

# FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT FROM PREVENTION TO DISPOSAL

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### **About LeanPath**

#### Focused 100% on food waste prevention

#### Vision:

Enable dramatic reduction in global food waste, i.e. "Take a Bite Out of Global Food Waste "

#### Mission:

To use an understanding of foodservice culture and modern technology to enable chefs and managers to implement less wasteful and more profitable culinary practices.

#### We Serve:

Customers in 48 states, including colleges, healthcare, senior living, business dining, contract managers, military, restaurants, casino hotels and food retailers

#### **History**

Founded in 2004 – Working on our 10th year of waste prevention. Headquartered in Portland, Oregon with team members in Massachusetts, New York, Charlotte, and California.



# My perspective

- I've seen a lot of food waste!
  - Co-founder of LeanPath: We make food waste tracking systems
  - Food waste consultant
  - Contributing author to Food Waste Focus blog and Greening Food & Beverage Services textbook.
- But...I've also seen foodservice operators dramatically reduce it!















#### The Past:

# FOOD WASTE WAS AFFORDABLE AND SOMEONE ELSE'S CONCERN

The Present:

# FOOD WASTE IS A RESOURCE AND WE EACH HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY

## Questions We'll Answer Today

- Why does food waste matter?
- What's the single most important food waste management strategy and what tools exist to address it?
- What equipment options exist to manage food waste and how do they help?
- What should be on your action checklist?



### First, a Look at the Global Issue

### FOOD WASTE IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM OF BREATHTAKING SCOPE





BILLION tons of food are NOT CONSUMED.

### AND IT'S A PROBLEM **THAT'S GROWING IN THE U.S.**

40% of food grown or raised in the U.S. is **NOT EATEN.** 



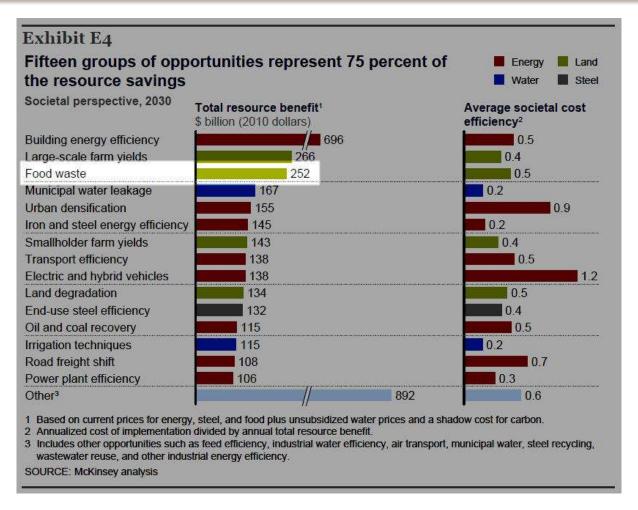
50% RISE in U.S. food waste

1974

2003

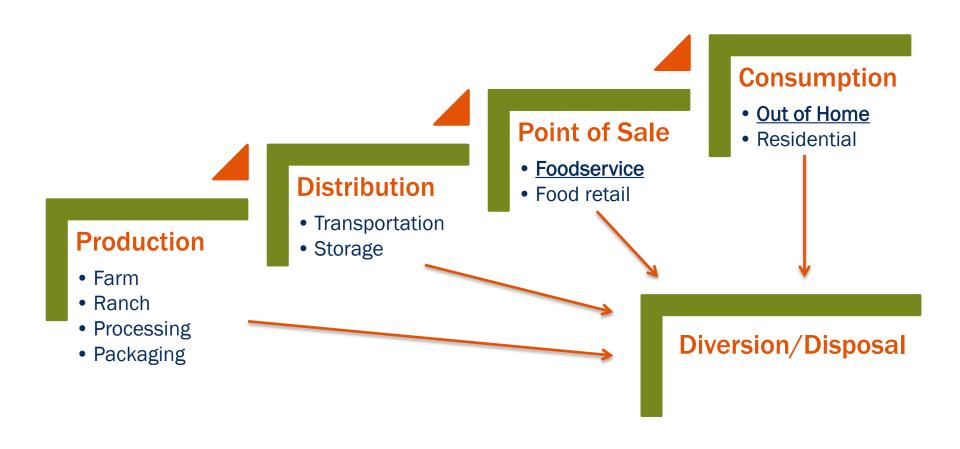


# **Top 3 Global Resource Opportunity**





### The Food Waste Chain





### **Two Types of Food Waste**

Pre-Consumer Food Waste

(aka "Kitchen Waste")

Operator controls & discards the waste

Post-Consumer Food Waste

(aka "Plate Waste")

Diner controls & discards the waste



# Most Common Reasons for Food Waste

### **Pre-Consumer**

- Overproduction
- Expired/Dated Items
- Spoilage
- Trim Waste
- Others
  - Contamination
  - Burned
  - Dropped

### **Post-Consumer**

- Portion sizes
- Self-service
- Menu acceptance
- Quality assurance



### Food Waste in Foodservice

### HOW MUCH OF THIS PROBLEM STEMS FROM U.S. FOODSERVICE OPERATIONS?

4-10% of food purchased is THROWN OUT before reaching a plate.



\$8-20 BILLION of pre-consumer waste generated by the U.S. out-of-home restaurant and foodservice industry every year.

Pre-consumer waste is the kitchen waste that occurs before the food even reaches a guest, from OVERPRODUCTION, SPOILAGE, EXPIRATION and TRIMMINGS. It's within the control of the foodservice operator and can be prevented!

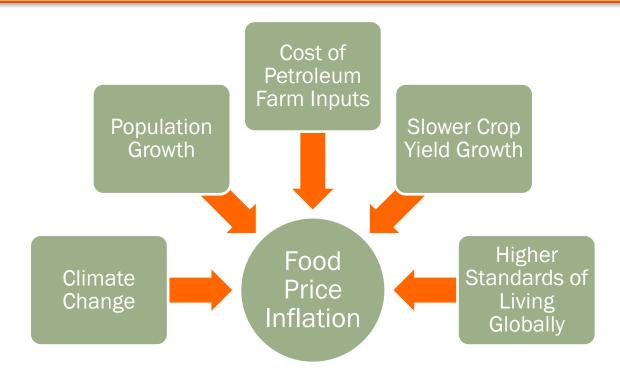




http://goo.gl/8GGeD



### Food Prices Not Getting Better Soon



"Global food prices probably will rise in the first half of this century because of an expanding population and higher incomes, slower crop-yield growth and the effect of climate change"

- Ross Garnaut, the Australian government's climate-change adviser, as quoted in BusinessWeek. March 3, 2011.



### Food Waste-14.1% of MSW

### Total MSW Generation (by Material), 2009 243 Million Tons (Before Recycling)

Paper and Paperboard 28.2%

Food Scraps 14.1%

Yard Trimmings 13.7%

Plastics 12.3%

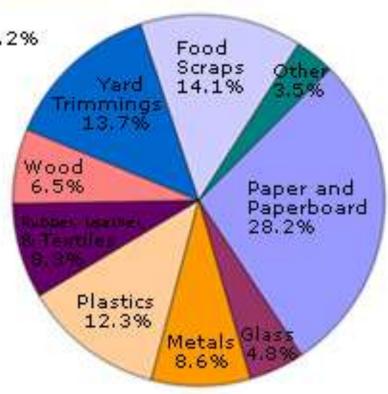
Metals 8.6%

Rubber, Leather, & Textiles 8.3%

Wood 6.5%

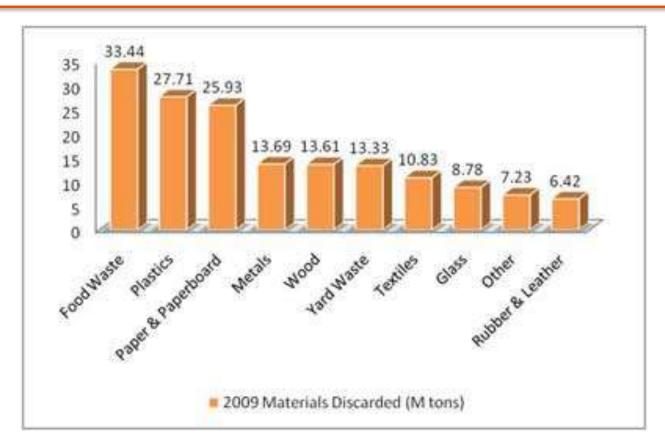
Glass 4.8%

Other 3.5%





# **Regulatory Attention**



"Food waste now represents the single largest component of MSW reaching landfills and incinerators." - U.S. EPA



