

Monday, May 5

Food Recovery Forum, Room W225: Solutions for Food Loss & Waste

8:00 am – 8:45 Creating Circular Opportunities in Food Waste Recovery

- Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County will share how their successful model in developing partnerships with vendors & suppliers has not only helped them feed communities but has also reduced their operating costs through innovative reduction and reuse programs. Additional examples will be provided of how businesses are engaging with stakeholders toward best practices in food waste reduction, recovery, and circular opportunities that can be replicated across the country.

Speakers:

- Sue Beets- Atkinson, Global Vice President of Sustainability, SBM Management Services LP (Moderator)
- Stephanie Barger, Director – TRUE Zero Waste Program, USGBC
- Chrislynn VanSkiver, Chief Operating Officer, Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County

9:00 am – 10:15 Plenary Session: Impact of Food Waste on Methane Emissions, Reducing Food Loss & Waste, Financing Food Waste Recovery and Organics Recycling, Mitigating Climate Effects

Moderator: Dr. Stuart Buckner, Buckner Environmental Associates, LLC

- Mapping the Methane Impact: How Food Waste Drives Emissions in the U.S. Dana Gunders, President, ReFED
- Financing Food Waste Recovery and Organics Recycling: How Carbon Credits Can Transform the Path to Zero Waste. Fritz Troller, CEO, Therm Solutions, Inc. IL
- Wasted: The Circular Economy Presents a Transformative Approach to Addressing Wasted Food and Unsustainable Food Production Practices. Sonya Betker, Director Sustainability/Circularity, SCS engineers. CA

10:30 am - 11:30 Feeding Families, Not Landfills

- In an era where sustainability and social impact intersect with business strategy, this session brings together thought leaders and innovators who are reshaping the food system to prioritize health, equity, and environmental responsibility. This panel will explore how businesses can play a pivotal role in reducing food waste while strengthening communities and achieving operational excellence.

Speakers:

- Steven Jennings, Stakeholder Relations | Brand Lead, Health & Sustainability, Ahold Delhaize USA (Moderator)
- Christine Gallagher, Sustainable Operations, Ahold Delhaize USA. MA
- Lauren Eichelberger, Director of Business Development, Divert, Inc

12:15 pm – 2:00 Solutions for Household Food Waste Reduction – Leveraging Research Data, and Consumer Behavior

Moderator: Tony Pupillo, Feeding America

- Motivation, Opportunity and Ability to Prevent and Minimize Food Waste at Home: Preliminary Results from CHEF-WPM (Culinary Home Empowerment for Food Waste Prevention and Minimization). Jonathan Deutsch, Ph.D., Professor of Food and Hospitality Management, Drexel Food Lab, Drexel University. PA
- Measure Thrice, Predict Once: Predicting the Bias from Food Waste Self Reporting. Brian Roe, Van Buren Professor, and Lei Xu, Researcher, Ohio State University; John Apolzan, Associate Professor, and Corby Martin, Professor, Pennington Biomedical Research Center.
- Are You Going to Eat That? - A Crash Course in Kitchen Conservation. Brett Wilks, Staff Professional, SCS Engineers.
- From Scraps to Savings: The Data Behind Food Waste Reduction. Scott Smithline, Head of Organics Policy and Research, Mill
- Building Community to Reduce Consumer Food Waste. Elaine Fiore, Behavior Change Lead, WRAP Americas
Lesly Baesens, Food Resiliency & Food Waste Program Administrator, Denver Dep't of Public Health & Environment

2:15 pm – 3:15 Engaging Front-Line Employees to Achieve Food Waste Reduction and Cultural Change: Lessons from the Pacific Coast Food Waste Commitment

- The Pacific Coast Food Waste Commitment (PCFWC) is a public-private partnership between food businesses and jurisdiction partners on the West Coast of the U.S. PCFWC and partners will discuss the benefits of engaging with front-line workers on food waste prevention and reduction solutions. Attendees will learn how to design programs to engage employees, communicate program purpose and benefits, and drive immediate action that lays the groundwork for cultural change within organizations.

