

SW MI Materials Management Planning Committee Agenda

May 19, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Location: Pokagon Band Community Center
27043 Potawatomi Trail Dowagiac, MI 49047

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Kalli Marshall, VBCD, Chair

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes

4. Communications

5. Old Business

Lake Michigan College

Al Pscholka, VP, Enrollment, Marketing, &
Government Relations

6. Hearings

Compost Facility – Organicycle

Dan Tietema, President

Hydro Aluminum

Sheila Bergen, HSE Coordinator

Green Earth Electronics

Jeff Bodke, Director of Operations

7. New Business

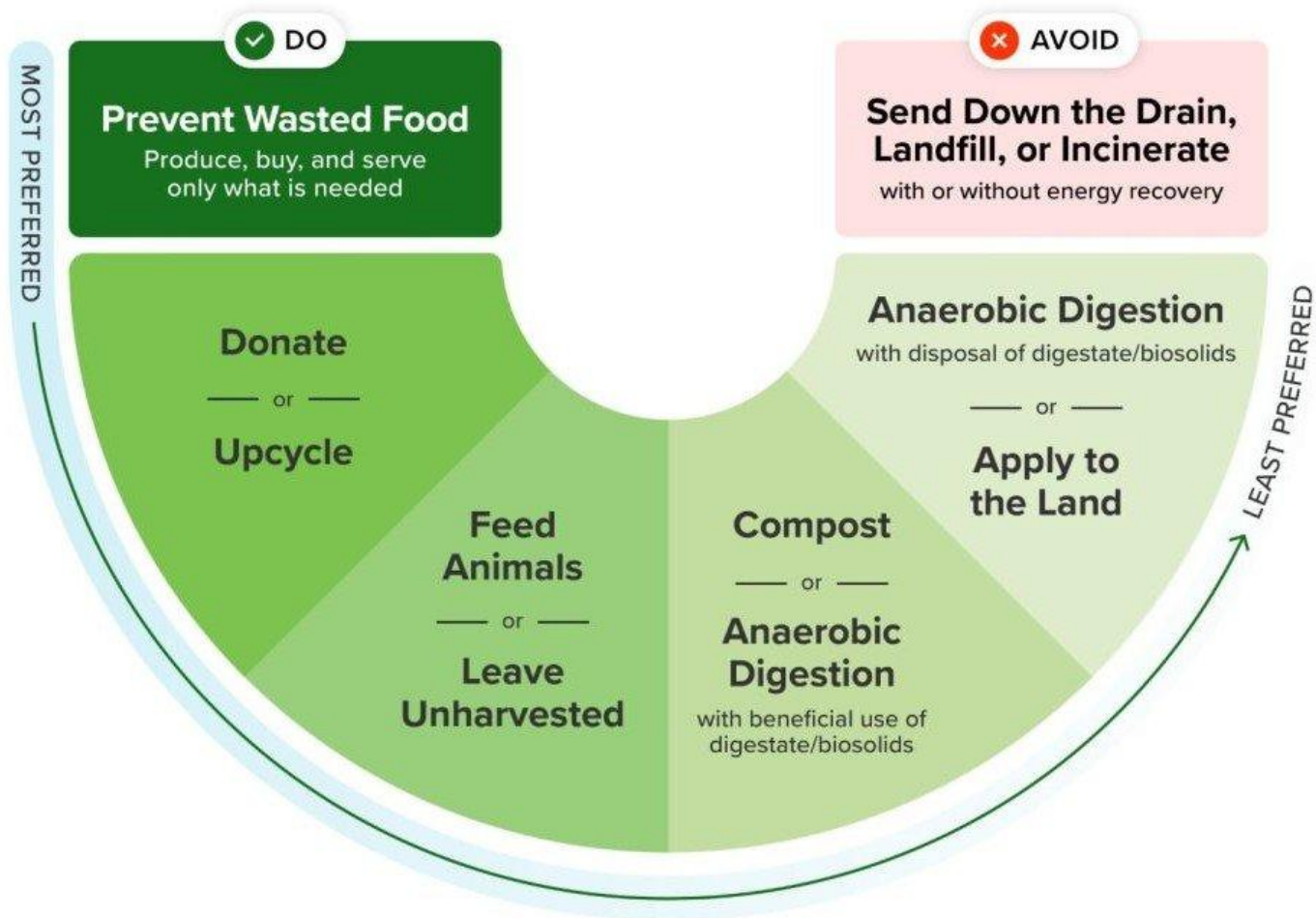
Solutions Activity

Bekah Schrag, DPA



Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



October 2023

Organics Solutions Activity

Instructions for Groups of 4-5:

1. Choose one of the following categories:

