

# FOOD WASTE: EPA PERSPECTIVES

---

Dr Shane Colgan

9<sup>th</sup> March 2017

# In the news...



News › Business › Business News

## Denmark reduces food waste by 4% in five years with the help of one woman Selina Juul



# Some Factors contributing to food waste:

- Insufficient shopping planning; and "*buy one get one free*"
- Misunderstanding about "best before" & "use by"
- Oversize portions in restaurants / canteens
- Poor stock management (manufacturers and retailers)
- High quality standards (eg. for produce sold at retail)
- Overproduction or lack of demand for seasonal products
- Product and packaging damage/issues
- Inadequate storage/transport

# Food Waste in Ireland



- Retail & Food Service: **260,000t**
- Households: **250,000t**
- [+ *Factories:* **450,000t**]
- [**Farms/Fishery losses?**]

# The European Picture...

- **Around 88 million tonnes of food are wasted annually in the EU, with associated costs estimated at €143 billion**
- **About a third of all food produced globally for human consumption is lost or wasted - around 1.3 billion tonnes/year**

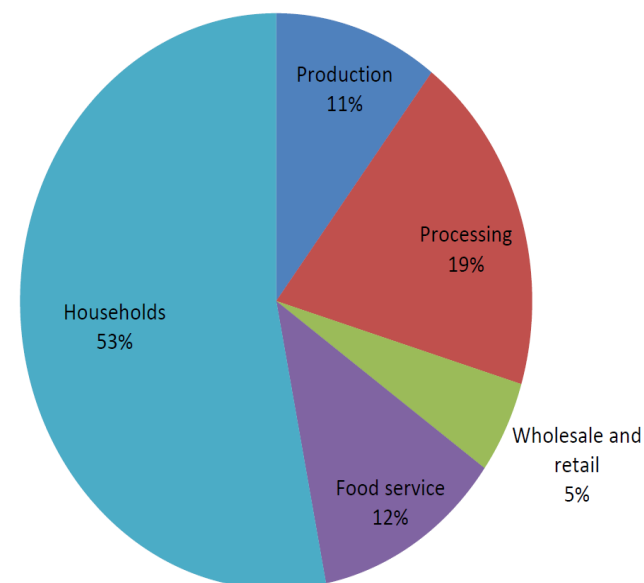


# FUSIONS data for Europe

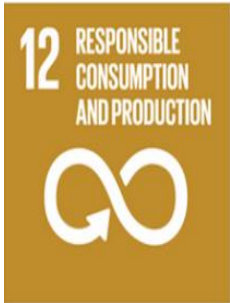


Sector	Food waste (million tonnes) with 95% CI*	Food waste (kg per person) with 95% CI*
Primary production	9.1 ± 1.5	18 ± 3
Processing	16.9 ± 12.7	33 ± 25
Wholesale and retail	4.6 ± 1.2	9 ± 2
Food service	10.5 ± 1.5	21 ± 3
Households	46.5 ± 4.4	92 ± 9
<b>Total food waste</b>	<b>87.6 ± 13.7</b>	<b>173 ± 27</b>