Speakers:

- Anne Garsztka, Senior Program Officer, Circular Supply Chain Engagement, World Wildlife Fund (Moderator)
- Alisha Garcia-Cahlan, Sustainability Manager, Dole Fresh Vegetables
- Kyle Geber, QA Material Lead Handler, Bob's Red Mill

3:30 pm – 4:30 The Importance of Collaboration in Food Rescue Grant Funding

- The City of Los Angeles with our Food Rescue Grant Awardees will share results of the Food Rescue Macro Grants Program & highlight the importance of funding multi-stakeholder grants that support projects & opportunities to implement larger infrastructure, such as redefining food rescue hubs and increasing the interconnection of the entire charitable food network. Attendees will learn how these grants increased system-wide capacity across our region.

Speakers:

- Michelle Mikesell, Food Rescue Programs Manager, Sanitation and Environment, City of Los Angeles (Moderator)
- Ana-Alicia Carr, Los Angeles Food Policy Council, FEAST
- Lolly Rico, Community Outreach Manager, Food Cycle LA
- Nina Angelo, Community Exchange Manager, Hollywood Food Coalition

Monday, May 5

Organics Recycling: Room W223

8:00 am – 8:45 How Great Partnerships Matter When Executing a Successful Food Waste Diversion Program

- “Waste” is an inefficiency, but every business produces it. After source reduction, executing recycling programs can be challenging due to recycling markets, transportation, employee education and recycling infrastructure. Executives from Denali Corp., Innovative Waste Recycling, and HelloFresh will discuss how they have worked together to launch a successful program and find innovative solutions to recycle HelloFresh’s food waste.

Speakers:

- Laila Lakhani-Ali, Senior Vice President of Sales, Denali Corp. (Moderator)
- Jeffrey Yorzyk, Sr. Director of Sustainability, HelloFresh NA
- Steve Widdicombe, Project Director, IWR

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10:30 am – 12:15 Innovative Composting Systems and Technologies

Moderator: Bill Camarillo, Agromin

- Configuring an Aerated Composting System to Manage the Twin Challenges of Composting Co-collected Food Waste: Contamination and Air emissions. Baraka Poulin, Business Development and Tim O’Neil, President, Engineered Compost Systems. WA
- So, you think you can compost food waste? Jeff Gage, Director of Consulting, Green Mountain Technologies. WA
- Solar-Powered Off-Grid Covered Aerated Static Pile Composting: A Game-Changer in Sustainable Waste Management. Waylon Pleasanton, Sustainable Generation®. DE
- Turning Challenges to Opportunities: An overview of the recent upgrades to the London Composting Facility. Ahmed Fergala, Operations Process Manager, Convertus Group. ON
- Driving Down Contamination in Distributed Composting Operations. Kristie Blumer, Senior Director of Composting and Ben Parry, CEO, Compost Crew. DC
- How a Trucking Company Permitted & Built an Advanced Composting Facility In Under One Year. Richard Langendoen, Senior Environmental Consultant, Green Mountain Technologies. WA

1:00 pm – 2:15 Anaerobic Digestion: technologies, selection criteria, case studies, GHG reduction

Moderator: Jim Miller, JR Miller & Associates

- Engineering and Design Considerations for the Anaerobic Digestion of Waste Organics – How the Project Chooses the Technology. Erik Anderson, Ph.D. SCS Engineers. KS
- Closing the Loop for a Sustainable Future: Smart Containerized Solutions for Organic Waste Treatment. Alexander Horvath, Managing Director and Tjeerd van den Berg, Director Operations, Convertus Solutions.
- High Solid AD Solutions to Municipal Organic Waste Challenges. Rolfe Philip, President, Thoeni North America.
- Bridging Traditional and Renewable Energy: The Role of Anaerobic Digestion and Soil in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Chuck Joswiak, Senior Area Director, Bioenergy Devco.

2:30 pm – 3:15 Localizing Food Waste Systems Through Policy, Technology, and Funding

- This session will explore solutions for diverting food waste from landfills. The challenges of composting at scale will be addressed and strategies offered for incorporating food waste into existing compost processes and expanding capacity. Attendees will learn about how Loaves & Fishes has developed a circular food recovery system to feed more people while reducing waste. Panelists will discuss sustainable funding mechanisms and how technology is advancing efforts toward zero food waste.

