



FOOD WASTE PREVENTION & FOOD RECOVERY ROADMAP WORKING SESSION

July 18, 2023

Hybrid Event: Virtual & CT DEEP, Hartford

HOUSEKEEPING

- This meeting is being recorded.
- This is a hybrid event, with participants joining us via ZOOM and in-person at CT DEEP Headquarters in Hartford.
- If on ZOOM, please keep your microphones muted unless sharing information.
- We will be breaking into groups in the latter part of today's meeting. More instruction and guidance will be given at that time.
- If you are on ZOOM and haven't picked your breakout group yet, please share your preference for room now; rooms are limited to 8 people.
- If you have additional comments, beyond what you were able to share today, you can share your ideas by email to: Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov and Amar.Singh@ct.gov

**FOOD WASTE
PREVENTION (FWP)/
FOOD RECOVERY (FR)
ROADMAP**

WORKING SESSION:

**AGENDA
1:00PM – 3:00PM**

- 1:00 Welcome
- 1:05 Waste in the Food System
- 1:10 CT's Organics Waste Recycling Law
- 1:15 Developing a Roadmap for FWP/FR
- 1:40 Questions
- 1:55 Breakout Working Sessions
- 2:30 Breakout Groups Report Out
- 2:55 Wrap Up

A stylized, colorful landscape illustration. The top right corner features a bright yellow sun. Below it is a large green hill with a dark blue outline. The bottom of the image shows a light blue body of water, also outlined in dark blue. The text 'Welcome James Albis' is centered on the green hill.

**Welcome
James Albis**

MIRA, a waste-to-energy facility in Hartford, closed in July 2022

- Now, Connecticut is shipping about 40% of its MSW (860,000 tons) per year to out-of-state landfills.
- Neither environmentally or economically sustainable.
- CT DEEP is investigating ways to address this crisis that prioritize source reduction and diversion.



The background features a stylized landscape with a yellow sun in the top right, green hills in the middle, and light blue water at the bottom. All elements are separated by thick, dark blue outlines.