### The Journey of a Wasted Sandwich



Wheat

Ham

Cheese

Butter

Greens

**Tomato** 



### **Upstream Impact**



Every item we throw away includes a large amount of invisible embedded energy and other resources



### **Downstream Impact - Food Waste**

- The decomposition of food and other organic matter in landfills produces methane, a green-house gas 20+ times more potent than Carbon Dioxide.
- Landfills are the largest humanrelated source of methane in the US, accounting for over 20% of all methane emissions.





## The Impact

IT'S COSTING A LOT OF MONEY... AND A LOT OF RESOURCES.





#### FOOD WASTE

is the single largest



It's a significant source of METHANE — a potent greenhouse gas with

21 TIMES THE global warming potential of carbon dioxide.

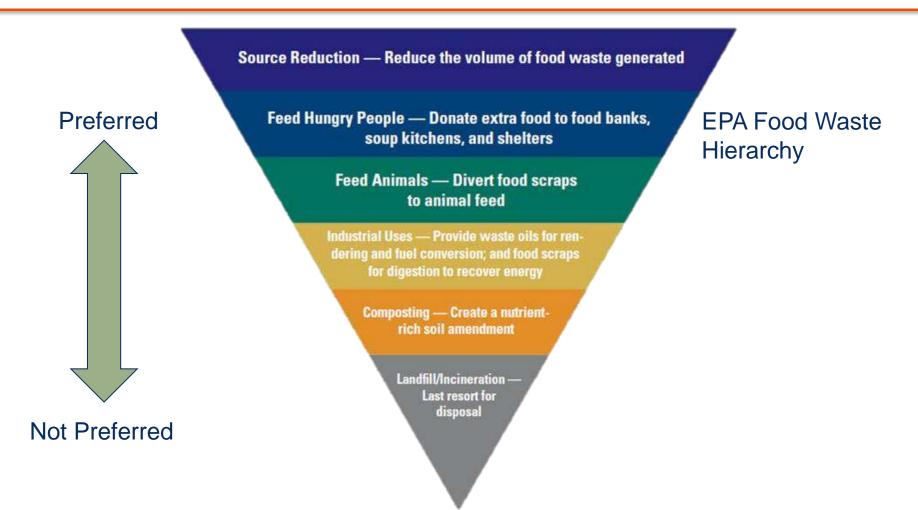


### Food Waste Management Ideas

Portion Food Trayless Control Donation Food Waste Energy Composting Production to Agriculture Aerobic Pulping Dehydrating Digestion Guest Food Waste Garbage Awareness Tracking Disposers Programs



### **Focus on Prevention First**





## **Triple Bottom Line Effect**

# The Positive Impact of Food Waste *Prevention*

### 1. FINANCIAL

Enables you to cut down food costs, reduce disposal costs and save on labor.

### 2. ENVIRONMENTAL

Helps you run a greener operation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

### 3. SOCIAL

Creates a positive team culture with open communication, awareness and empowerment.





### Takeaway

# Prevention should

overshadow everything else [including many other

worthy things] **YOU dO...** 



### Question:

### **HOW DO WE PREVENT WASTE?**

### Where to Start?



Xi Jinping
President
People's Republic of China

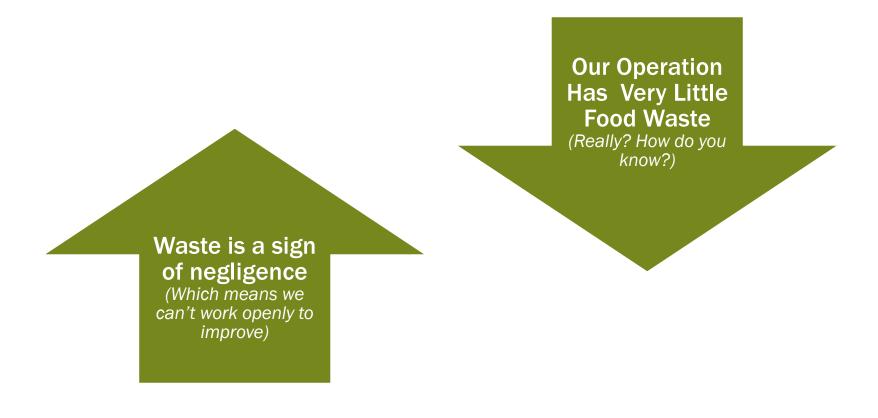
Xi read an article titled "Netizens Call Upon Restaurants to Restrict [Food] Waste." The central office of the Central Committee Of the Communist Party Of China released an announcement to officials on Jan 20, which carried a comment from Xi: "These habits of waste must be stopped immediately!"







# **Culture Reset:** Go Positive; Embrace Data





### **Anti-Waste Culture**

- Open, transparent and positive
- Data-driven
- Engaged and inclusive
- Goal-focused



# Sorry, no box to check and forget

Food waste is a challenge which requires ongoing vigilance, just like quality, safety and sanitation. It is a matter of regular practice, not a problem to fix once and forget.

We need to focus our culture on food waste...daily.

### **But how?**



### **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

# **Best Management Practices**

#### Reduce

Food waste tracking

Production Systems

Post Consumer

#### Reuse

Feed Hungry People

> Feed Animals

# Industrial Uses

Used Cooking Oil Recovery

> Commercial Food Waste Digesters

Waste Water to Energy Plants

### Compost

Commercial Composting (off-site)

On-Site Composting

### **Disposal**

Digesters

Reducers

**Pulpers** 

Scrap Collectors

Disposers

Landfill

#### **FOOD WASTE**



# **Audit** ≠ **Tracking**

Auditing

Point in time

SSO/mingled data collected by an audit team

Quantity and limited food detail

Tracking

Continuous

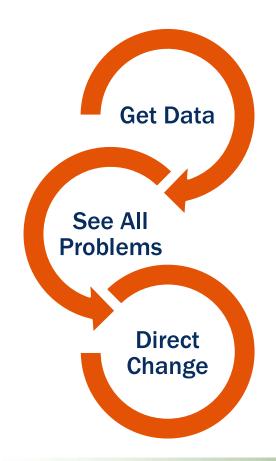
SSO Data collected by employees

Quantity, value, extensive food detail and context



## **Breaking Down the Tracking Theory**

We once thought the process would be as easy as 1, 2, 3:

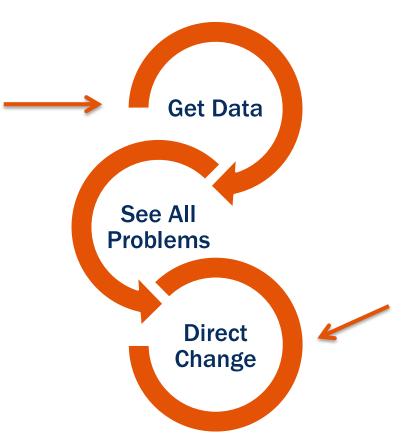




### **Breaking Down the Tracking Theory**

#### But that wasn't accurate...

Myth: The data collection process is just about collecting information for use by managers...