Speakers:

- Robin Franz Martin, Food Recovery Initiative Executive Director, Joint Venture Silicon Valley. CA (Moderator)
- Monica White, Sustainability Manager, Edgar and Associates. CA
- Christy Hurlburt, Director of Product, Viably. NC
- Bill Camarillo, CEO, Agromin. CA

3:30 pm – 4:45 Organics Recycling in Food Service, Reducing Contamination

• Organics Recycling at New & Existing Restaurant Locations (3:30 – 4:00)

Ryan Cooper, VP of Circular Economy Solutions, Rubicon & Dawn Rhodes, Senior Sustainability Specialist, Chick-fil-A

- This discussion will focus on organics recycling in the food service industry, highlighting how restaurants and haulers are overcoming challenges to meet sustainability goals. Attendees will learn how to align recycling programs with local regulations, reduce food waste through operational best practices, and collaborate with haulers to create customized waste diversion programs. Case studies will showcase practical approaches to food scrap collection, contamination prevention, & reducing costs.

• Breaking the Contamination Cycle: Carlsbad’s Organic Recycling Success (4:00 – 4:45)

- The City of Carlsbad and Republic Services will share their journey in implementing an organics recycling program aligned with SB1383 regulations. They’ll offer insights into monitoring contamination, ensuring compliance, and enhancing community outreach through strategic collaboration. Participants will leave with actionable strategies to reduce contamination, boost service quality, maintain SB1383 compliance, and strengthen community connections.

Speakers:

- Avecita Jones, Senior Program Manager, Sustainable Materials Management, City of Carlsbad, CA (Moderator)
- Molly Reeves, Senior Environmental Specialist, Sustainable Materials Management Division, City of Carlsbad
- Ashley Gonzalez, Environmental Specialist II, Sustainable Materials Management Division, City of Carlsbad
- Jenna Dotson, Municipal Manager, Republic Services. CA

Tuesday, May 6

Food Recovery Forum, Room W225: Solutions for Food Loss & Waste

8:00 am – 8:45 Maximizing Impact with Capacity Studies: Strategic Evaluation for Lasting Solutions

- This panel will explore how a well-planned and strategically executed Capacity Study can drive meaningful change in communities. We will examine the key factors contributing to a study's success while identifying common pitfalls that often undermine its effectiveness. The discussion will highlight the importance of market analysis, resource evaluation, and an understanding of the jurisdiction's current landscape in shaping a comprehensive strategy for community advancement.

Speakers:

- Mike Learakos, CEO, Abound Food Care (Moderator)
- Monica White, Sustainability Manager, Edgar & Associates, Inc
- Lisa Coehlo, Project Manager, Abound Food Care
- Tobi Mitchell, Environmental Resources Analyst III, Ventura County Public Works
- Julie Arenz, Sustainability Associate, Edgar & Associates, Inc

9:00 am – 9:45 Featured Session: Bridging the Gap Between Wasted Food and Food Insecurity: A Case Study in Data-Driven Solutions for Food Rescue

- Divert, Feeding America, and Safeway are working together to implement forward-thinking food donation solutions and strategies, resulting in an increase in food donations. This session will delve into the value of complementary data-driven solutions and sustainable infrastructure to prevent wasted food and optimize food donations.

Speakers:

- Jess Parker, Food Recovery Program Manager, Divert, Inc. (Moderator)
- Tony Pupillo, Senior Director, Food Industry Partnerships – Retail Team Lead, Feeding America
- John Bernardo, Senior Manager, Sustainability, Albertsons Companies

10:00 am – 10:45 Leveraging Technology to Turn Food Waste into Culinary Innovations & Economic Opportunities

- During this session we will discuss the upcycled food industry, highlighting the importance of adding value to food byproducts to create a new food economy that increases profits for the culinary as well as foodservice industry. Learn how to leverage AI to pilot food upcycling projects. This session will include audience participation with group breakouts harnessing AI to innovate with upcycled ingredients to create high-quality, marketable goods, ranging from snacks and beverages for human consumption.