Waste in the Food System

Sherill Baldwin

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT



CT FOOD POLICY COUNCIL FOOD SYSTEM GRAPHIC

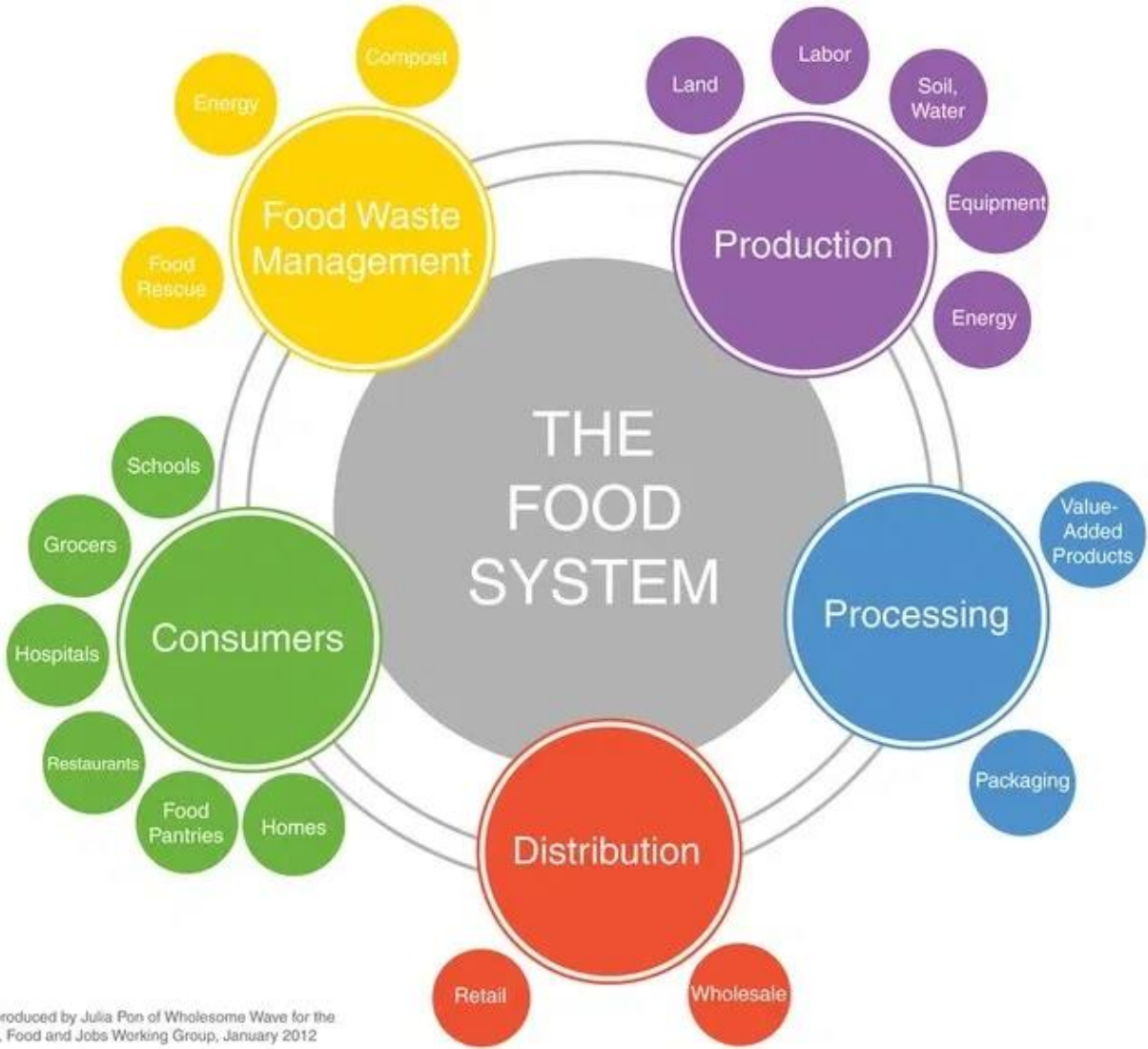
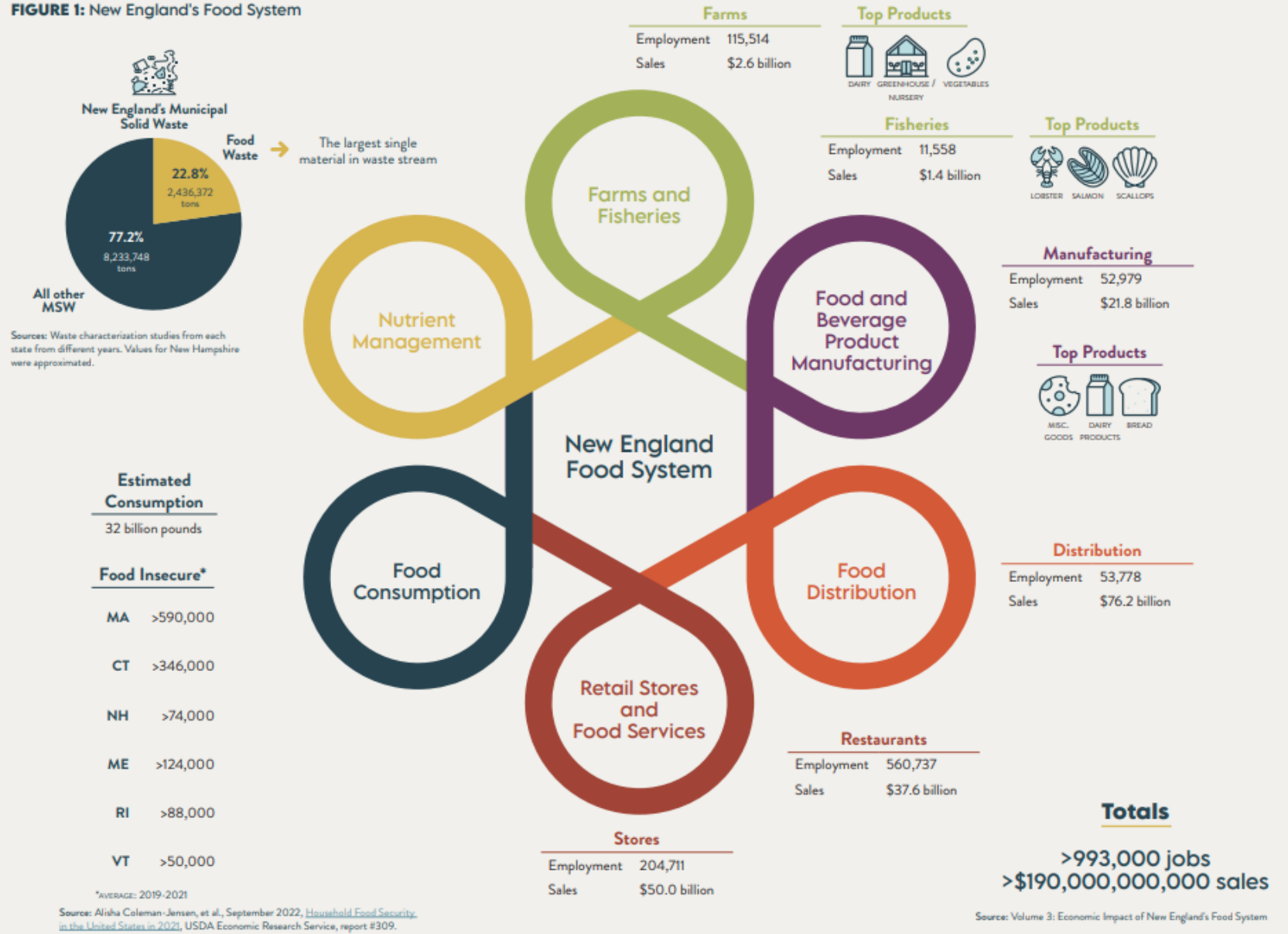


