



# City of Boulder + Food Waste

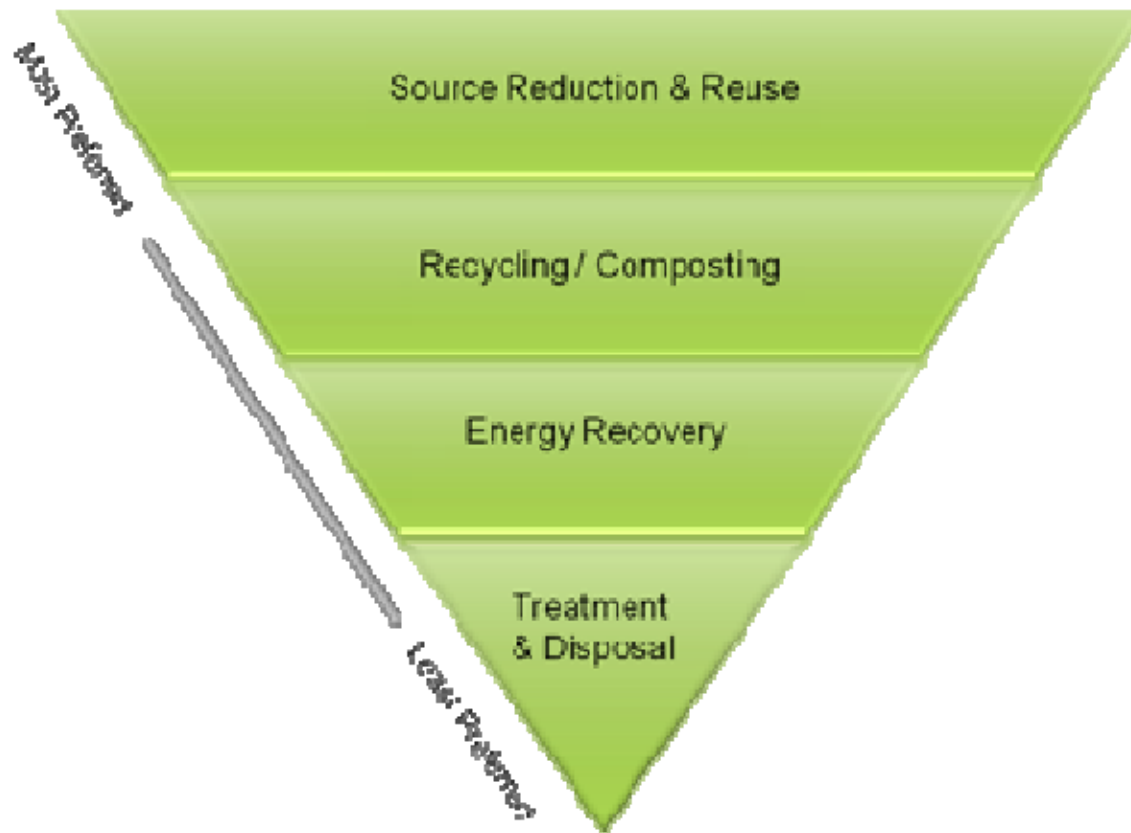
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# Zero Waste Strategic Plan