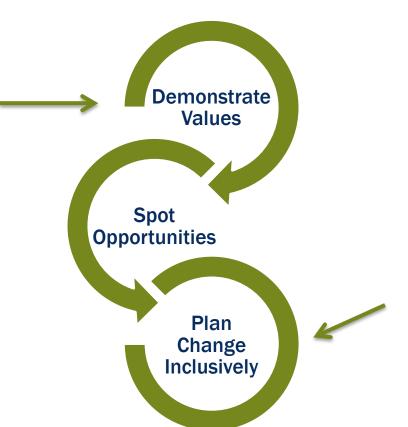
Myth: Once you know where there are problems, it's easy to direct changes.



### Breaking Down the Tracking Theory

#### The proven tracking process...

Reality: The data collection process is about <u>sending</u> a message to the front line team about values and priorities...



Reality: The hard part about change isn't finding the right answer, it's shaping the <u>behavior</u> to persist change



# **Daily Waste Tracking**

#### Tracking enables operators to:

- Set baselines → Measure progress
- Obtain data → Diagnose problems
- Raise awareness → Team/Customer
- Set a positive tone
- Set SMART goals



### What "Waste" to Track?

- Overproduction
- Spoilage
- Expired/Dated
- Trim Waste
- Contaminated
- Burned/Dropped





### **Material Flow**

#### **Kitchen**



- Hot production
- Cold production
- Other areas



Pot Wash Area

Garbage
Waste Disposer
Donation
Compost

#### **Servery**



- Hot line
- Salad bar
- Other cafes and kiosks



# **Evolution of Tracking**



Future: Cloud-Based Automation



Advanced: Local Automation Tools

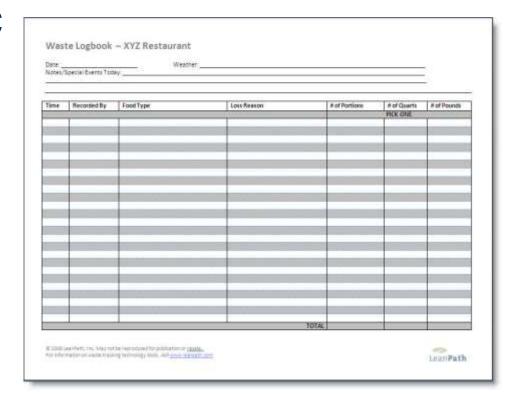


Basic: Manual Paper/ Excel



### **Manual Data Collection**

- Paper Log Books & PC Data Entry
- Data collected by weight, volume, count or visual estimate
- Handwritten
- Manual analysis from paper or via PC data entry (e.g. MS Excel)



#### **Manual Data Collection**

#### Pros

- Low cost of entry; leverages existing PC's and MS Office software
- Free resources available from EPA and others
- Fast to start

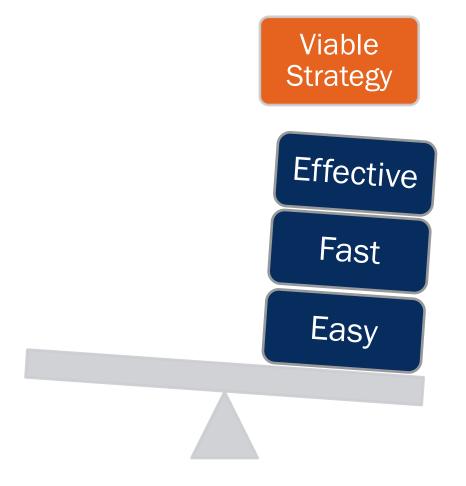
~4x Greater Waste Reduction with **Automated Methods** 

#### Cons

- High cost long-term
  - Ongoing labor costs
- Difficult for staff and managers
  - Slow data recording process for staff
  - Managers must enter data manually
  - Challenging for low-literacy workers
  - Difficult to sustain
- Low data quality
  - Slow access to data due to lag time
  - Disorganized data
  - Lost information; sanitation issues
  - "Guestimated" measurements
- Low Impact
  - No feedback to staff
  - Lack of actionable detail
  - Lost food cost savings



# **Tipping Point**





# **Evolution of Tracking**





Future: Cloud-Based Automation



Advanced: Local Automation Tools



Basic: Manual Paper/ Excel



# **Local Automation Systems**





# **Evolution of Tracking**





Future: Cloud-Based Automation



Advanced: Local Automation Tools

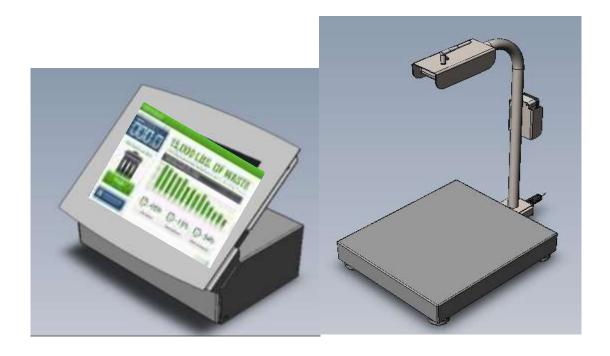


Basic: Manual Paper/ Excel



# **Cloud Tracking Example**

**Example: LeanPath Tracker Integrated Data Collection Terminal** 





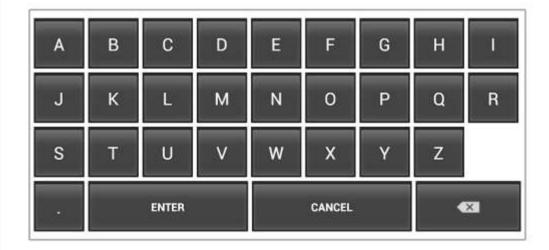
# **Example Tracker Device**





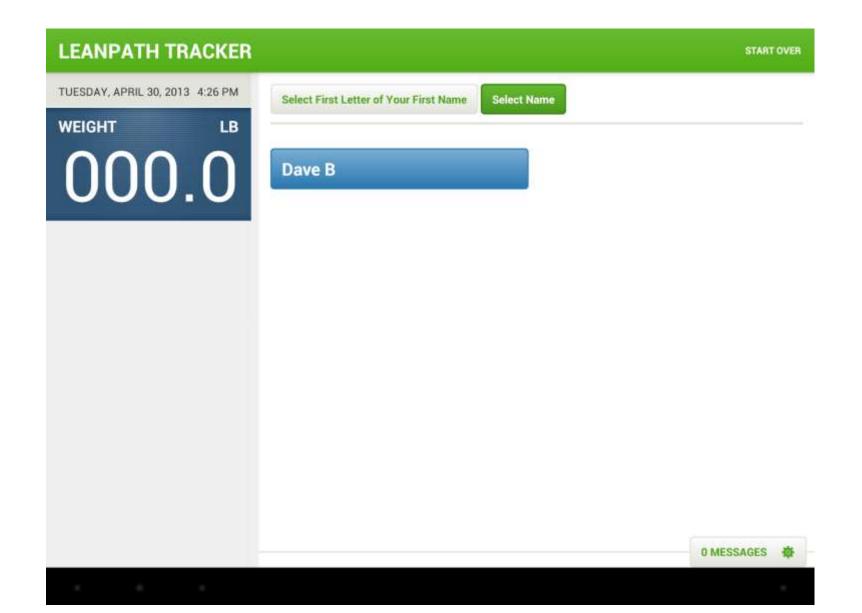
TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013 4:26 PM