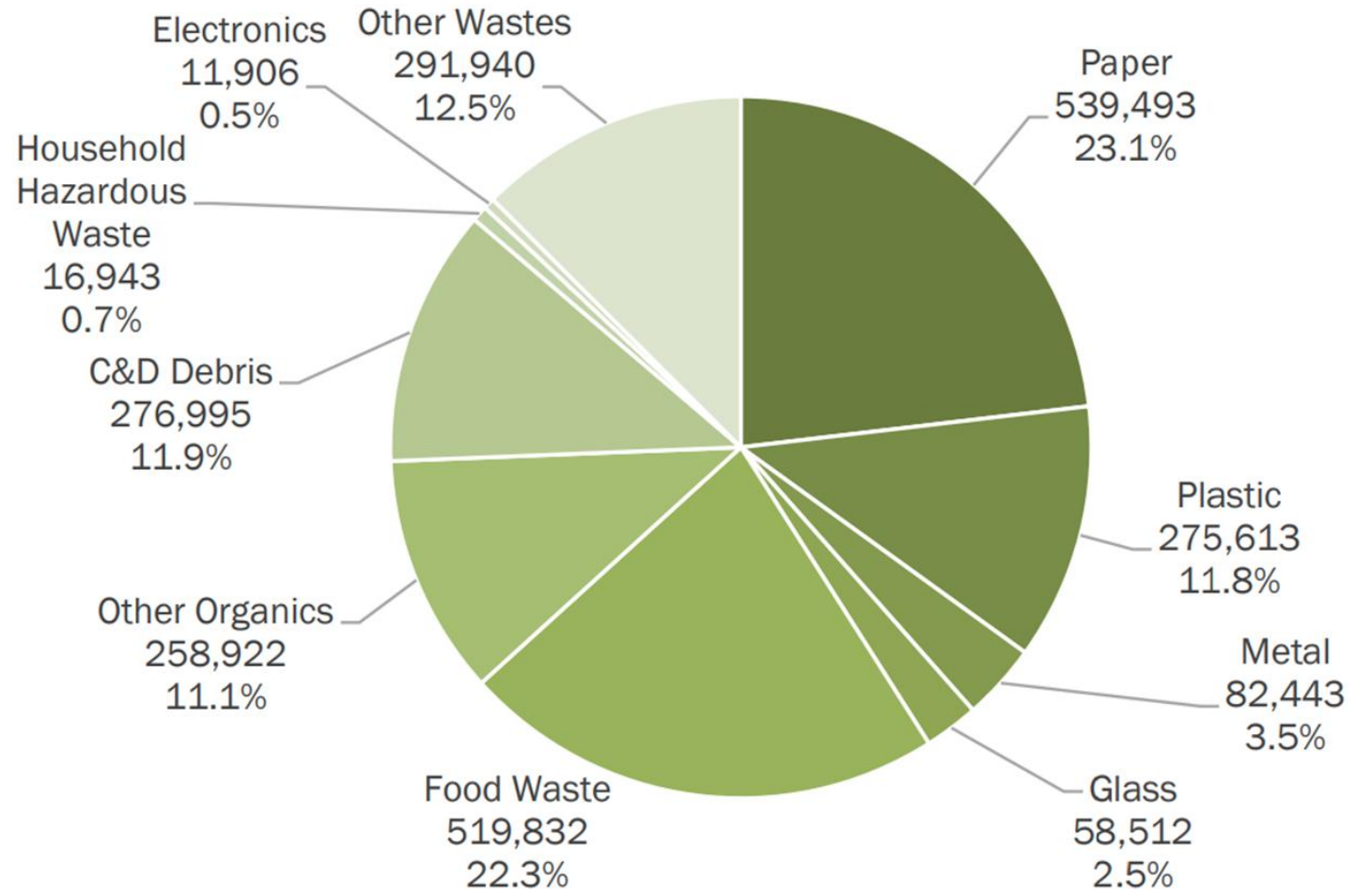
Diagram produced by Julia Pon of Wholesome Wave for the CT Farms, Food and Jobs Working Group, January 2012