\*Confidence interval



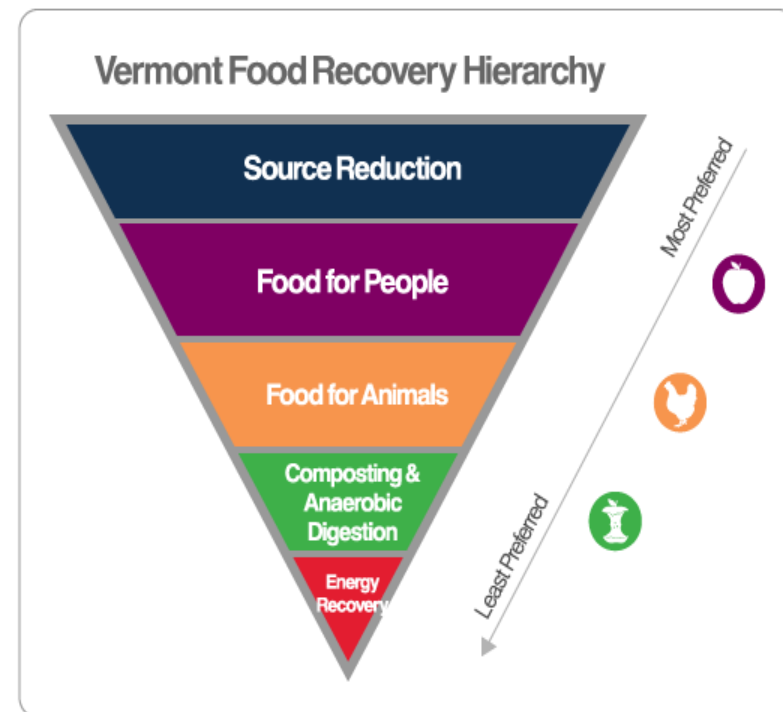
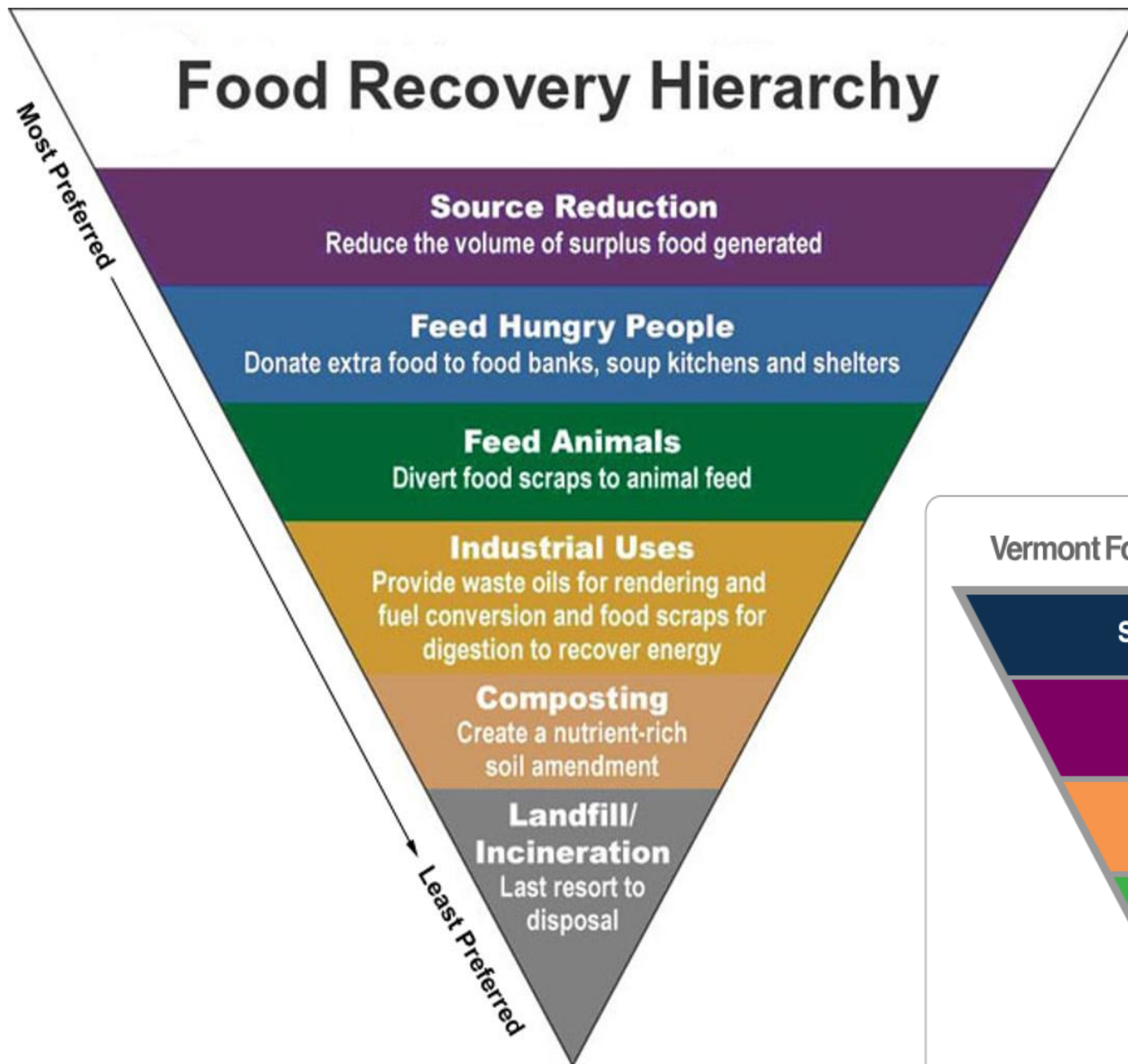
# Policy Drivers