WEIGHT LB 0.000 Select First Letter of Your First Name

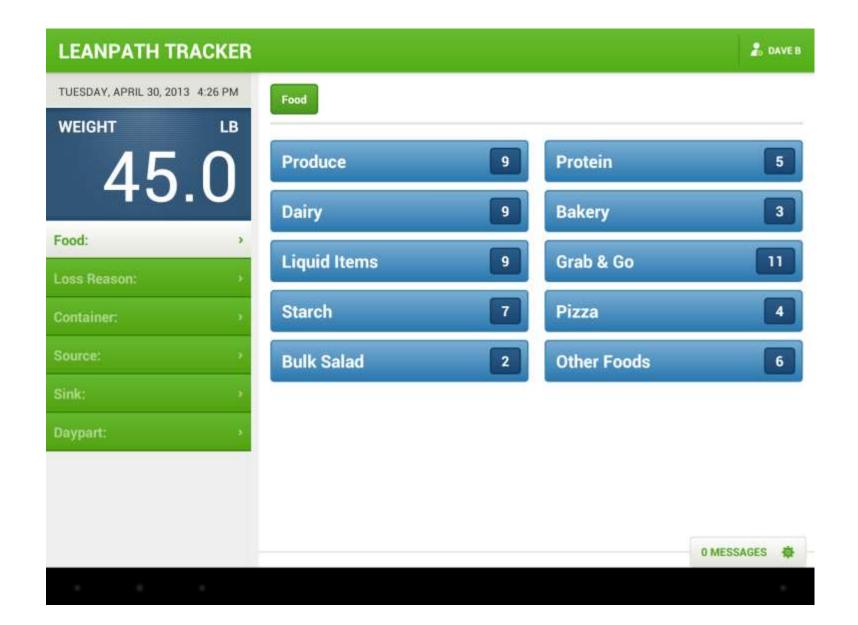


0 MESSAGES

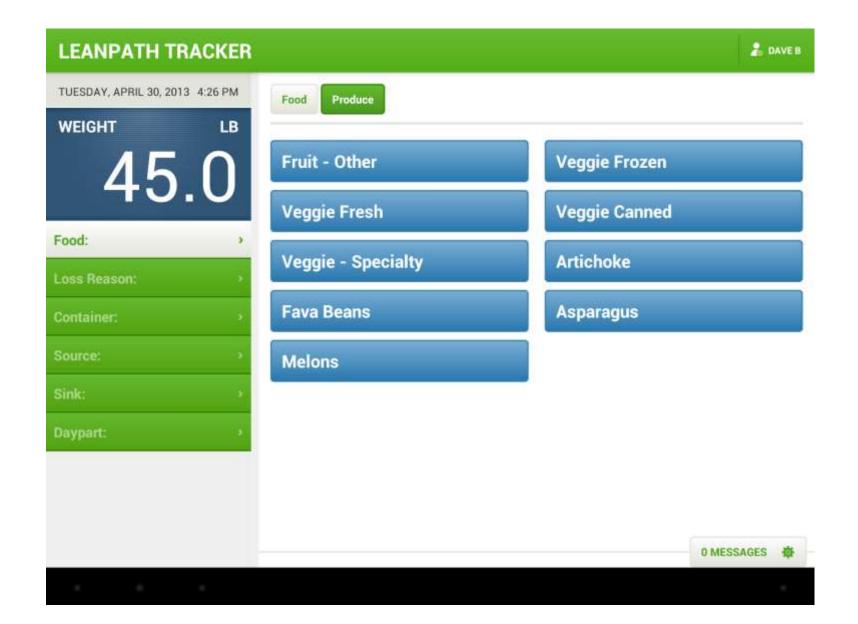




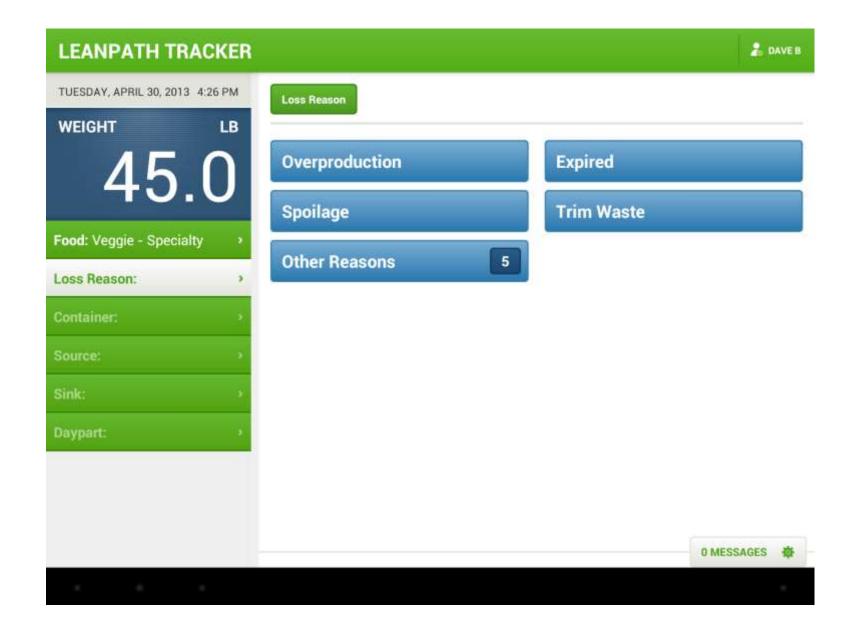




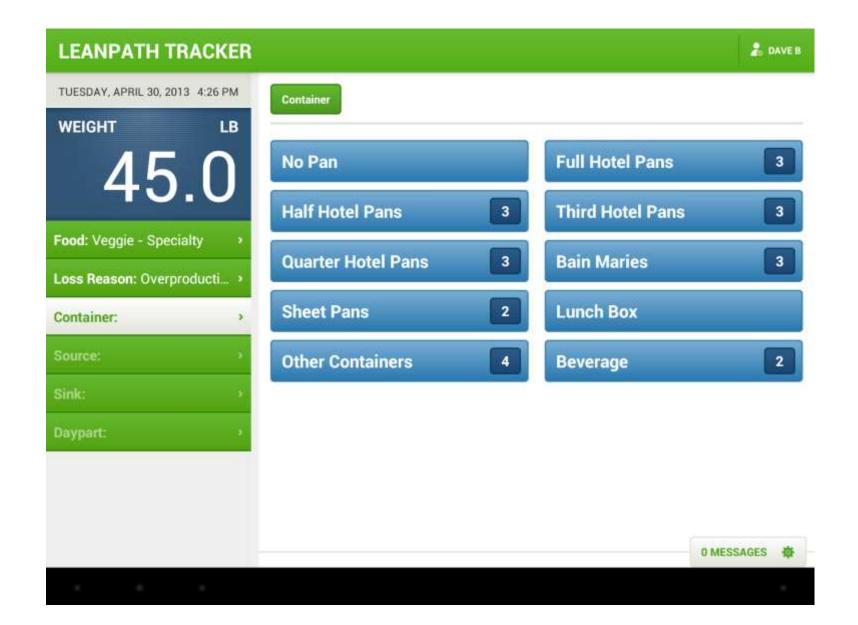




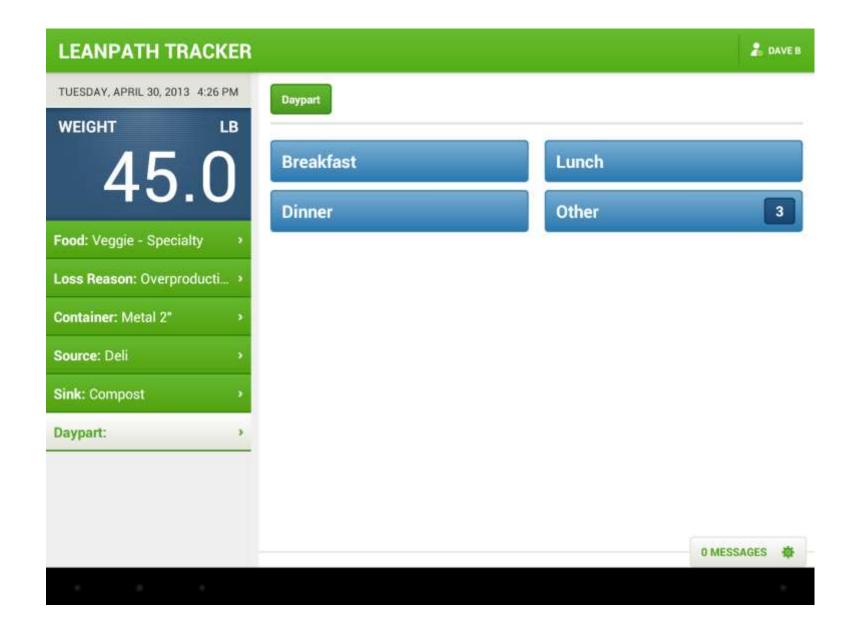














#### **LEANPATH TRACKER**



TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013 4:26 PM

WEIGHT

LB

45.0

Value of Loss

\$36.50



#### Review & Send Your Report

Quantity:	1.0	EDIT
Event Order# (Optional)	ADD	
Food:	Veggie - Specialty	EDIT
Loss Reason:	Overproduction	EDIT
Container:	Metal 2"	EDIT
Source:	Deli	EDIT
Sink:	Compost	EDIT
Daypart:	Breakfast	EDIT