NEW ENGLAND FOOD SYSTEM

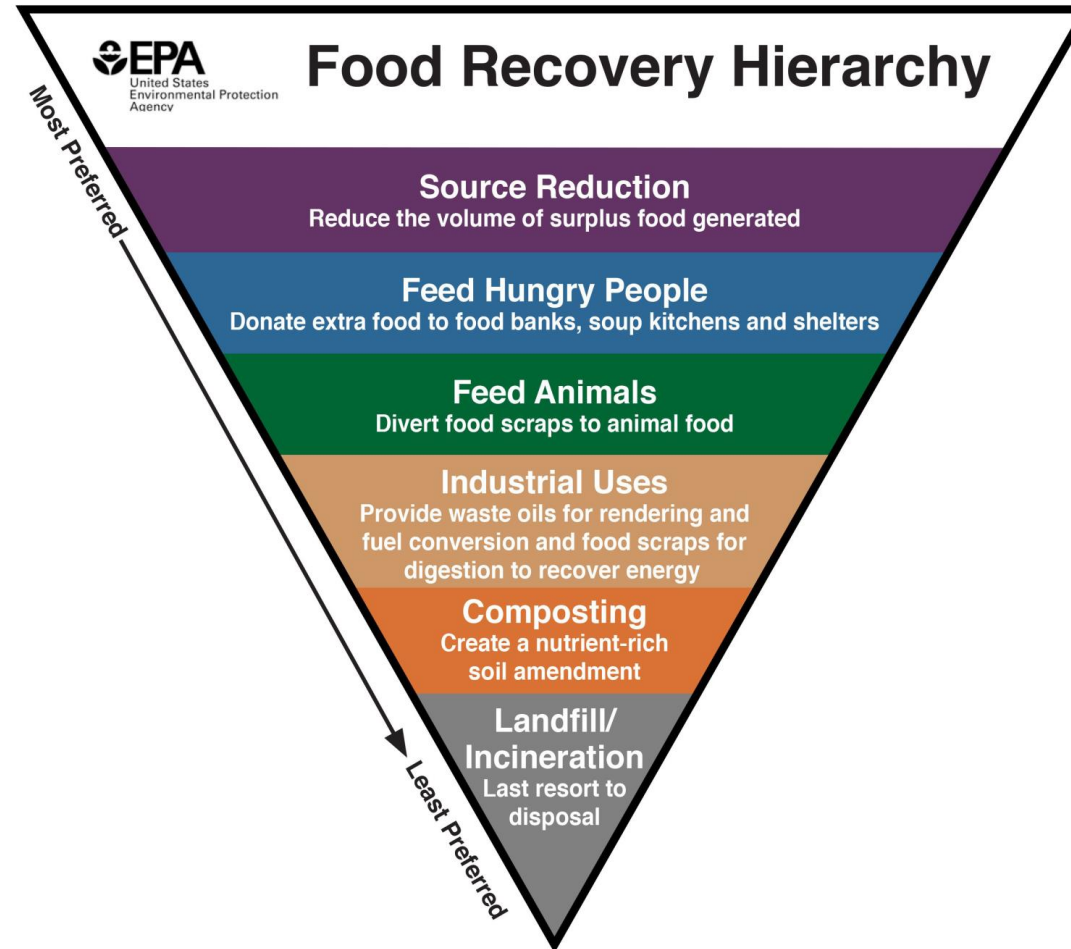
FIGURE 1: New England's Food System



FOOD WASTE IN CT



FOOD WASTE HIERARCHY



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CT's Organics Recycling Law

Chris Nelson

CT'S ORGANICS RECYCLING LAW

CGC 22a-226e:

- Became law in 2011 (P.A. 217)
- Went into effect in Jan 1, 2014 (P.A. 13-285)

Requires certain 'food waste generators' to collect food scraps separately from other waste (source separated organic materials) if they generate 26 tons or more per year.