Speakers:

- Sue Marshall, CEO/Founder NETZRO SBC (Moderator)
- Dr. Jonathan Deutsch, Professor, Dept Food & Ag, Drexel University and Food Lab
- Emily Darchuk, CEO/Founder, Wheyward Spirits
- Dr. Lara Ramdin, CISO, FoodxClimate
- Luca Zullo, Sr. Director of Science and Technology, Auri

11:00 am – 12:30 Using Data & Technology to Optimize Food Waste Prevention and Edible Food Recovery

Moderator: Sue Marshall, NETZRO SBC

- Measurement and Beyond: Driving Food Waste Prevention in Foodservice through Technology and Behavior Change. Steven M. Finn, Vice President of Sustainability & Public Affairs, Leanpath
- The Produce Crisis. Josh Domingues, Founder, Flashfood
- How Data Aggregation can Create Industry Benchmarks and Help Your Organization Optimize its Performance. Jessica Regan, CEO and Co-Founder, FoodMesh. CA
- Making the Most of Surplus Food in Silicon Valley: Leveraging the data boon from California law SB 1383 to chart a region's surplus food strategy. Susan Miller-Davis, Assoc Director, Food Recovery Initiative, Joint Venture Silicon Valley
- Innovative Solutions for Reducing Food Waste: Transforming Freshness in the Supply Chain. Harlan Ewert, Director of Sales, Verdant Technologies. MN

1:15 pm – 2:00 Tackling Wasted Food through Innovative Policy Implementation

- This panel will explore progress on and the challenges of implementing different local and state policies to reduce wasted food. Discussion will include regional collaboration, mandatory organics recycling, and food rescue programs. Attendees will gain an understanding of how to overcome common challenges in their work on food waste reduction policies and programs.

Speakers:

- Nina Sevilla, Sustainable Food Systems Program Advocate, Natural Resources Defense Council, DC (Moderator)
- Robin Franz Martin, Food Recovery Initiative Executive Director, Joint Venture Silicon Valley, CA
- Jenny Kedward, Food Waste Prevention Specialist, Hennepin County, MN

2:15 pm – 3:45 The Business of Food Recovery – Revenue models, Technologies, and Profits

Moderator: Steven M. Finn, Leanpath

- The Business Case for Food Recovery, Jessica Regan, CEO and Co-Founder, FoodMesh. CAN
- Food Donations, Retail Operations, and Retail Pricing. John Lowrey, Northeastern University, Timothy Richards, Morrison School of Agribusiness, AZ State University, Stephen Hamilton, California Polytechnic State University
- Turning Waste Into Profits. Josh Domingues, Founder, Flashfood
- Scaling Food Rescue through Technology & Sustainable Earned Revenue Business Model. Robert Lee, CEO and Co-Founder and Jessica Ng, COO, Rescuing Leftover Cuisine. CT
- Innovations in Upcycled Food Technology: A Sustainable Approach to Making Money on Food Waste. Sue Marshall, CEO NETZRO, SBC. CA

4:00 pm – 4:30 AI-Enhanced Food Recovery to Scale and Capture Data Instantly

Emin Israfil, Founder & CEO, Rubbish and Maen Mahfoud, Founder & CEO, Replate

- Discussion of how the food recovery industry faces challenges with extensive reporting requirements, such as legislation like California's SB1383. Traditional manual processes are time-consuming and limit impact measurement. Our joint work will be presented, using image recognition to capture comprehensive data through photographs, simplifying & automating the reporting process. This innovation allows Food Rescue Organizations to optimize logistics, reduce human error, & increase food recovery.