1. Restaurant & Food Service Food Waste

2. Households & Residential Food Waste (including multi-family)

3. Institutional Food Waste (e.g. schools, hospitals)

4. Farms & Food Producers Food Waste (farms, food manufacturers, food distributors)

2. For your category, brainstorm solutions for both **urban** and **rural** contexts. Think about what's practical, scalable, or already being done locally.

3. Organize your ideas into the following sub-categories:

1. Prevention – How can waste be avoided before it starts?

2. Diversion/Donation – Where can food go instead of the landfill?

3. Education – How can behavior be changed?

4. Infrastructure/Policy – What systems or rules are needed?

4. Choose a spokesperson to share highlights with the full group.

Infrastructure & Access

1

Site a regional compost facility.

2

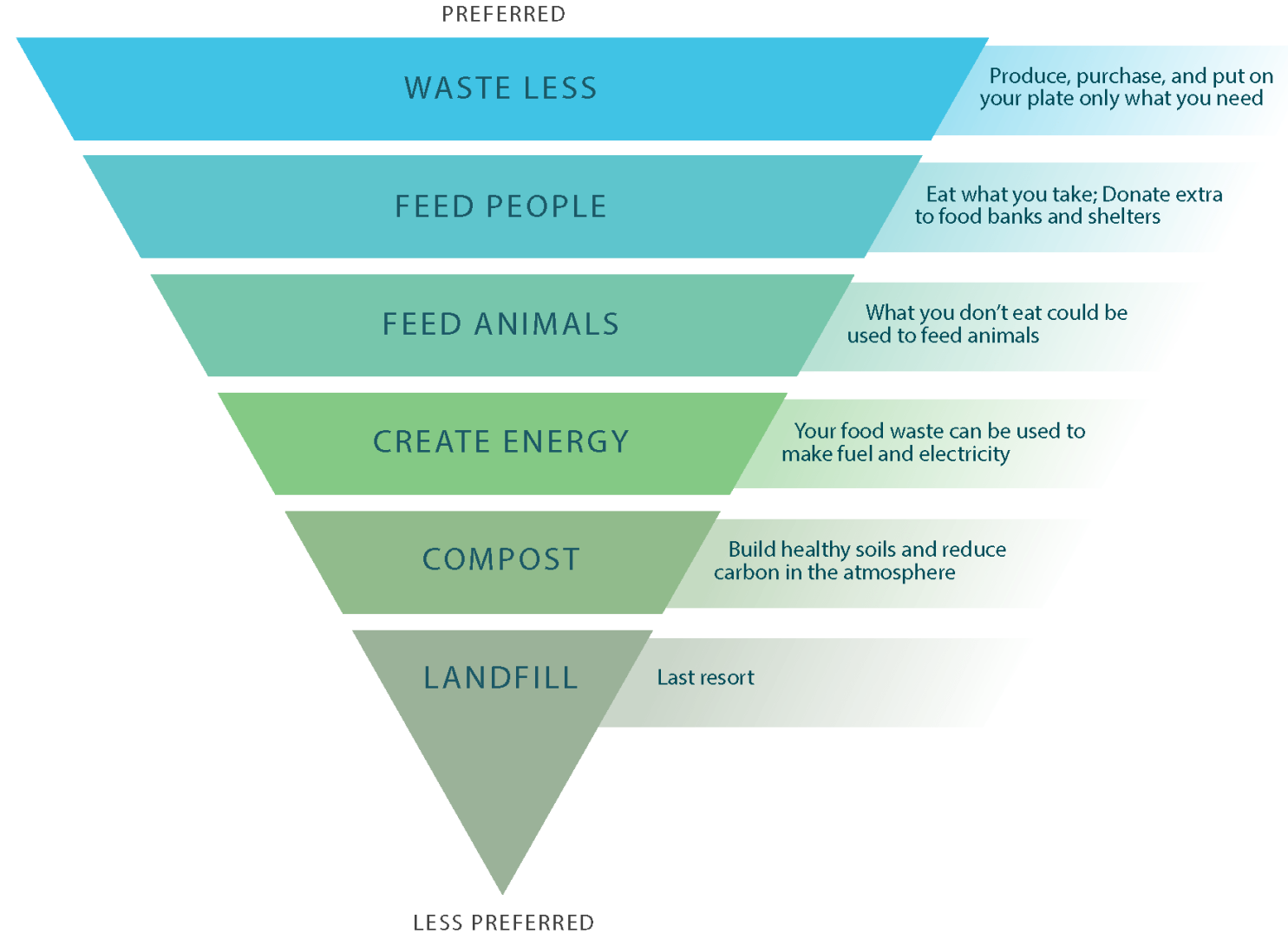
Establish collection sites throughout the region.