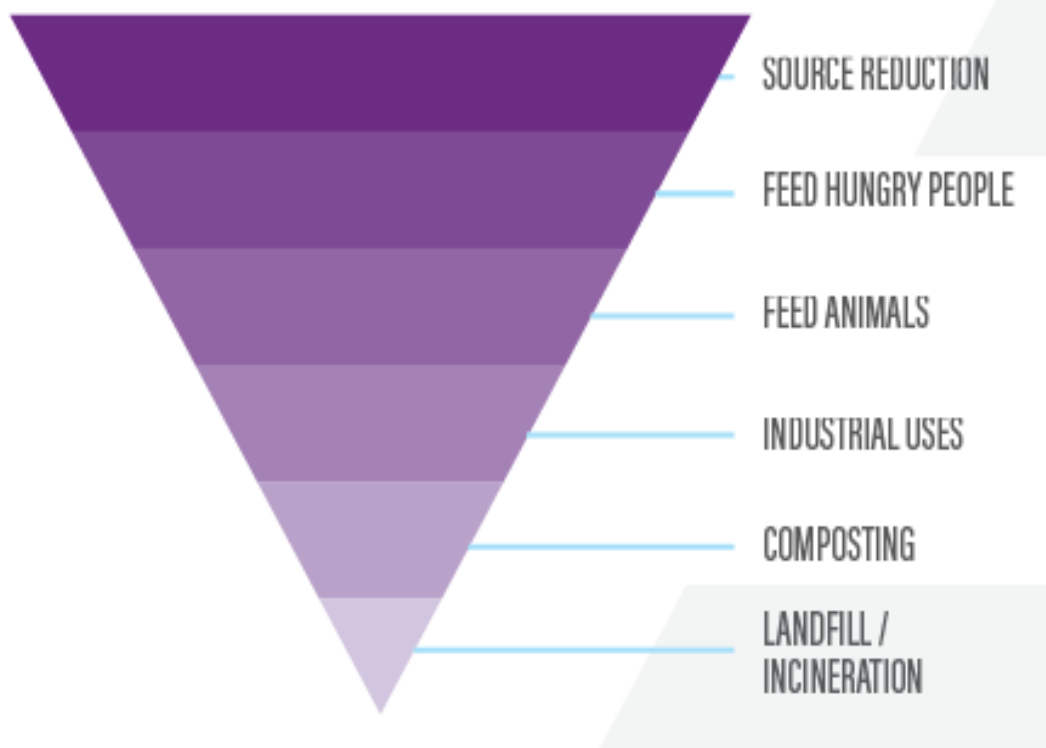
## Waste Management Hierarchy





# Universal Zero Waste Ordinance

## EPA FOOD RECOVERY HIERARCHY



- Requirement that businesses recycle + compost
- Encourages food recovery + donation before composting



## Food Waste Audit



- Retail food waste survey
- Gather existing composting and food donation practices and gauge potential for growth
- Questions also addressed perceptions of food donation and composting



# Food Waste Audit





# Key Findings for Restaurants



**53% OF EMPLOYEES  
BELIEVE MORE COULD BE DONE**



**91% CLAIMED LESS THAN 50 POUNDS  
OF DAILY POSSIBLE FOOD DONATION**



**50% PARTICIPATE IN COMPOSTING AND/OR  
ALLOW STAFF TO CONSUME SURPLUS FOOD**



## Food Waste Audit

- Restaurants and cafes are the most opportune areas for further development of food recovery programs
  - 265 full service restaurants in city limits
  - Most do not participate in food recovery
  - If they donated surplus food: 1.2 million pounds (more than 1 million meals)





## Food Waste Audit

- Training programs for food retailers on food donation and source reduction could substantially reduce food waste
  - 40% of grocers and 43% of restaurant employees thought their company could increase its training for employees about food waste mitigation







## Food Waste Audit

- Education about food recovery must occur at various organizational levels





## Food Waste Audit

- Education about federal shield act (Bill Emerson Act) is needed in the retail sector





## Food Waste Audit

- Food recovery organizations are a necessary component of an effective retail food waste mitigation strategy





## Food Waste Audit

- Mandatory composting programs and trash taxes incentivize food donation





## Food Waste Audit

- Additional recommendation:
  - Consumer education may reap substantial reductions in residential food waste





## Food Waste Audit

- Additional recommendation:
  - Processing facilities and commercial kitchens provide means for value-added food recovery and earned-income models