Tuesday, May 6 **Organics Recycling: Room W223**

8:00 am – 9:15 Renewable Energy from Biogas: Production and Economics

Moderator: Gary Bilbro, EcoSafe Zero Waste

- Economics of Biogas Production and Selling RNG from Co-digestion of Food Waste. Paul Baker, Business Development Manager, Guild Associates, Inc.
- The Practical Application of Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) from Anaerobic Digestion: Injection into Existing Gas Networks. Ray Casey, Senior Vice President of Commercial Development, Bioenergy Devco
- Reusing Food Waste for Biogas and Beyond to Drive Renewable Resource Creation. Florian Eenkema van Dijk, Van Dyk Recycling Solutions and Joep Smits, Commercial Manager, Smicon, Netherlands
- Sustainable Liquid Transportation Fuels Production from Food Waste and Organic Waste. Jessica Elwell, Chief Operating Officer, OxEon Energy, UT.

9:30 am – 10:15 Boots on the Ground: Making SB1383 Successful

- As California continues to implement SB1383, the state's most ambitious organics recycling mandate to date, the importance of practical, on-the-ground strategies for compliance has never been higher. This session brings together industry experts who are at the forefront of this transformative effort.

Speakers:

- Cesar Mendoza, Sustainable Generation (Moderator)
- John Massa, Comgro Soil Amendments
- Burton Ewert, Miramar Landfill, Greenery City of San Diego
- Michael Gonzalez, Mid Valley Disposal

10:30 am – 11:30 Composting: Air Emissions, Economic Impact, Reducing Contamination

Moderator: Tracie Onstad Bills, HDR

- Current State of Air Emissions Data for Composting Facilities. Patrick S. Sullivan, Senior VP, SCS Engineers. CA
- Economic Impact of Compost Facilities. Dr. Caroline Saul & Dr. Suzie Boxman, Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF). NC
- Meeting Stringent Contamination Standards in Compost in a Novel Digestion Facility Treating Source Separated Organics. Luc De Baere, President DRANCO Inc, Bruno Mattheeuws, and Bert Dierick, DRANCO nv

11:45 am – 12:30 Monetizing Carbon Farming with Carbon Credits

- Learn about how compost is sequestered into healthy soils and how carbon credits can be developed and fund the use of organic compost out to the rangelands of California. Voluntary carbon credits are valued at \$20 per ton and with Climate Corporate Accountability to achieve Net-Zero GHG by 2045, corporations will be buying these carbon credits to off-set their greenhouse gases.

Speakers:

- Evan Edgar, Principal, California Compost Coalition, CA (Moderator)
- Bill Camarillo, CEO, Agromin, CA
- Mike Powers, CoolPath, Inc
- Dr. Anthony Mills, C4 EcoSolutions, South Africa

1:15 pm – 2:15 Progress on Organics and Food Loss & Waste Policy Targets

Moderator: Monica White, Edgar & Associates

- How's it Going? California's Organic Waste Management Progress. Veronica Pardo, Executive Director, Resource Recovery Coalition of California (RRCC). CA
- Impacts of EPA National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics. Kristyn Oldendorf, Director of Public Policy and Communications, Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). DC
- Meeting The Challenges of 2025 SB 1383 Procurement Targets and The Potential Impact of New Procurement Legislation. Bill Camarillo, CEO, Agromin. CA

2:30 pm – 3:15 Challenges to the Development of Food Waste Diversion Facilities

- During this session, industry experts will discuss barriers to the development of food waste processing facilities including regulatory issues, technology challenges, industry concerns, and funding or lack thereof. These will be balanced by recognition of successes. Attendees will learn about the various challenges associated with the development of this type of facility and about some projects that have been very successful.

Speakers:

- Tracie Onstad Bills, West Region Waste Business Development Leader, HDR
- Jim Miller, PE/SE, CEO, JR Miller & Associates (Moderator)
- Matt Cotton, President, Integrated Waste Management Consulting, LLC
- Christine McKiernan, Chief Technology Officer, BTS Bioenergy

3:30 pm – 4:45 Anaerobic Digestion and Co-digestion of Food Waste

Moderator: Gary Bilbro, EcoSafe Zero Waste USA

- Securing Your Future with Circular Solutions for Food Production. Kip Buckley, Vice President, Organic Solutions, Vanguard Renewables. MA
- Business Drivers of Food Waste Anaerobic Digesters: A Comparative Analysis of the US, Canada, and the UK. Bill Caesar, President, Generate Upcycle
- Enhanced Digestion: Veolia Partners with University Area Joint Authority to Deliver Co-Location Digestion Facility. Lianna Major and Emma Seese, Veolia Water Technologies & Solutions. CAN
- High Strength Waste Waters Into Renewable Energy – Convenience Meets Sustainability. Grant Gibson, Co-founder and Chief Development Officer, Synthica Energy. OH