**Send Report** 

0 MESSAGES





### **Front-Line Feedback**



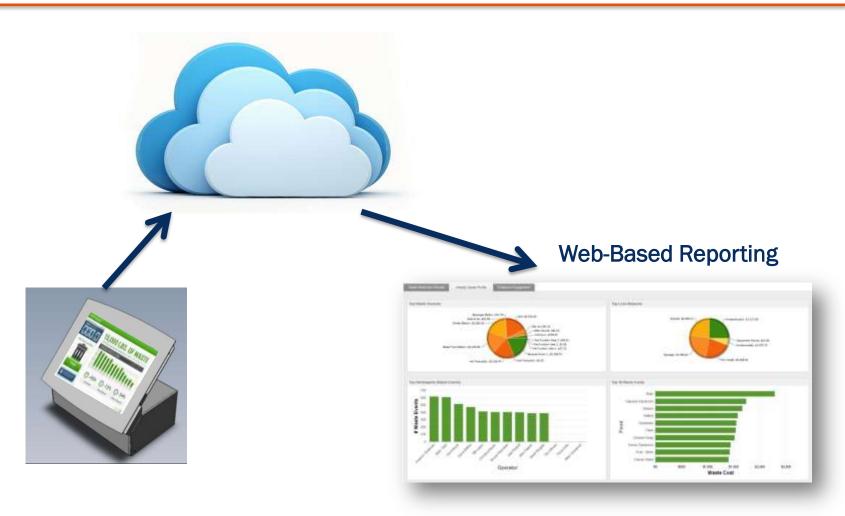


# Engagement





### **Data Moves to Cloud**

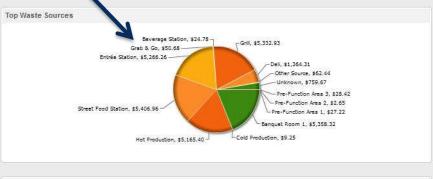




# **Example Dashboard**

Top Waste Reasons









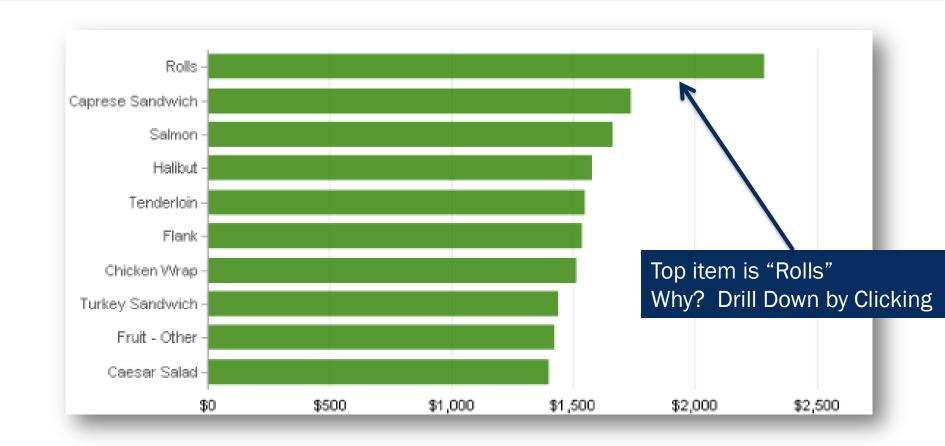


**Employee Engagement** 

Most Wasted Foods

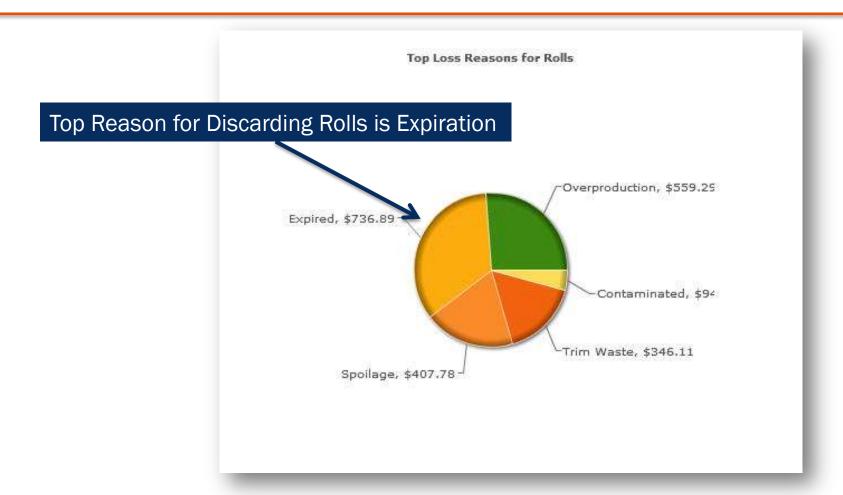


## **Example: Top Wasted Foods**





# Following the Data

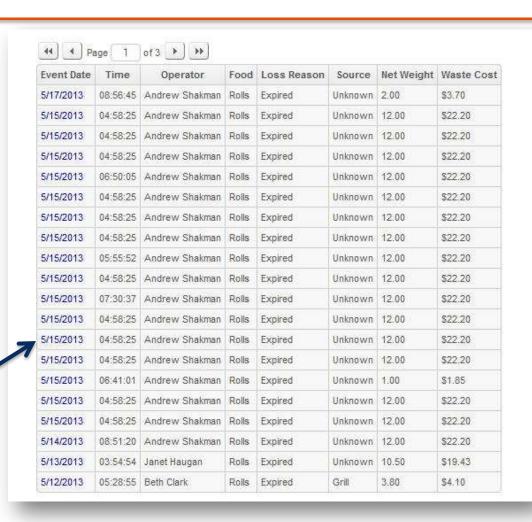




### See the Detail Under the Chart

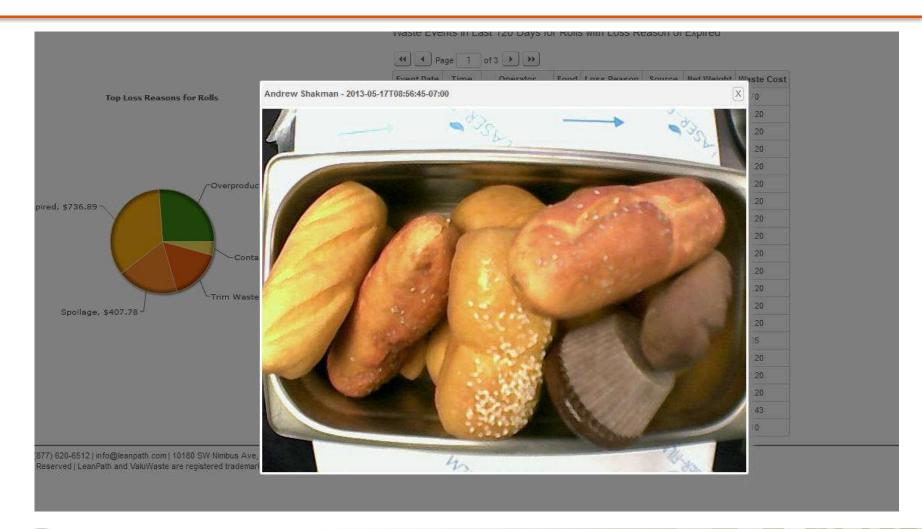
Drill-down the see underlying transactions to see what's driving highwaste, high-cost opportunities.