**SDG 12.3:** *“By 2030, **halve per capita** global food waste at the **retail** and **consumer** levels and reduce food losses along **production and supply chains**, including post-harvest losses”*

- *“The EU and its Member States are committed to meeting this goal.”*
- **Our Sustainable Future:** *“identify measures to reduce food waste..”*







# EPA Response: Stop Food Waste

- Started 2009: working with householders, communities & businesses
- Demonstrations, Guides, Campaigns, Festivals
- Over 4,000 followers on Twitter: [@Stop\\_Food\\_Waste](https://twitter.com/Stop_Food_Waste)
- Food Waste prevention advert - produced by South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council (LAPN)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5EongMmVhE>

# In our homes...

## Salads



Almost 50% of what we buy we throw out

## Fruit and Veg



Almost 25% of these are thrown out

## Bread



20% of bread and bakery is wasted

## Meat and fish



10% of these expensive products get dumped

## Yogurts, milk & dairy



10% of these go down the drain

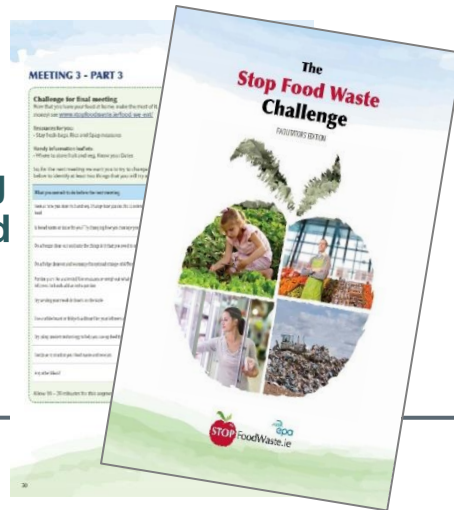
- **60% is avoidable food waste**  
Plate scrapings, leftovers, gone-off fruit & veg, unused perishables...
- **20% is potentially avoidable**  
bread crusts, potato skins, etc.
- **20% is unavoidable**  
chicken bones, banana skins, peelings,

# EPA Food Waste Challenge



# FWC Support Materials

Facilitator's  
Guide, including  
checklist for end  
of each week



Storage,  
serving  
&  
portions

Know  
your  
food  
waste

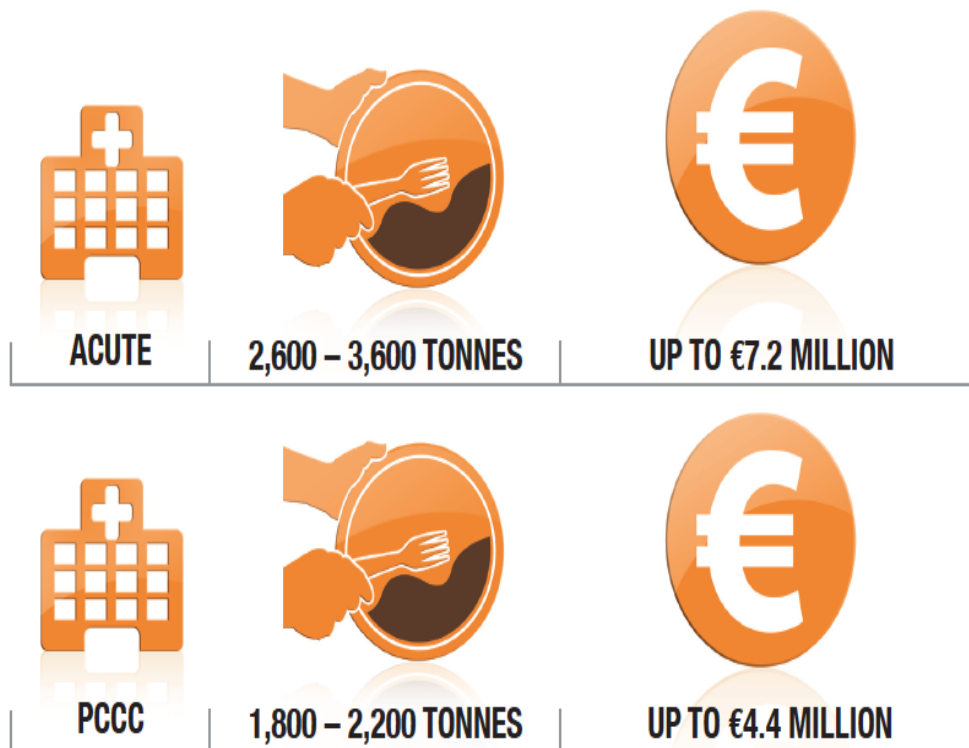


Planning  
&  
shopping



# EPA Response: Green Healthcare

- Co-funded with the HSE
- Focus on Food Waste; Water; Waste (including healthcare);
- Extending reach to private nursing homes