Wednesday, May 7

Food Recovery Forum, Room W225: Solutions for Food Loss & Waste

8:00 am – 9:00 Zero Waste Food Production Techniques

- During this session, company representatives will share insights on cutting-edge composting and food waste tracking technology products aimed at achieving zero waste food production. An overview of the products & technologies behind these tools will be provided as well as case studies and best practices to highlight the benefits of these products & their future potential.

Speakers:

- Ken Baker, Culinary Director, Rethink Food, New York City (Moderator)
- Oscar Gomez, Director of Logistics, Rethink Food
- Fiona Montie, Operations Team Lead, Winnow Solutions
- Pat Dixon, Chief Financial Officer, Mill

9:15 am – 10:45 Advancing Edible Food Recovery: Model Programs and Case Studies

Moderator: Monica White, Edgar & Associates

- Making Meal Recovery the Norm through an Innovative, Replicable and Efficient Model. H el ene Lanctuit Chief Executive Office, Share My Meals Inc. NJ
- Maximizing Food Recovery Through Convenient and Dignified Distribution Systems. Ciara Low, Program Manager, Food Recovery Initiative of Joint Venture Silicon Valley. CA
- Food Rescue Solutions for Non-Traditional Donors Under SB-1383. Alyson Schill, CEO, Careit.
- Introducing the National Food Recovery Alliance. Dana Siles, National Food Recovery Alliance, Jen England, Food Rescue Hero, and Sammie Paul, FoodRecovery.org, DC

11:00 am – 12:00 Wasted Food Policies: State-by-State Opportunities for Collaboration, Advocacy, and Engagement.

- Divert, in partnership with the Zero Food Waste Coalition through the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic, recently announced the launch of the Food Waste Legislative Tracker to provide insight into in-progress and existing wasted food policy issues across the U.S. Speakers will delve into the states that are leading the way, where there is room to grow wasted food policy, what policies should be implemented on a state-by-state basis, and the importance of industry-wide collaboration, and engagement.

Speakers:

- Chris Thomas, VP of Public Affairs, Divert, Inc.
- Anne Garsztko, Senior Program Officer, Circular Supply Chain Engagement, World Wildlife Fund
- Stephanie Valentic, Editorial Director, Waste360 (Moderator)

12:45 pm – 2:30 Model Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Programs, Best Management Practices for Food Rescue

Moderator: Jen England, Food Rescue Hero

- Regional Food Rescue Program - Western Riverside County California. Olivia Sanchez, Program Manager, Western Riverside Council of Governments CA.
- Local Government Examples of Implementing Food Waste Prevention Plans. Leslie Duling McCollam, Joint Activities Program Coordinator, Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy and Jenny Kedward, Food Waste Prevention Specialist, Hennepin County Environment & Energy. MN
- Good Food Belongs on Family Dinner Tables not in the Trash: Redirecting surplus food from the food service sector. Tamara Weber, Founder and Executive Director, Pete's Garden. MO
- Not All Edible Food Generators are Created Equal: Uncovering Challenges and Opportunities of California's Tiered Edible Food Generator System. Jonathan Levy, Solid Waste & Recycling Consultant, Zero Waste Pro. CA
- Food Rescue: Best Management Practices and Model Programs. Joe Melanson, Associate Professor and Tim Brown, Senior Instructor, JWU, College of Food Innovation and Technology.

