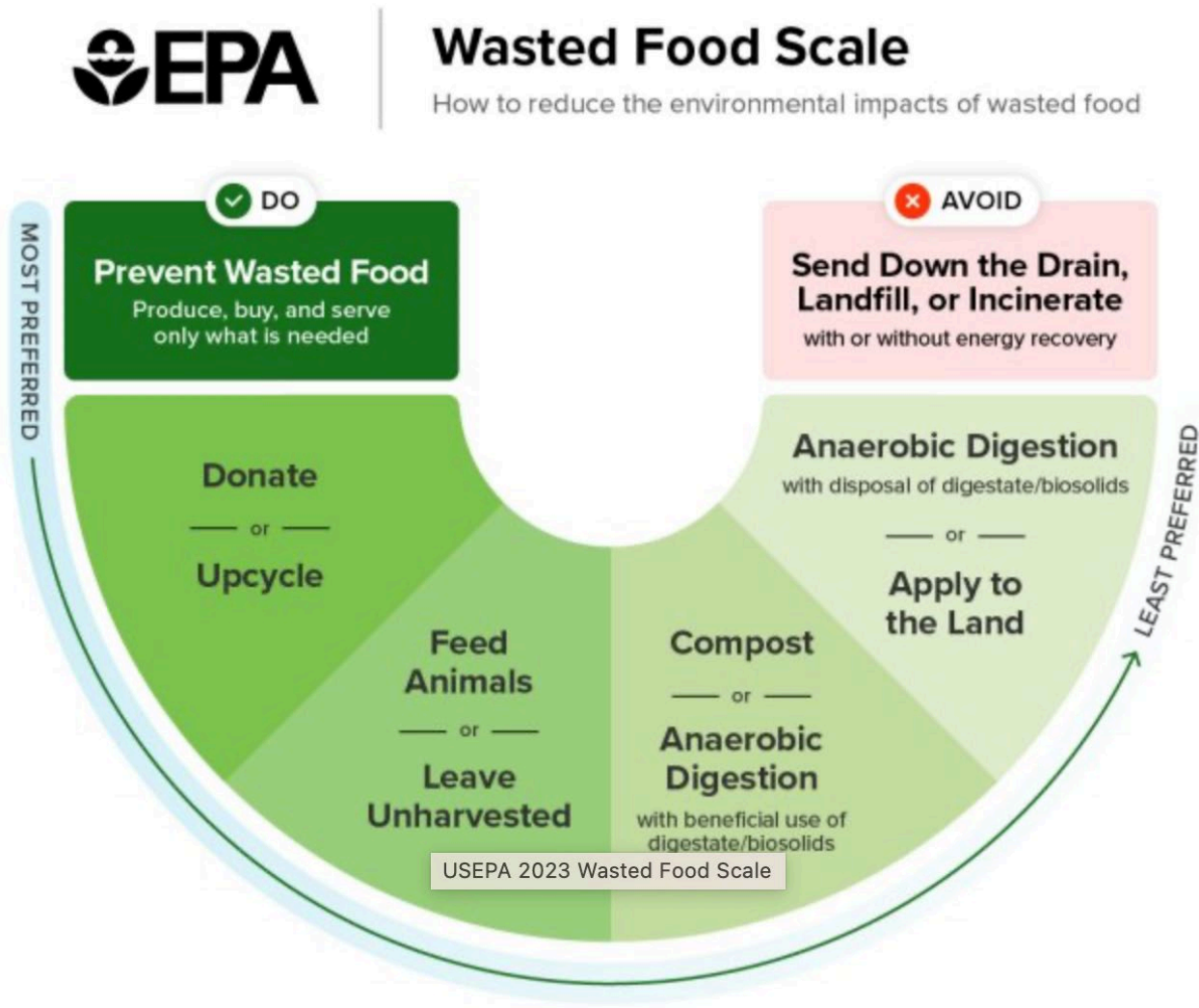
Education / Best
Practices

Funding



Technologies

They
Already
Exist





Technologies (Composting)

- ❖ *Eliminates toxic emissions and increases carbon sequestration (versus landfills).*
- ❖ Improves soil structure, porosity and density
- ❖ Increases infiltration and permeability of heavy soils reducing erosion and runoff helping control stormwater issues
- ❖ Improves water holding capacity, reducing water loss and leaching in sandy soils
- ❖ Supplies and rehabilitates a variety of micro and macronutrient to the soil for nutrient dense food



Technologies (Composting)

Soil application

- Turf establishment
- Garden bed preparation
- Reclamation/remediation
- Nursery application
- Nutrient Source
- Biological Fungicide
- Roadside

Surface applied

- Garden bed mulch
- Erosion control media
- Turf topdressing

Growing Media

- Container/potting substrates
- Landscape
- Backfill mixes(tree and shrub)
- Golf courses
- Manufactured topsoil
- Environmental media – rooftop, rain garden, bioretention, structural soils etc.



Policies

- NJ Priority Climate Action Plan
 - 50% by 2030
- Community Garden Bill (A2102/S1040)
- Tiered Permitting (Drafted)
- County Planning (A2090/S2426)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (A2094/S208)

They

Already

Exist



Best Practices / Education

- Add “*Food waste impacts on climate change*” to the core training at the DEP and for elected officials
- DEP an organization that sees itself as a catalyst
- Simplify (Speed up) the permitting process
 - Synergize across the DEP departments
 - DEP & SWAC
- Be scientific in your policies: leverage successes across the composting world



Best Practices / Education

- Grass Roots
- Community
- Businesses
- Industry
- Legislators
- Regulators



Funding

- Allocate Money for composting, not just energy creation options
- Continue the Higher Education grants
- Legislation must include financial incentives including resources for the NJDEP
- Make Money available for
 - Community projects
 - Certain types of businesses
 - Certain types of nonprofits



THANK YOU

The background of the lower half of the slide is a photograph of several hands of different skin tones reaching up from the bottom, cupping a mound of dark brown soil. The hands are positioned in a circle, creating a sense of unity and care for the earth. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the hands and the soil.

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