The law currently is triggered if these food waste generators are within 20 miles of a facility that could accept their materials for composting or anaerobic digestion that composts the by-products (digestate).

Food waste generators:

- Commercial food wholesaler or distributor
- Industrial food manufacturer or processor
- Supermarket
- Resort
- Conference center

CT'S ORGANICS RECYCLING LAW

On and after January 1, 2022, each commercial food wholesaler or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket, resort or conference center that generate a projected annual volume of 26 tons or more per year of source-separated organic materials (SSOM) AND is located not more than 20 miles from an authorized source-separated organic material composting facility must comply with this law.

Those that fall within the above parameters shall:

- (A) Separate such source-separated organic materials from other solid waste; and
- (B) ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any authorized source-separated organic material composting facility that has available capacity and that will accept such source-separated organic material.

NEW CHANGES TO CT'S ORGANICS RECYCLING LAW (HB 6644 / P.A. 23-170)

On and after January 1, 2025:

Will include additional types of waste generators:

- **Institutions – establishments engaged in providing hospitality, entertainment or rehabilitation and health care services, and any hospital, public or private educational facility or correctional facility.**

The current 20-mile from facility trigger will be eliminated.

Will still only trigger waste generators that generate 26 tons/year or more of source-separated organic materials



**Amar Singh
Environmental Defense Fund
(EDF)/ReFED Climate Fellow**

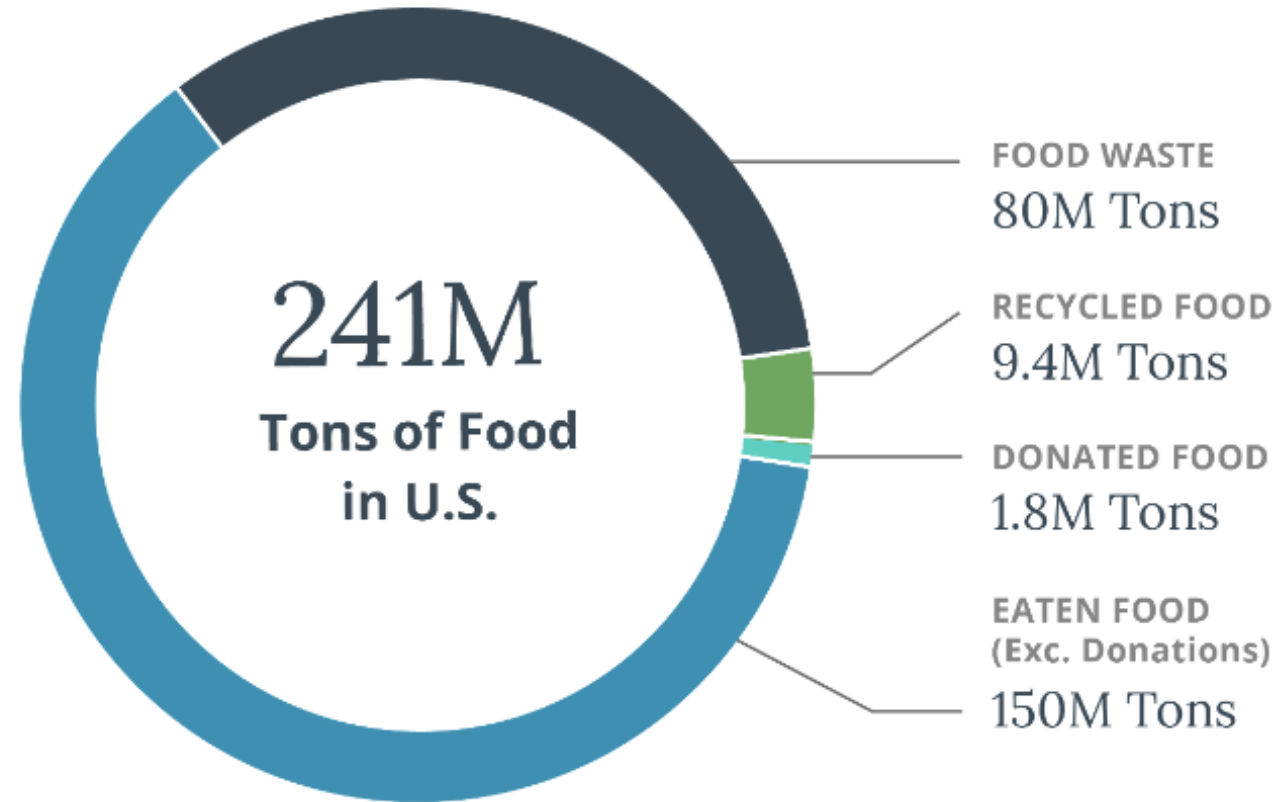
ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP



STATUS QUO

Although sufficient food is produced worldwide to meet the needs of the global population, 2 billion people (>25% of world population) still lack regular access to sufficient food and more than 800 million are hungry. (WHO)

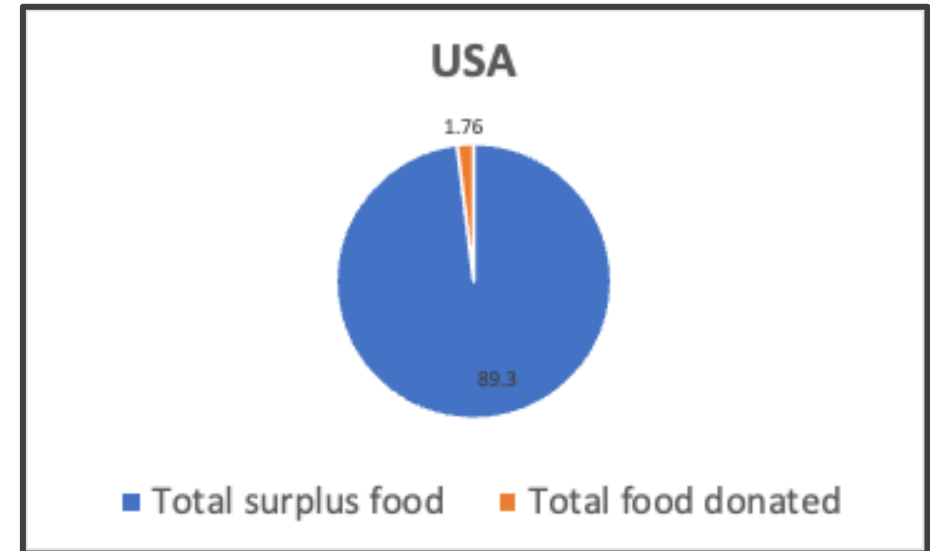
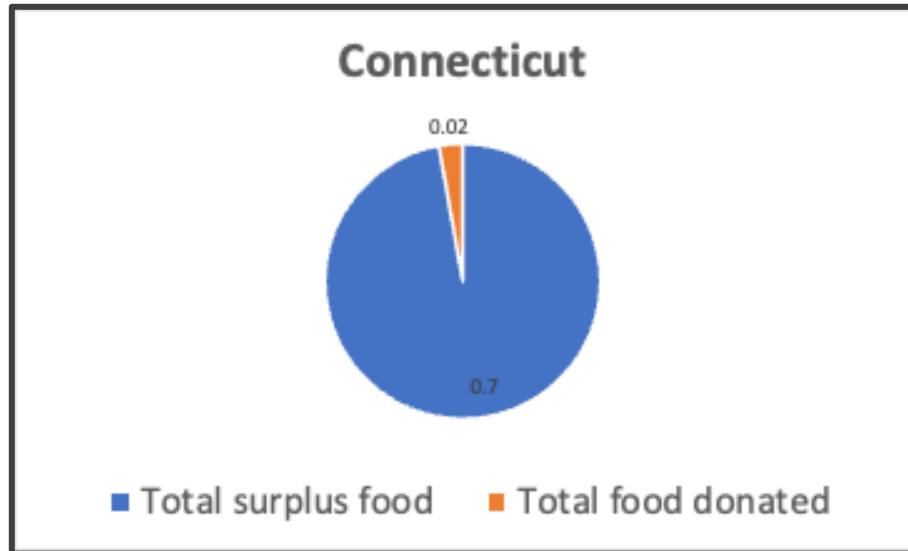
USA STATS