# Green Healthcare tools



## BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

Food Waste Reduction



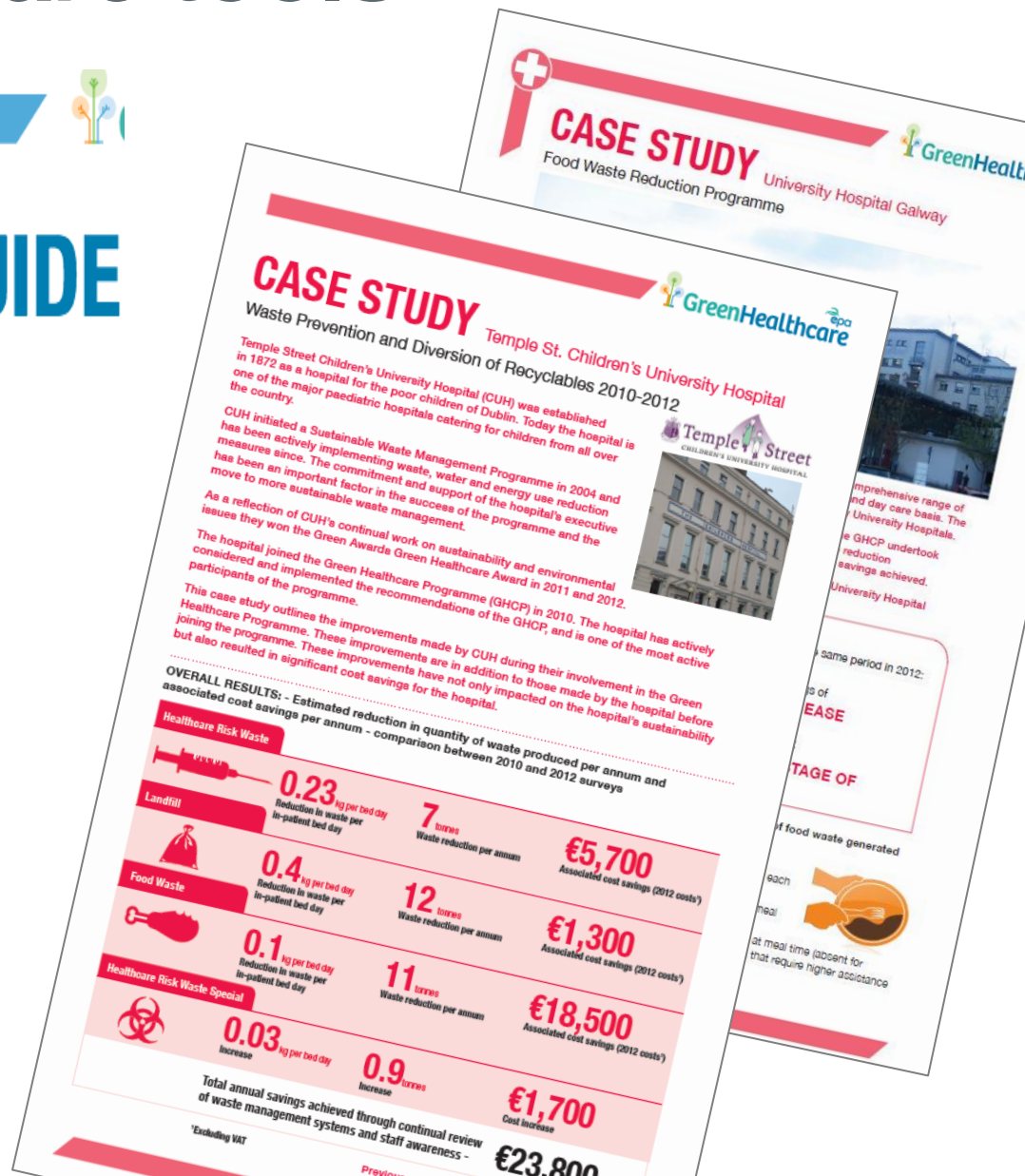
## HOW-TO GUIDE

Undertaking a Detailed Food Waste Survey



## FACT SHEET

Food Waste in Irish Hospitals



# EPA Response: Commercial...

- Working with businesses – including food processors.
- Site visits to identify efficiencies (water, materials, energy) + self-help guides
- 1/3 of site-visits are directed to Origin Green member companies
- Success stories include Freshways; ABP Food Group; Glenilen Farms...
- Also, research on Commercial Food Waste (more later...)



