



# K-12 Food Waste Working Group

January 2017





# Agenda

- EPA/ Food Waste 1:1 K-12 Working Group updates based on election outcomes
- K-12 Food Waste Rules & Regs Meeting : Overview
- Survey Results So Far
- Action plan/ next steps
- February Meeting: Save the Date



# Food Recovery Hierarchy

Most Preferred

## Source Reduction

Reduce the volume of surplus food generated

## Feed Hungry People

Donate extra food to food banks, soup kitchens and shelters

## Feed Animals

Divert food scraps to animal feed

## Industrial Uses

Provide waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion and food scraps for digestion to recover energy

## Composting

Create a nutrient-rich soil amendment

## Landfill/ Incineration

Last resort to disposal

Least Preferred



# CO K-12 Food Recovery Practices

- **Source Reduction:** Waste-Free Lunch Initiatives, recess before lunch, increase time to eat, self-service
- **Feed Hungry People:** Food Donation Programs
- **Composting:** On-site tumblers/compost bins, commercial composting, Earth Tubs, Earth Cubes, etc.



## Tactics

- **Establish baseline – continue to gather information on the current state of food waste in CO schools**
- Curriculum, food waste audit kits, guide to food waste for school nutrition service, composting guide for schools
- Clarify the rules and regulations around food waste for schools



# Rules & Regulations Meeting Overview

- Overview from
  - **Julie North**, Natural and Renewable Resources Coordinator  
Aurora Public Schools
  - **Virginia Till**, Partnerships and Environmental Stewardship, EPA  
Region 8



# Additional Questions : Rules & Regulations

## Meeting Overview

- Work with Amanda Mercer, Program Manager Office of School Nutrition, Colorado Department of education
  - **Who/what decides the regulation around the amount and type of food that students are required to take and how menu items are decided upon?** Federal regulations govern the amount and type of food students are required to take. These regulations are implemented by the USDA. Local school districts have the discretion to plan their menus within these guidelines.
  - **What does the budget look like for the state of Colorado in terms of providing this service to our students and where does the funding come from?** The funding comes from the federal government as reimbursement on a per meal basis. You can find more information on reimbursement rates [here](#).
  - **Is this information tracked and accessible to all, including tax-payers?** Yes this information is tracked and available to the public. You can visit CDE [Data Requests](#) webpage for more information.
- What additional questions need to be asked (and answered)?



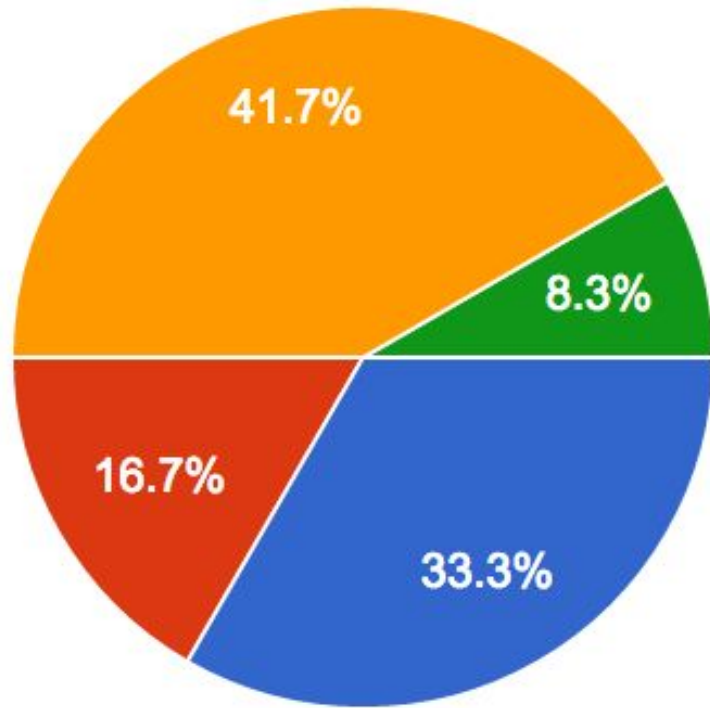
# Additional Resources

- School Meals Resources
  - National School Lunch Program Meal Pattern  
- <https://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/osnslpmealpattern>
  - School Breakfast Program Meal Pattern  
- <https://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/osnschoolbreakfastprogrambreakfastmealpattern>
- Offer vs. Serve - <https://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/osnoffer-vs-servefactsheet>
- Smarter Lunchrooms Movement - <http://smarterlunchrooms.org/>
- Food waste resources - <http://smarterlunchrooms.org/search/site/food%20waste>
- Scorecard (a list of low to no cost strategies that help increase participation, reduce food waste and increase selection and consumption of healthy food)  
- [http://smarterlunchrooms.org/sites/default/files/slm-scorecard2.o\\_o.pdf](http://smarterlunchrooms.org/sites/default/files/slm-scorecard2.o_o.pdf)
- USDA Food Waste Challenge  
- [https://www.usda.gov/oce/foodwaste/resources/K12\\_schools.html](https://www.usda.gov/oce/foodwaste/resources/K12_schools.html) (Note: There are several strategies listed at the bottom of this page on ways to reduce food waste in schools.)