2:45 pm – 4:00 Household and Commercial Food Waste Recycling Technologies

Moderator: Holly Stirnkorb, Metro

- The Evaluation and Promotion of In Situ Food Waste Digesters as a Means to Divert Organic Waste from Landfills. Jason Munyan, Chief of Facilities Management, Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA). DE
- Enabling Circularity - Composting at the Source. Joe Tegerdine, GM North America, Reencle Inc.
- An Efficient and Effective Way to Recycle Organic Waste. Mostafa Malki, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Executive Director, Center for Advanced Manufacturing Innovation and Cyber Systems, University of Texas-RGV

Wednesday, May 7

Organics Recycling: Room W223

8:00 am – 9:15 Compostable Products: Processing Challenges and Data on Product Disintegration

- **It's Complicated: The never-ending saga of compostable products (8:00 – 8:45)**
 - Join us for a dynamic session on the challenges of compostable products in processing and legislation. Through a fun game, we'll explore barriers faced by composters, jurisdictions, and users while diving into product standards, California's legislation, and ways to foster collaboration. Connect with industry experts and help shape the future of compostables!
- Speakers:
- Neil Edgar, CA Compost Coalition (Moderator)
 - Erin Levine, World Centric
 - Naama Brenner-Abramovitch, Napa Recycling
- **Test Method, Pile Variance and Effects on Compostable Product Disintegration (8:45 – 9:15)**

Janet Thoman, Compliance Director, Compost Manufacturing Alliance LLC and Kelvin Okamoto, PhD, Green Bottom Line, Committee Chair, ASTM D20.96

 - Based on 20 years of field testing, speakers will discuss the importance of standardized field-testing methods and how methods, feedstock and process differences affect compostable product disintegration. Over the course of 200+ field tests with thousands of unique products, patterns have emerged, providing data-based insights to aid in decision-making and processing for compost manufacturers that choose to accept compostable products.

9:30 am – 10:15 Compostable Packaging Success Stories: Overcoming Challenges in Contamination, Infrastructure and Policy

- Join a panel of composters, certifiers, waste management professionals, testing labs, and product manufacturers to explore the challenges of integrating compostable products into waste diversion programs. Learn how industry players are addressing issues like contamination, limited infrastructure, fragmented policies, and how compost programs nationwide are incorporating certified products.
- Speakers:
- Margaret Eldridge, Certification Director, BPI (Moderator)
 - Kellie Kish, Recycling Coordinator, City of Minneapolis – Division of Solid Waste & Recycling
 - Mahya Wood, NA Technical Sales Officer, Normec OWS Inc.
 - Gary Bilbro, EcoSafe Zero Waste
 - Chris Wood, Co-Founder, Moonshot Compost

10:30 am – 11:30 Conversion Technologies for Organics

Moderator: Neil Edgar, CA Compost Coalition

- Transforming Waste, Removing Carbon and Creating Value with Gasification. Scott Kraynak, CEO, Sierra Energy. CA
- Capturing Organics from Mixed Solid Waste, Contaminated Source Separated Organics and Material Recycling Facilities Fines. Joe Ayala, Chief Operating Officer, Econward Tech LLC
- Solving the Myth of Subsurface Capacity Constraints for Organic Waste Management through a Comprehensive Study. Yashesh Panchal, Head of Subsurface Engineering, Adriana Ovalle, VP of Engineering, and Omar Abou-Sayed Executive Chairman, Vaulted Deep. TX

12:15 pm – 1:45 Optimizing Organics Recycling and Collection in Residential and Food Retail Programs

Moderator: Mitch Kessler, Kessler Consulting Inc.

- Implementation of Residential Organics - education and outreach strategies for a citywide program. Erin Rowland, Superintendent of Operations, Waste Diversion and Recycling, Dalia Gonzalez, Customer Relations Officer, and Judi Gregory, CEO, SMART Compliance
- Aligning Sustainability and Savings: Shared KPIs for Effective Food Waste Recycling in Food Retail. Holden Cookson, Director of Business Development, Agri-Cycle Energy and Founder, Against The Grain, New England.
- Revolutionizing Organic Waste Collection: Tools, Strategies, and Partnerships. Sammy Davies, Sustainability Programs Manager, EcoSafe Zero Waste and Charlie Pioli, Founder, O-Town Compost
- Food Waste Collection – Drop Off as a Cost-Effective Alternative to Curbside. Nigel Deacon, Director, metroSTOR Inc.
- Driving Organics Recovery through Policy and Partnerships. Mitch Kessler, President and Miriam Zimms, Kessler Consulting Inc. FL

2:00 pm – 2:45 Reducing Recycling and Organics Contamination with Route Reviews

- Go2Zero has developed and refined strategies for effectively conducting route reviews to reduce contamination and boost recycling and organics participation for thousands of businesses and residents. In partnership with SMART 1383, Go2Zero has also implemented route review software that efficiently captures and analyzes contamination data. Attendees of this session will learn about the processes, challenges, and best practices of conducting route reviews.