Click to see a photo



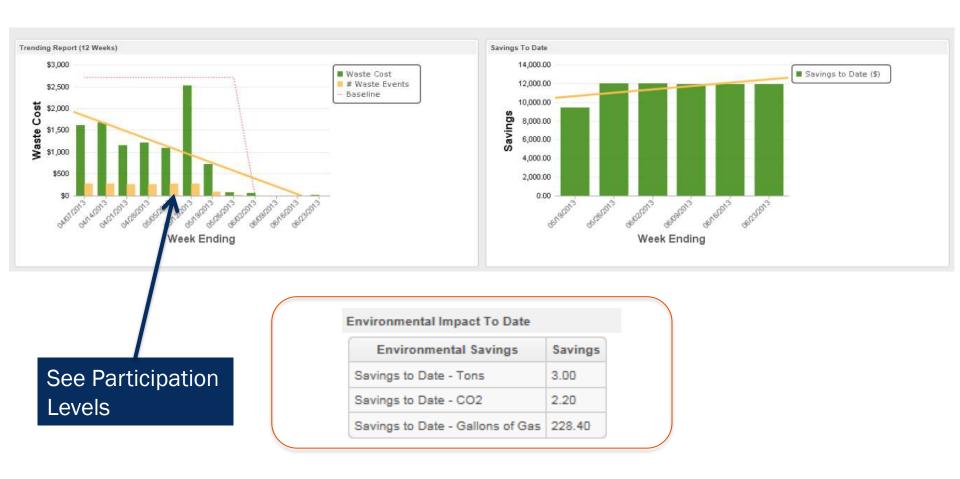


### Photo of Each Waste Event





### **Zoom Out to See Trends**





### **EPA Guidance for Long-term Solution**

Source: EPA Presentation on Food Waste

#### Food Waste Tracking Systems

- · Many types of tracking systems exist
  - · Vary in cost, complexity, and focus

	FREE	Available to Public	Easy to Identify Opportunities for Reduction	Long-term Tracking
Paper Tracking Logs	1	1		
Automated Tracking Systems (e.g. LeanPath ValuWaste)		1		
Proprietary Tracking Systems			1	
EPA's Food & Packaging Tool	1			



# Study: Manual vs. Automation Waste Reduction Results

LeanPath analyzed a number of organizations with comparable operations and annual food costs that first used manual processes and then switched to automated.





# Study: Manual vs. Automation Waste Reduction Results

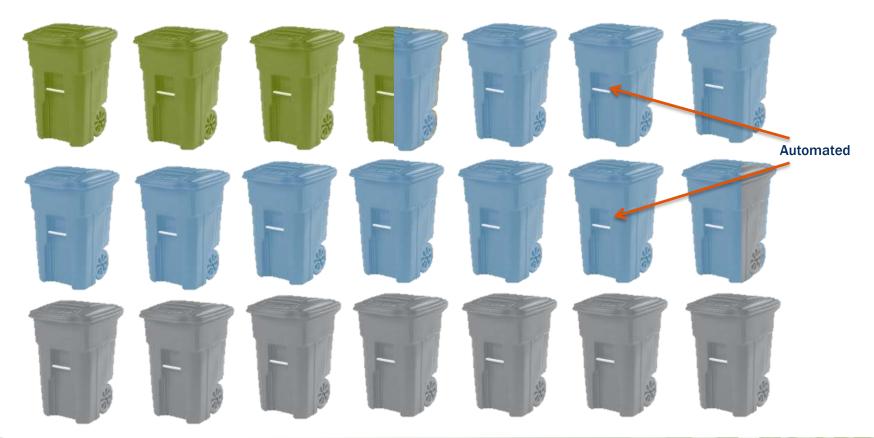
The initial manual tracking efforts helped these sites reduce waste 3.4 "Bins" out of 21 (versus industry benchmarks). This is a 16.4% reduction of pre-consumer food waste.





# Study: Manual vs. Automation Waste **Reduction Results**

After deploying Automated Tracking, these sites reduced an additional 10.3 "Bins" out of 21 (or 49% of their total waste).





### Study: Manual vs. Automation Waste **Reduction Results**

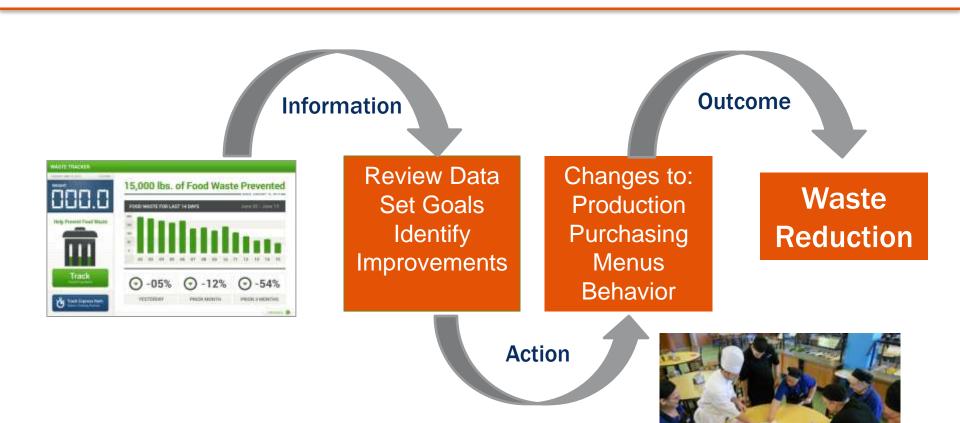
Manual Tracking Left 75% of the Proven Reduction Opportunity Untouched.



25% of Opportunity Reached via Manual



### **Continual Process Improvement**





### **Best Management Practices**

#### Reduce

Food waste tracking

Production Systems

Post Consumer

#### Reuse

Feed Hungry People

> Feed Animals

### Industrial Uses

Used Cooking Oil Recovery

> Commercial Food Waste Digesters

Waste Water to Energy Plants

#### Compost

Commercial Composting (off-site)

On-Site Composting

#### **Disposal**

Digesters

Reducers

**Pulpers** 

Scrap Collectors

Disposers

Landfill

#### **FOOD WASTE**



### **Production Software Systems**

- Important to forecasting, purchasing, inventory management, recipes, menus and production.
- Focused on building the right plan
- Excellent complement to food waste tracking.