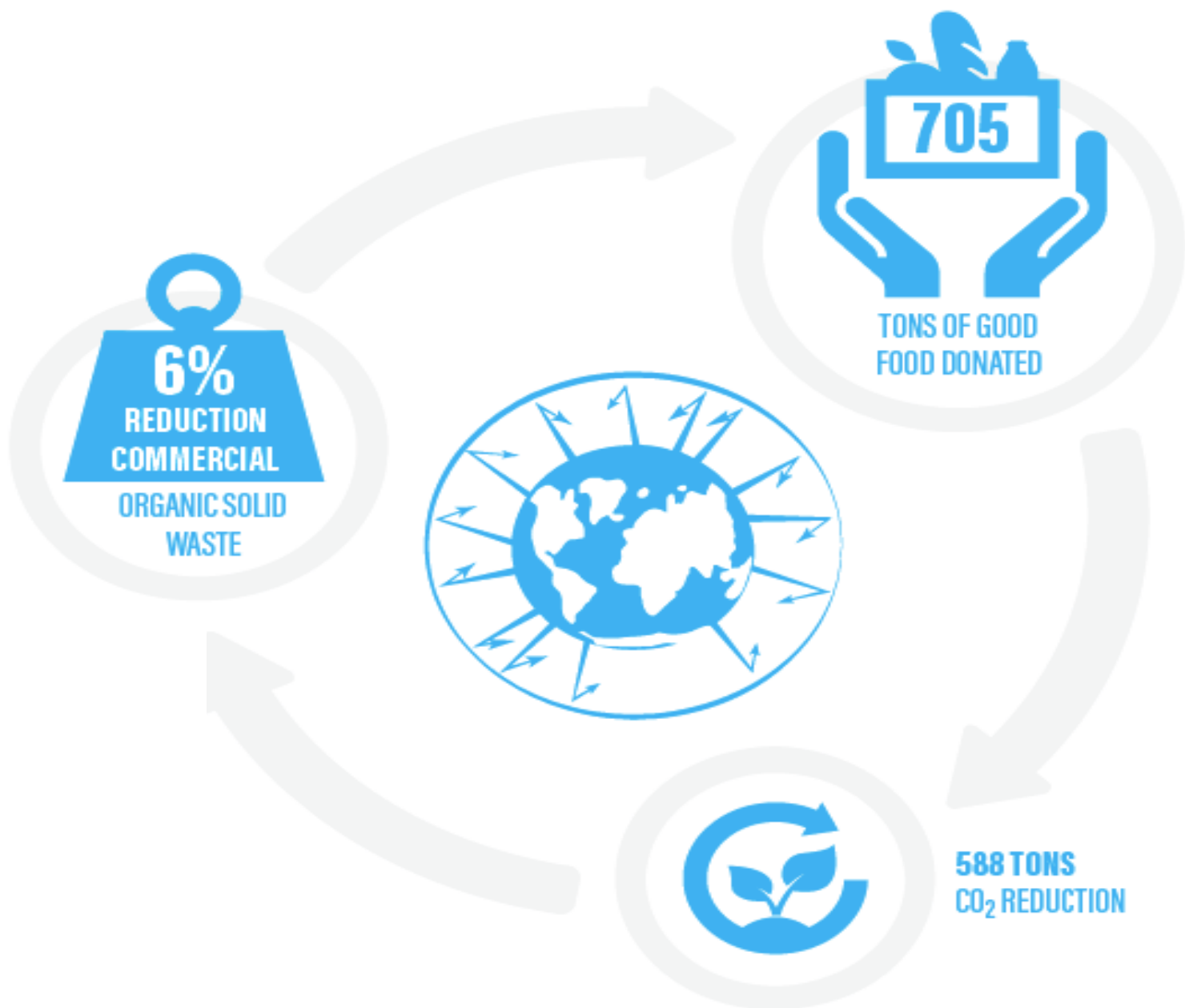




## Food Waste Audit

- Additional recommendation:
  - Need for farm gleaning programs and resources for innovative entrepreneurial solutions





**6%**

**REDUCTION  
COMMERCIAL  
ORGANIC SOLID  
WASTE**

**705**

**TONS OF GOOD  
FOOD DONATED**

**588 TONS  
CO<sub>2</sub> REDUCTION**



REDUCTION	COMMERCIAL	RESIDENTIAL	ORGANIC WASTE DIVERTED (TONS)	GHG REDUCTION (TONS CO2)
+5%	4%	8%	519.7	433.2
+10%	9%	12%	989.8	826.7
+13%	10%	21%	1329.2	1110.0
+20%	15%	30%	1949.0	1627.0
+30%	30%	30%	3000.0	2504.0

- Up to an additional 13% reduction can be accounted for by donation and consumer education alone.
- Further reductions up to 30% may be accomplished with extensive consumer education and efforts to encourage source reduction and donation at all levels.