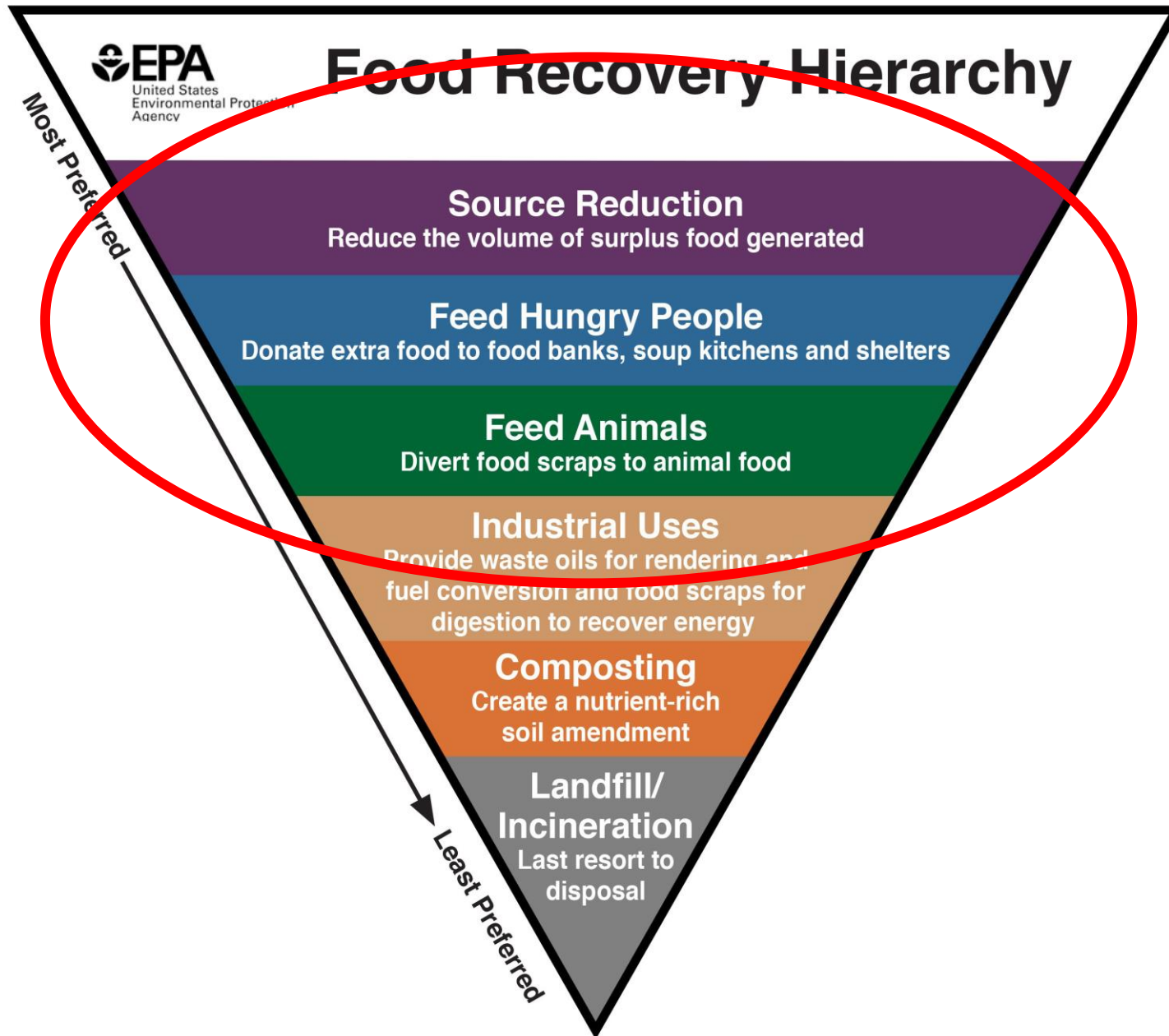
Source: ReFED April/May 2023

STATUS QUO*

USA generated 91 million tons of surplus food in 2021, which is 38% of total production



*All figures in million tons
*Data based on ReFed estimates



LET'S DEFINE THE TERMS



Surplus Food: Food (including inedible parts) that is not sold or used by a covered entity and that meets food safety regulations, even though it may not be readily marketable due to size, surplus, appearance, grade, & freshness. (Harvard)