3

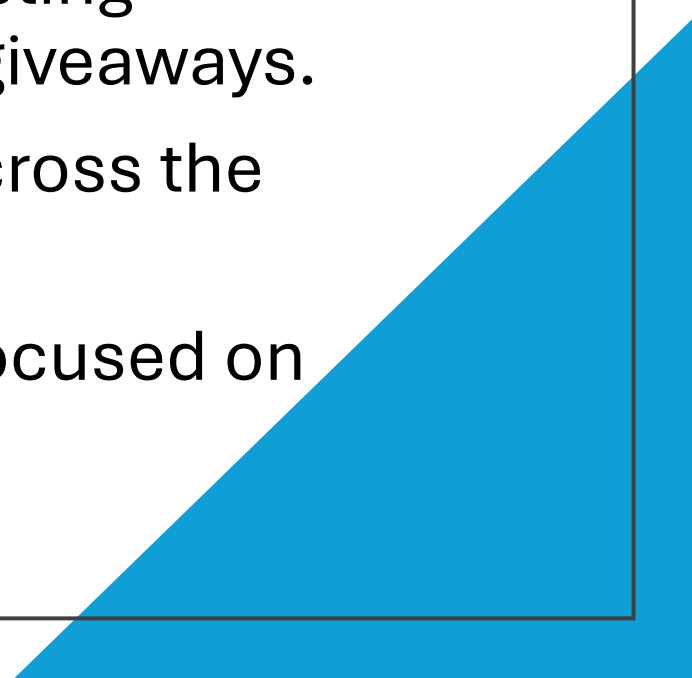
Provide curbside composting programs where feasible.

Waste Reduction Hierarchy

- Ensure food waste is managed according to EGLE's Organics Management Hierarchy, prioritizing feeding people first.
- Work with food pantries and food banks to divert edible food before it becomes waste.



Education & Outreach

- Promote backyard and neighborhood composting through classes, educational materials, and giveaways.
 - Educate the public on reducing food waste across the supply chain—from farm to consumer.
 - Develop school-based education programs focused on food waste reduction and composting.
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Collaboration & Partnerships

- Partner with restaurants to implement organics management practices.
- Collaborate with schools to integrate food waste diversion efforts.



Tracking & Reporting

- Implement systems to track and report food waste reduction and diversion efforts across the region.



8. Public Comment

9. Miscellaneous

MRC Conference Takeaways

Subcommittees

10. Adjournment

*Next meeting will be held **June 16 at 1:00 p.m. at Pokagon Band Tribal Police Department's Emergency Operations Center, 58620 Sink Rd, Dowagiac, MI 49047***

