

ORGANICS DIVERSION OPTIONS

Implementation Options for Food Permitted Businesses

FOOD WASTE PREVENTION:

Identify discards and deliberately implement processes to reduce waste.

- Formal waste tracking system (e.g. logs weight discarded, material type, reason for discard)
- Regular waste audits
- Food prep training (e.g. knife skills, keeping skin on produce)
- Formal inventory control process
- Standardized equipment to reduce oversized portions
- Batch cooking early and cooking to order later in the day
- Purchase perishable items in smaller quantities, with more frequent deliveries
- Offer half-sized portions without financial disincentive
- Switch to smaller plates
- Repurpose produce that does not meet standards (e.g. for soups)
- Remove trays from cafeteria/buffet line

FOOD RECOVERY:

Implement a system to capture food that is normally discarded and use it towards a higher and better use.

- Donate to local nonprofits to feed people
- Donate to commercial animal food producers
- Resell aesthetically imperfect produce at a reduced rate
- Use damaged but safe-to-consume products for events (e.g. chips in bags for sampling)
- Repackage products to sell (e.g. if box breaks open)
- Use surplus ingredients in new menu items (e.g. limited time offers)
- Reduce price of soon-to-expire products towards end of day or week
- Implement sharing program: users place food they do not need for others to take

PACKAGING AND PURCHASING:

Through purchasing processes reduce the amount of packaging for organics and/or transition to recyclable or compostable.

- Bulk purchasing
- Reusable shipping containers
- Incentivize customers to bring personal, reusable take-out containers (e.g. personal mug, plastic container)
- Replace Styrofoam with recyclable or compostable products
- Replace single-use items with reusable items

COMPOSTING:

The collection of organic material for the purpose of decomposing it into a nutrient to enrich soils.

- Share materials with a community garden
- Set up a composting system on-site
- Contract with a commercial compost collection service

OTHER:

Implement other methods (not mentioned above) to reduce, reuse or prevent organics from being buried or burned.