### Post-Consumer Waste Prevention

- Test smaller portions
  - Delivers on healthy/wellness value proposition
  - Higher margin
  - Flavor over amount
- Avoid self-service
- Cook-to-Order; 1-piece production
- Study plate returns; change menus
- Weekly huddle with service staff



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### Reuse: Food Recovery

- Feed People
  - Re-use review policy
  - Food Donation Connection
    - www.foodtodonate.com
- Feed Animals
  - Farms may be a viable option







If we cannot prevent or donate,

# WHAT PROCESSING AND EQUIPMENT SOLUTIONS EXIST?

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### **Industrial Uses: Used Cooking Oil**

- Provide used Cooking Oil (UCO) to a biofuel refiner
- Process UCO on-site (e.g. Vegawatt)





### **Industrial Uses: Food Waste to Energy**

 Partner with a commercial biogas digester





### FeedStock Prep via Disposers

- Use the municipal waste water system to transport food waste
  - Food is ~70%+ water
- Avoids transportation emissions
- Acceptance varies by region
- WWTP residuals may be used as fertilizers



## CONVERTING FOOD WASTE INTO ENERGY AND FERTILIZER

How using a disposer allows capable wastewater treatment plants to recycle food waste into renewable energy and fertilizer

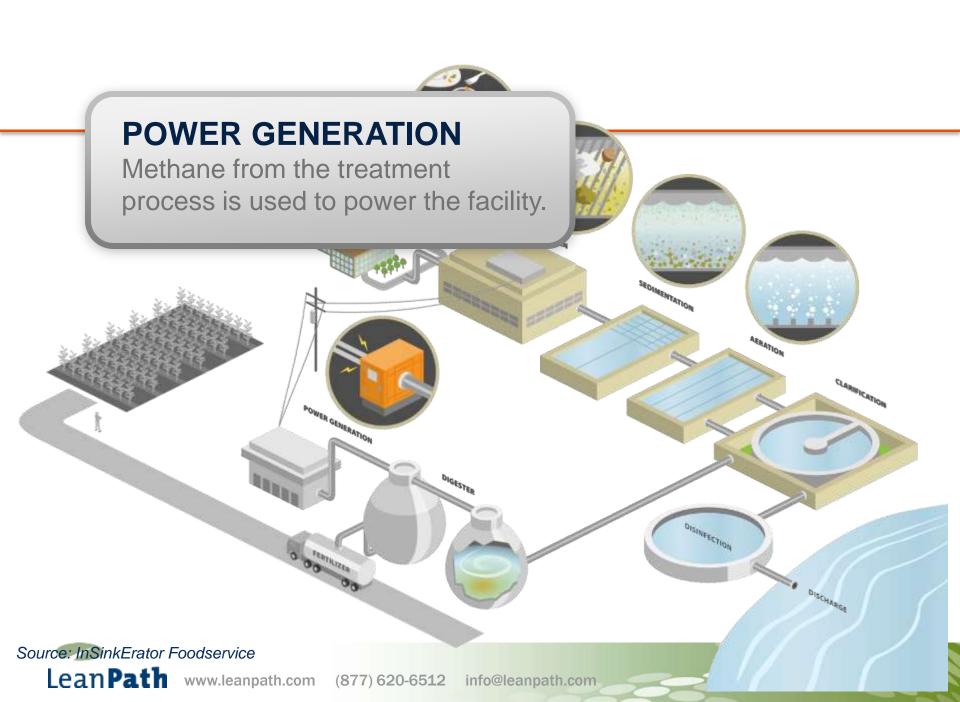
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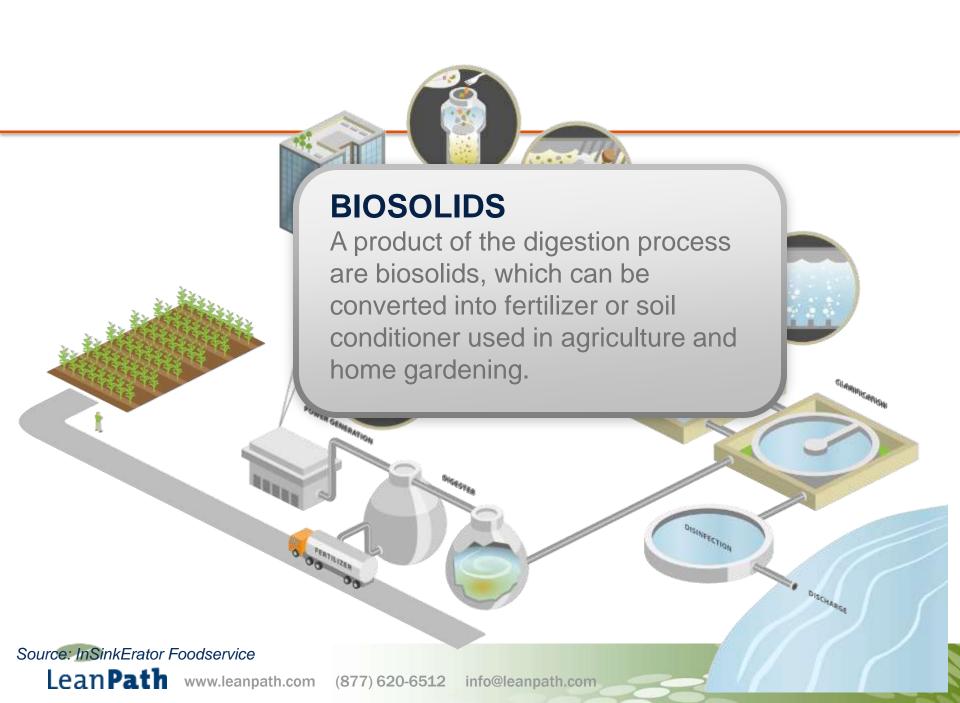






LeanPath www.leanpath.com





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#### **FOOD WASTE**



### Composting

### Many benefits:

- Nutrient rich soil amendment which has numerous applications in agriculture, landscaping, gardening, erosion control, etc.
- Different grades
- Verifiable according to third-party standards



### Composting: On-Site

#### Options

- In-vessel
- Windrow
- Vermiculture

#### Requires

- Appropriate space
- Consistent labor
- Technical skill
- Compost user(s)





### Composting: Off-Site

 Commercial food waste composting offers scale, expertise, and distribution



www.findacomposter.com



### **Commercial Composting**









### **Vertical Food Waste Composter**





### **Best Management Practices**

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#### **FOOD WASTE**



### **On-Site Digesters**

- On-site
- Aerobic
- No energy production







Examples: BioHitech America, OrcaGreen, Bio-EZ



### **On-Site Reducer**

- Reduce volume
- Create a soil amendment (not compost)



Example: Somat



### **On-Site Pulpers, Scrap Collectors**

- Pulpers
  - Macerate
  - Dewater
  - Configurable
    - Close-coupled
    - Remote
- Scrap Collectors
  - Capture non watersolubles

- Reduce transportation **Impacts**
- Reduce waste volumes by removing water
- Lower disposal costs







### Garbage Disposers - Again

If not used in a sewer system which produces energy and fertilizer...benefits include

- Reduction in transportation emissions
- Sanitation & labor benefits





Now...

### **TAKE ACTION!**

### **Prevention Checklist**

- 1. Create a positive culture
  - Set the tone and engage your staff
- 2. Start tracking food waste
  - Pre-consumer food waste <u>daily</u>
  - Post-consumer food waste monthly
- 3. Use the data
  - Set goals for improvement
  - Test changes to purchasing, production, merchandising, menus
  - Recognize team (where appropriate)

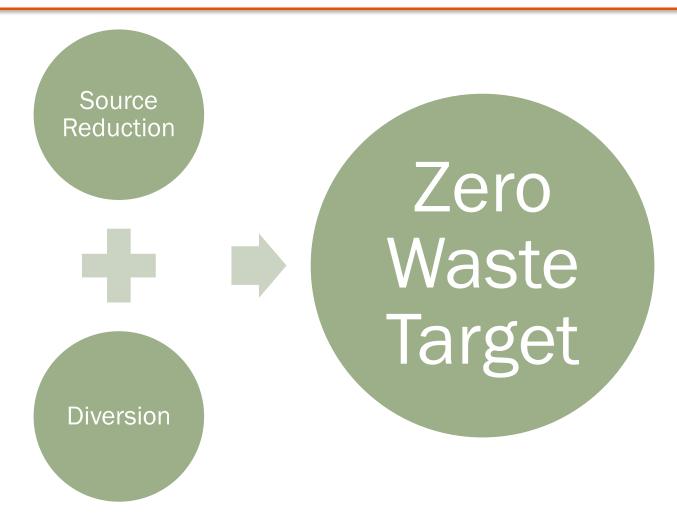


### **Diversion Checklist**

- 1. Establish a food recovery partnership
- 2. For the remaining food waste, research your best landfill diversion alternative.
  - Composting?
  - Garbage disposer?
  - Onsite processing?
- 3. Commit to it.
  - No food waste to landfills



### **Goal: Zero Landfill Waste**





### Remember

- You don't need to be perfect
- Just start moving toward your goal



### LeanPath Resources

# The Path to Food Waste Reduction Starts Here

- Food Waste Prevention e-newsletter
- Food Waste Focus Blog
- Waste Reduction Toolkit

All available at www.leanpath.com.