Speakers:

- Cory Oskardmay, Project Director, Go2Zero Strategies (Moderator)
- Olivia Johnson, Zero Waste Specialist, Go2Zero Strategies
- Judi Gregory, President, Go2Zero Strategies

3:00 pm – 4:30 Pre-Treatment Technologies for Food Waste and Organics

Moderator: Gary Bilbro, EcoSafe Zero Waste USA

- Residual Contaminant Distribution through a High Solids Food Waste Digester. Thomas Ferencevic, Fitec Biogas, Inc.
- Optimizing Waste Diversion with Depackaging. Tim Sansone, Managing Partner and Joe Hogan, Sales Manager, The Organic Recycler
- Landfill Diversion Through Food/Organic Waste Separation & Mechanical Depackaging. Corey Rossen, Food Waste and Aggregate Recycling Systems, Ecoverse.
- Efficient Food Waste Pretreatment: The Role of Machinery in Sustainable Food Waste and Organics Recovery and Recycling. Mark Vanderbeken, Chairman, Drycake
- Waste Not, Want Lots: How Pre-treating Organic Waste Can Turbocharge AD Production. Dane McSpedon, CEO, Hughes Energy Group.



10th Annual Food Recovery Forum & 13th Annual Organics Recycling Conference

Conference: May 5-8, 2025 | Exhibits: May 6-8 | Las Vegas Convention Center, Nevada

Thursday, May 8 – Workshops & Training Courses

Room W225: Food Waste Diversion Program Development Workshop [Registration fee \$135]

8:30 am – 12:30 Food Waste and Organics Diversion for All Waste Generators: Commercial, Residential, Multi-Family, Institutional, Event Venues. Instructor: Gary A. Bilbro, Director of Sales, Ecosafe Zero Waste. Surrey, BC

- This workshop will be focused on helping the attendee understand the processes required to implement and achieve a successful organics diversion program, no matter the type of location generating the food waste. This workshop will include discussion of:
 - Benefits to our environment when we divert organics from landfill
 - A to Z process of how to easily divert food waste from landfill
 - Edible foods and feeding hungry people
 - More requirements to do the right thing – Legislation is making it required and easier
 - Benefits of compost for soils

This workshop will help any municipality, business, educational institution, or commercial entity that generates food scraps and currently sends it to landfill or incineration. The process will be shown to be easy, concise and compliant with all municipal or state regulations.

Room W223: Zero Waste Certified Training Course [Registration fee \$135]

8:30 am – 12:30 Introduction to Zero Waste Training. Instructors: Richard Anthony, Vice President, ZWUSA and Ruth Abbe, Chair, Zero Waste International Alliance and President, Zero Waste USA.

Attendees will learn:

- The international, peer-reviewed definition of Zero Waste and the Zero Waste Hierarchy of Highest and Best Use
- Why Zero Waste is the fastest, most cost-effective way communities can reduce climate change impacts, promote local sustainability, and create green jobs
- How more than 250 U.S. municipalities are systematically pursuing high diversion and Zero Waste
- What Zero Waste businesses – now in the thousands, are doing to help lead the way
- How your community could move toward Zero Waste
- Where to find the resources needed to further your knowledge and practice of Zero Waste

This class is lively, interactive, and taught by Zero Waste USA staff and board members, including Richard Anthony, a nationally renowned expert. The content is designed to be easy to retain, and the extensive resources are easy to access. It is valuable to municipal staff, haulers, decision-makers, advocates, and all interested in Zero Waste. Zero Waste USA awards certificates of completion to students who pass the open book exam and submit the evaluation.