Food Waste: Uneaten food and inedible parts, excluding packaging, that are landfilled, incinerated, disposed of down the drain/sewer, dumped, spread onto land, anaerobically digested, composted, or used for animal feed. (Harvard)



Edible Food: Edible food means food intended for people to eat, including food not sold because of appearance, age, freshness, grade, size, & surplus. Edible food includes but is not limited to prepared foods, packaged foods & produce. (Cal gov & ReFed)

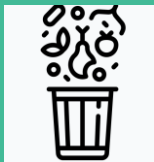
LET'S DEFINE THE TERMS



Food Recovery: Food recovery means collecting edible food that would otherwise go to waste and redistributing it to feed people in need. (Cal govt)



Food Donor: Individual, corporation, partnership, organization, association, or governmental entity, including a retail grocer, wholesaler, hotel, motel, manufacturer, restaurant, caterer, farmer, school food authority, institute of higher education, and non-profit food distributor that donates food. (Harvard)



Food Waste Reduction: Preventing food from going to waste, donating surplus food, and recycling food scraps. (Harvard)

LET'S DEFINE THE TERMS



Diversion: Disposal avoidance of organics or food scraps through composting and anaerobic digestion.



Food Scraps: Inedible food, trimmings from the preparation of food, surplus food that is not donated, and food processing waste. (Harvard)



Source-Separated Organic Materials: Organic materials separated from non-organic materials at the point of generation. (Harvard)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Identify Barriers and Opportunities:

- 1) Analyze existing challenges and potential areas for improvement.
- 2) Consider economic, environmental, and social factors.

Understand Stakeholder Perspectives

- 1) Engage diverse stakeholders for valuable insights.
- 2) Incorporate their perspectives, challenges, and goals.

Draft a Comprehensive Policy and Program Roadmap

- 1) Synthesize research, stakeholder perspectives, and solutions.
- 2) Develop a clear, actionable roadmap aligned with stakeholder goals.
- 3) Outline steps to address barriers and leverage opportunities effectively.

PROGRESS



1) Conducted stakeholder listening sessions to gather insights on barriers and opportunities.



2) Organized knowledge sharing meetings with policy makers from NY, California, and Oregon.



3) Engaged with academicians and experts from CT Dept of Agriculture, UConn, Columbia University, and Ohio State University for their input.



4) Held meetings with ReFed to gather data and resources for research.



5) Utilized resources from Harvard Law's Food Law and Policy Clinic, including their toolkit.



6) Studied and reviewed food donation laws in NY and California for precedents.

PIECES TO THE FOOD RECOVERY PUZZLE



- State of CT
- CT DEEP
- Municipalities
- Counties



- Food recovery hubs
- Food recovery NGOs
- Food Banks
- Tech Start-Ups
- Animal Feed Manufacturers
- Animal Farms



- Farms
- Consumers
- Bulk food waste generators
- Recovered food recipients



- Marketing Agencies
- Education NGOs
- Research organizations

NEW YORK & CALIFORNIA LAW

New York

- Detailed store-to-store education & outreach
- Mix of carrots and sticks
- Funding from "Environmental Protection Fund"
- Mandatory annual reporting, better done centrally by corporates
- Focus on Animal Feed

California

- Tiered classification of food recovery programs
- Sticks > Carrots
- Cap & Trade to generate funding
- Mandatory annual reporting
- Food waste prevention NOT addressed
- Food banks could have been better prepared

THINGS WE ARE MISSING

Technology?

Gleaning in Farms?

Farm bill – how it links or doesn't link with this project?

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Break Out Discussions Instructions

BREAK OUT ROOM / TABLE DISCUSSIONS

1. Take a moment to read the prompts for your assigned topic.
2. Engage in a group brainstorming session to generate a set of solutions for the given questions for your topic.
3. Designate someone to take notes. We want to document your discussions and findings.
ZOOM folks, please assign volunteer in your group to take notes in the google doc provided.
4. Start with very brief introductions, such as name and affiliation. Choose a group member to report-out some of your group's solutions.
5. You have 30 minutes.



**Break Out Groups
Report Out**

NEXT STEPS?

Thank you!

We want keep the dialogue going – feel free to reach out to Sherill.Baldwin@ct.gov and Amar.Singh@ct.gov with more ideas, questions, comments, or concerns.

Will we share next steps regarding the Roadmap when available.