### **Questions?**

#### **Andrew Shakman**

Founder & CEO LeanPath, Inc. (503) 620-6512 x100 ashakman@leanpath.com www.leanpath.com twitter.com/leanpath





Culture eats strategy for lunch.

# HOW DO WE CREATE A CULTURE THAT'S READY TO REDUCE WASTE?

### Why do we waste food?

- It's expensive to run out so we make more
- We must serve safe food
- Attractive merchandising increases customer satisfaction and sales
- Labor cost control encourages large batch production
- We want convenient service, wide choice, and broad availability



### Inclusive; Focused

Careful planning doesn't lead to zero food waste. Why? Food waste is ultimately about behavior.

- After managers "plan the work" we need to make sure everyone on the team actually "works the plan."
- Engage teams with SMART Goals.



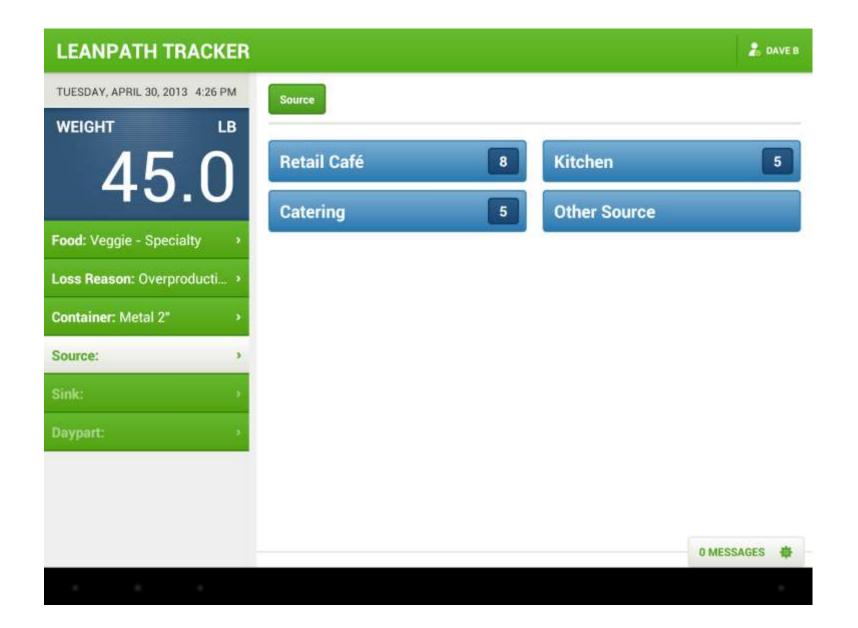
### The Ideal Scenario

- Give staff real-time feedback
- Keep your waste goals top-of-mind
- Reward your team members
- Keep them engaged and motivated
- Make everyone feel like they are part of the solution

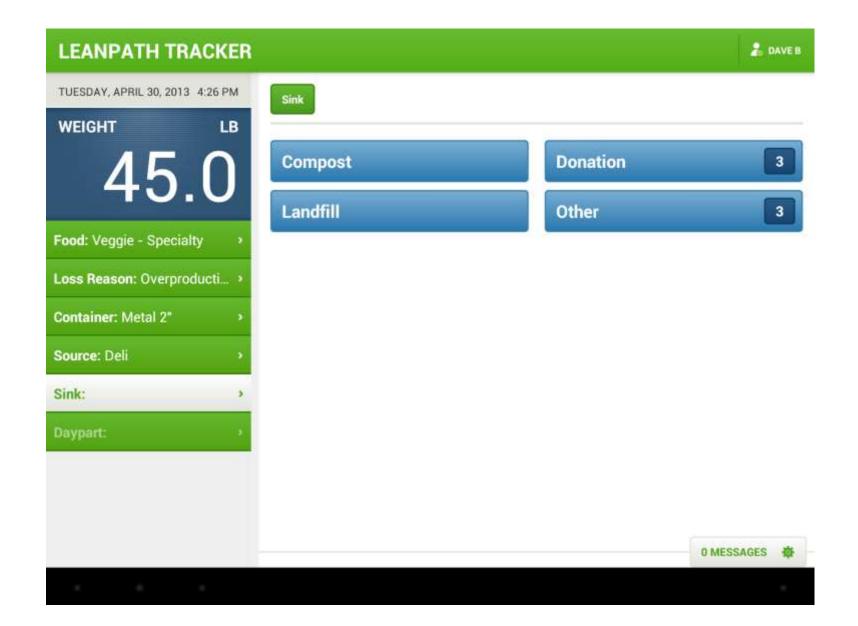














### **Best Management Practices**

#### Reduce

Food waste tracking

Production Systems

Retail Practices

Catering Practices

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Feed Hungry People

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Used Cooking Oil Recovery

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#### **FOOD WASTE**



### **Retail Practices**

- Common challenges
  - Soup
  - Salad bars
  - Breakfast
  - Desserts
  - Starches
  - Grab & Go's
  - Pastry
- Planning and execution gaps are a significant problem



- ✓ Review grab & go par levels
- Provide variety without excess volume



### **Best Management Practices**

#### Reduce

Food waste tracking

Production Systems

**Retail Practices** 

Catering Practices

#### Reuse

Feed Hungry People

> Feed Animals

# Industrial Uses

Used Cooking Oil Recovery

> Commercial Food Waste Digesters

Waste Water to Energy Plants

#### **Compost**

Commercial Composting (off-site)

On-Site Composting

#### **Disposal**

Digesters

Reducers

**Pulpers** 

Scrap Collectors

Disposers

Landfill

#### **FOOD WASTE**



## **Catering Practices**

### **Common Myths**

"It's been paid for"

"We have to produce to guarantee"

"It's in the contract"

There's always room for improvement.



## Case Study

### **University of Massachusetts**



Results: Within just four months of implementation, they saved \$70,000 in waste prevention and reduced food cost by 1% yearover-year.

"High-end production and high quality food are not what drives up food cost. It's waste that drives up food cost. When you see specific wasted menu items that you can quantify, you can have meaningful dialogue with your staff and begin to solve some of the problems." Garett DiStefano, Director, Residential Dining



## **Case Study**

#### **MGM Grand Buffet**



Results: \$7,500/month average savings in food cost; Reduced pre-consumer food waste by 80%

"When you can zero in on your food waste, you can control your prep, ordering and production. It's all connected." Justin Fredrickson, Exec. Chef



# **Case Study**



#### Sanford USD Medical Center

545-bed medical center in Sioux Falls, SD

**Results:** Within seven months of implementation, **saved \$99,928** in waste avoidance, **reducing pre-consumer food waste by 43%.** They continue to experience ongoing savings.

"The system has opened up communication among our groups. Every item on the LeanPath report is an opportunity for discussion."

Nancy Goergen, Training and Development Specialist