# Good Waste CHARTER FOR IRELAND

50% REDUCTION BY 2030

This charter is a public expression of commitment to food that is consumed, not wasted.

Ireland, along with almost 200 other countries, has committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including:

*"By 2030, halve per capita global food waste along production and supply chains"*

We accept our responsibility to be part of the solution to reduce food waste along the fishing boat; through processing, distribution and

We will build on existing good practice and strong actions to reduce the waste of food.

We recognise the positive social and environmental benefits and realise the economic benefit associated with food consumption.

We acknowledge the successful work already being done and will continue to work with people, businesses and organisations to achieve the following objectives:

- Adhere to the food waste hierarchy, prioritising the prevention of food waste
- Build an awareness and understanding of food waste
- Promote innovative food waste prevention solutions
- Implement technical and behavioural interventions
- Gather and share reliable and accurate food waste data to identify areas for improvement and to measure progress.

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, and the Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency endorse this commitment to providing leadership and support in the

Denis Naughten  
Minister for Communications,  
Climate Action & Environment



Laura Burke  
Director General,  
Environmental Protection Agency



9th March 2017



# Food Waste Charter

- This charter is a public **expression of commitment** to achieve an Ireland where food is consumed, not wasted.
- Ireland, along with almost 200 other countries, has committed to achieving the United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals**, including:
  - *“By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.”*
- We accept our **responsibility** to be part of the solution to wasted food – from farm and fishing boat; through processing, distribution and retail; to final consumption.
- We will build on **existing good practice and strong political commitment** to take effective actions to reduce the waste of food.
- We recognise the positive **social and environmental impacts** of stopping food waste and realise the **economic benefit** associated with efficiencies in food production and consumption.

# Food Waste Charter

- This charter is a public **expression of commitment** to achieve an Ireland where food is consumed, not wasted.
- Ireland, along with almost 200 other countries, has committed to achieving the United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals**, including:
  - *“By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.”*
- We accept our **responsibility** to be part of the solution to wasted food – from farm and fishing boat; through processing, distribution and retail; to final consumption.
- We will build on **existing good practice and strong political commitment** to take effective actions to reduce the waste of food.
- We recognise the positive **social and environmental impacts** of stopping food waste and realise the **economic benefit** associated with efficiencies in food production and consumption.

# Food Waste Charter

- We acknowledge the successful work already being done along the supply chain and will continue to work with people, businesses and communities towards the following objectives:
  - *Adhere to the food waste hierarchy, prioritising the prevention of food waste.*
  - *Build an awareness & understanding of food waste & its issues.*
  - *Promote innovative food waste prevention solutions.*
  - *Implement technical and behavioural interventions to reduce food waste.*
  - *Gather and share reliable and accurate food waste information to identify areas for improvement and to measure progress.*


# Signing-up.... [www.stopfoodwaste.ie](http://www.stopfoodwaste.ie)

- Join people, businesses and communities in a commitment to work together to halve Ireland's food waste.
- **Signers commit to implementing at least one food waste prevention action within first year of signing up, & at least 2 additional measures by 2020.**

**FORUM FOODWASTE**

[ABOUT THE FORUM](#) [SIGN THE CHARTER](#) [GOOD PRACTICES](#) [RESOURCES](#) [CONTACT](#)

### SIGN THE CHARTER



By signing up to this Charter you will join people, businesses and communities from across the country in a commitment to work together to halve Ireland's food waste.

This commitment involves implementing at least one food waste prevention action within the first year of signing up, and putting at least 2 additional measures to be carried out by 2020.


Name:

On behalf of:

Title:

### FOOD WASTE CHARTER FOR IRELAND

This Charter is a public expression of commitment to achieve an Ireland where food is consumed, not wasted.

 **FOOD CHARTER CONTENT TEXT**  
[DOWNLOAD](#)