# Voting SO FAR! Focus Area

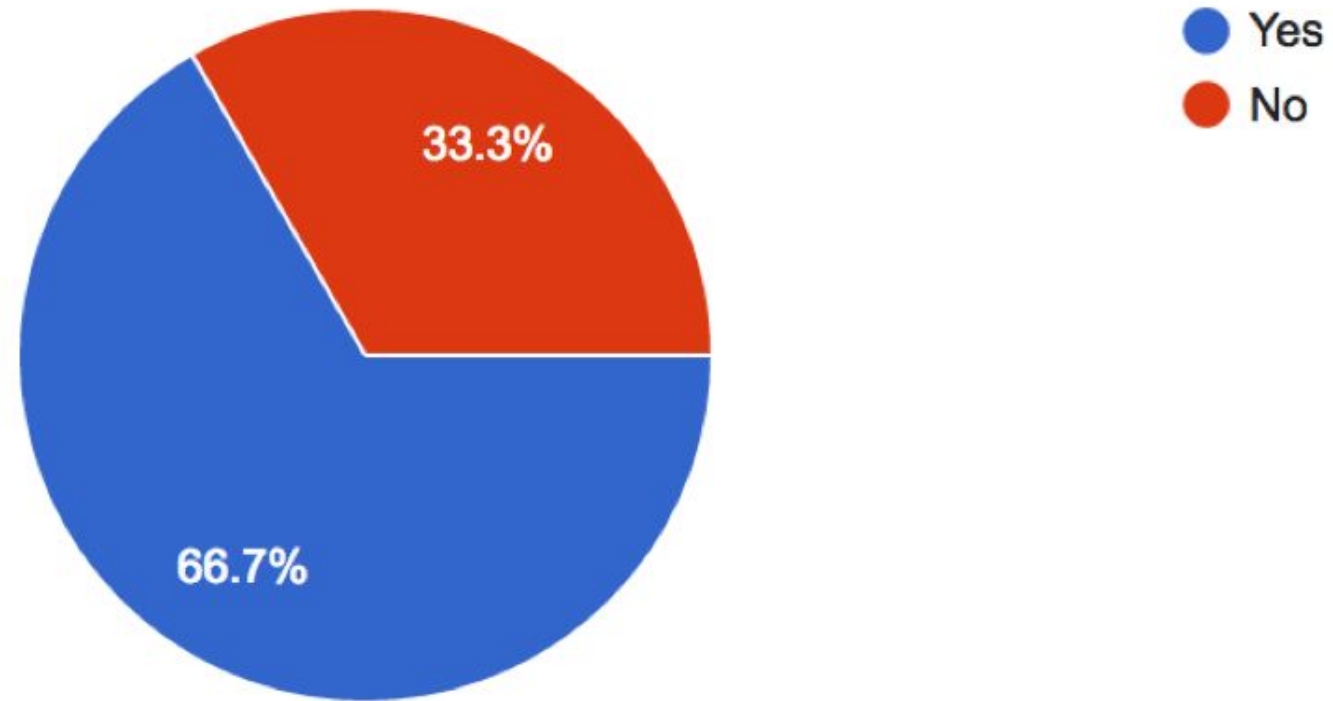


- Source Reduction
- Feeding Hungry People
- Composting
- Other



## Additional Questions

Do you currently conduct food waste audits? (12 responses)





# Reminders

- **Homework:** Complete the Food Waste Survey *if you are new or have not already completed!* <https://goo.gl/forms/h8JKtM7Gl1poC5g2>
- **Use the K-12 Food Waste Google Drive** to gather resources and share your own resources:  
<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=oB5w43EtH4bPvT3JtbG8oa2l5ZEK&usp=sharing>
  - *Note: If you need access, just let me know and I will share it with you.*
- **Feb. K-12 Food Waste In Person Meeting (call in also available)**
  - 8:30-9:30 am, Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017
  - EPA Region 8 HQ
    - 1595 Wynkoop St, Denver, CO 80202, USA