

Food Recovery: Food for Thought

Keeping Food “Waste” Out of the Landfill and Giving It a Place at the Table
(for the people or the pigs or the soil)

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What's the Relationship Between Food and Landfills?

Ugly Fruit and Veggies



Multi-celled Landfill



Between People and Landfills?

Kids from Comanche Middle School



Stillwater OK Landfill



It's Stronger than You Might Think

Hunger in Oklahoma

- ▶ Oklahoma consistently ranks among the top 5 states in the number of people who are hungry.
- ▶ 1 in 4 Oklahoma children is at risk of going to bed hungry.
- ▶ 1 in 16 Oklahoma seniors (age 60+) struggle with hunger.
- ▶ Oklahoma is ranked 10th in difficulty accessing affordable fresh fruits and vegetables.
- ▶ 17.2 percent of our statewide population is considered food insecure, leaving 653,820
- ▶ Oklahomans (233,350 children) unsure where they will get their next meal.

Waste in the US

- ▶ Americans waste 25% of the food they buy.
- ▶ An estimated 1 billion Unpeeled, Unopened and Unwanted food items are discarded annually in American schools.
- ▶ Americans throw yard wastes in the "trash" which means these organic materials end up in the landfill.
- ▶ 40% of the materials in our landfills are organic and give off methane.

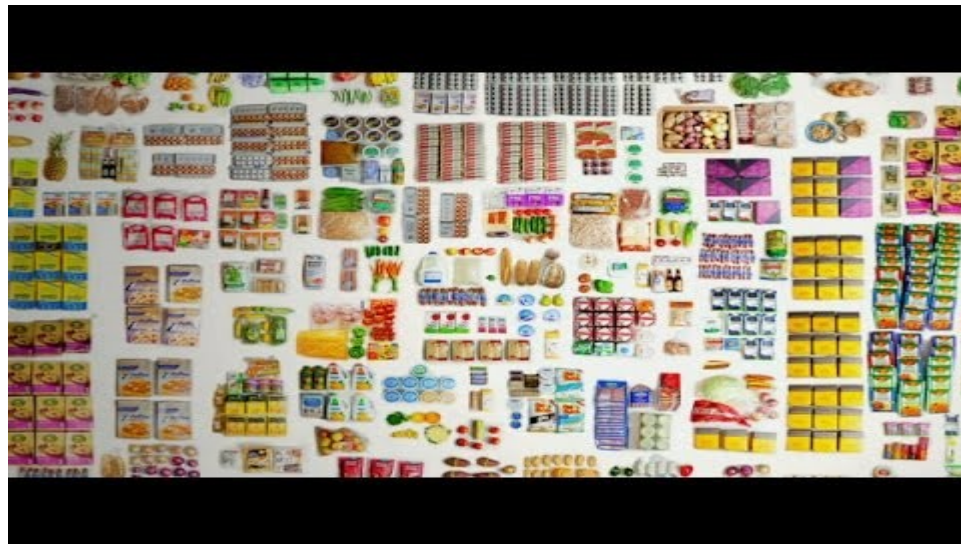
Here's the Current Sustainable Materials Management Food Recovery Hierarchy



What Can We Do About Food Waste?

- ▶ Educate
 - ▶ Foodie Film Fest
 - ▶ Master Composter Training
 - ▶ Promote Gleaning
- ▶ Set an example
 - ▶ Don't use Styrofoam plates at events
 - ▶ Find partners
 - ▶ Groceries and schools can be resources for good food to take to food banks, shelters, etc.
 - ▶ Farmers may be happy to get food for their animals
 - ▶ What's left after that is great for composting - feeding the soil

Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story



The clean bin project



Fresh: The Movie



What Can We Do?

Make those ugly fruits attractive



Teach the kids (of all ages)



What Can We Do?

Form Teams to Get the Word Out



Get the Food to the People

- ▶ Glean the food leftover in fields in an organized fashion.
 - ▶ Fallenfruit.org
 - ▶ Ripenear.me
 - ▶ Keenforgreen.com
- ▶ Take unused food to your local Food Bank or create a food hub
- ▶ Teach people about the Good Samaritan Laws

Stop Sending Organic Materials to Landfills

- ▶ Oil and gas is the largest producer of methane in the US.
- ▶ Landfills produce methane from the breakdown of organic materials.
- ▶ Encourage movement from burying our waste in landfills to landfills that turn waste into energy.
- ▶ Support and come to events like this.
- ▶ Encourage your friends and neighbors to join you.
- ▶ Moving on to our panel...

Questions?

I'll be around throughout the Summit
Or email me at lynn.malley@okstate.edu.