



Can we REDUCE or REUSE, before Recycling?

YES! Fall Summit 2015



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to DiscoverSM

Source Reduction – what is this?

- In very simple terms, it is preventing waste before we do things like reuse or recycle it
- Remember the old saying? *REDUCE, ReUse, Recycle ...?*

Life Cycle



Get Raw
Materials



Prepare
Materials



Manufacture
Product



Use Product



Dispose of
Product



Life Cycle -- Recycling



Life Cycle -- Reuse



Life Cycle -- Reduce



A LOT goes into making food!

Life Cycle of Food

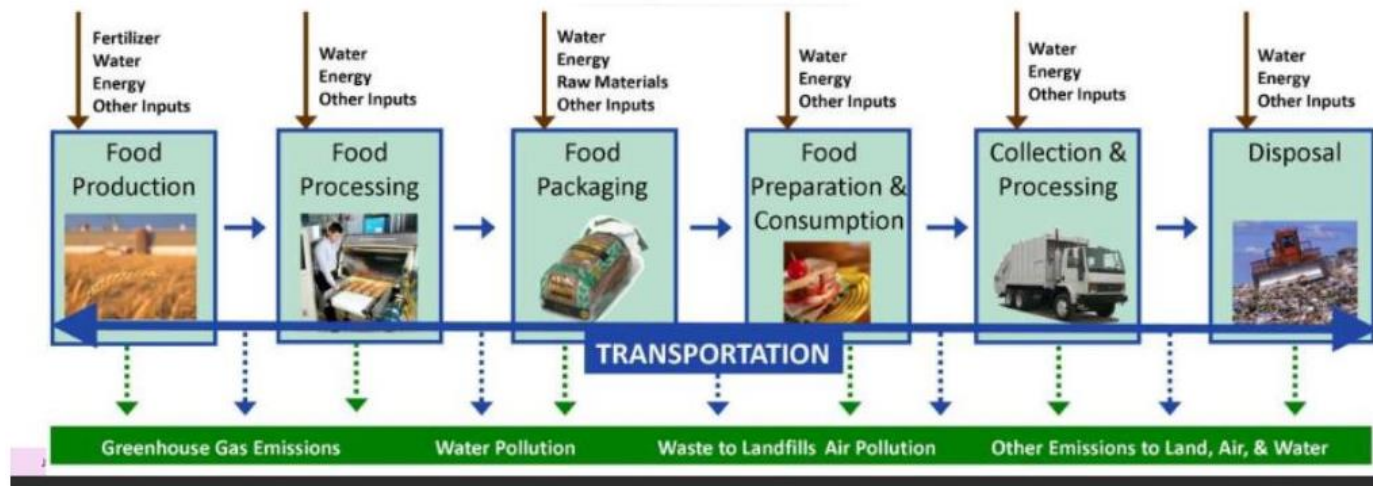


Image credit & source: EPA's Toolkit for Reducing Wasted Food and Packaging A Guide for Food Services and Restaurants

Project idea:

Lunch period food waste reduction competition

- Waste in the lunchroom happens when we do not eat all that we take
- Create a challenge between different lunch periods to aim for producing the least waste (ex: eat more or take less!)
 - Keep track of weights from period to period
 - Winning lunch period earns a reward
 - Use this competition to generate awareness about food waste impacts!

Project idea:

Survey students – help cooks avoid food waste!

- **Certain foods AND how some are prepared are not appealing to us**
- **Though there are nutrition guidelines, oftentimes there is some room for working with the options!**
- **Idea: develop a survey for fellow students to rate and comment on different foods at your school**



Project idea: Set up a school 'ReUse store' for excess supplies

- *Do you ever find old school supplies adding up at home?*
- An in-school "ReUse store" might be a way to bring in your extra supplies so someone could buy them cheap!
- Helps practice 'ReUse' and avoids going out to buy new



I challenge YOU!

Think of projects that help REDUCE or REUSE

- **Recycling is a wonderful thing! But I challenge you to look further**
- **Sometimes simple changes can lead to waste reduction or reuse of materials**
- **Creative solutions, challenges, competitions are possible ways to make waste reduction happen!**

Contact me

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I look forward to brainstorming with you on ideas for waste reduction projects!